Colorado ACTE
Career and Tech Ed Summit

Legislative Update
July 17, 2018

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• 25 years in the political arena
• lawyer
• political junkie
• strategist
• mediator
• budget guru
• CACTE’s legislative specialist as of July 1, 2018
2018 Legislative Session

- Election Year
- Over 700 pieces of legislation
- Budget Surplus over $1 billion
- Cloud of sexual harassment
2018 Legislature by the Numbers
2018-19 State Budget

* $1.29B surplus
* $110M proceeds from tobacco settlement
* Potential TABOR refunds in 2019-20
* Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
* Housing continues to skyrocket
* Low unemployment/labor shortages
School Finance: $788 Million
(HB 18-1379/HB 18-1322)

* Statewide base per pupil funding $6,768

* CTE received $434,726 increase to bring the total categorical funding to $26,675,279.

* Reduced the negative factor by $150 million to bring the amount owed to $672.4 million

* $30 million funding for large rural and small rural school districts

* $35 million one-time funding for school safety
HB 18-1122 New School Finance Act  
(postponed indefinitely)

* Created a new funding distribution for the preschool through twelfth grade students and categoricals—CTE, SPED, transportation, at-risk students, GT

* Need at least $1B additional funds to meet equity goals of the new act

* Developed by group of superintendents and garnered support of 95% of school superintendents across the state
Transportation: $495 Million
(SB 18-001)

* General fund increases $495M 18-19; $150M 19-20

* COPs $500m/Bonding authority $2.3B

* 2019 ballot issue by legislature if 2018 ballot issues fail

* Repeal of Hospital Provider Fee package (SB 17-267)
* $225M direct appropriation to PERA annually
* 0.25% Employer contribution beginning 7/1/19
* 2% Employee contribution increase gradually by 2021
* COLA frozen for two years and capped at 1.5% after
PERA
(SB 18-200)

* New Hires ONLY

• Calculates PERA contribution on gross salary
• Highest average salary: 5 years
• Retirement age: 64

* Expanded DC option local gov’t and higher ed
* Created legislative oversight committee
Addressing Teacher Shortages

$10M

Multiple legislative initiatives
$3 million available as grants to school districts and charter schools to craft their own incentives.

$2 million to develop cooperative programs between school districts, charter schools, and teacher preparation programs.

Make financial assistance available to student teachers and those just starting out in exchange for commitments to remain with a district for a certain amount of time.
“Grown your own” program that allows student teachers in their final year to be teachers of record in their classroom, with the school district paying them a salary, as well as the cost of their final 36 credit hours. Participants would agree to stay with that school for at least three years after graduation.

Make it easier for teachers moving here to get licensed in Colorado.

Colorado Department of Education is also taking administrative steps to make it easier for out-of-state teachers to get licensed here.

Create a single background check process for student teachers.
HB 18-1266
Career Development Success
Program Expansion

* HB 16-1289 created pilot program and repealed it on 9/1/19

* Provides up to $1K for each HS student who completes industry certificate, internship or apprenticeship program or AP computer science

* limits # of awards

* students must be notified of program

* continues $1m/year funding

Sponsors: Esgar, Wilson, Todd, Hill
HB 18-1005 Notice to Students of Postsecondary Options

Requires clear communication about concurrent enrollment be sent to students and parents about the availability and benefits of concurrent enrollment and the timeline for distribution of this information.
HB 18-1052 Exception to 2-year Higher Ed Service Areas

Requires the CCHE to establish a policy that allows two-year institutions to go outside their service area to provide concurrent enrollment to school districts if the designated two-year institution chooses not to provide a concurrent enrollment.
Changes to ASCENT via long bill

* Budget committee reduced overall number of slots annually from 600 to 500.

* 25-35% of slots are getting rolled over each year as ‘unused slots’.
In 2009, early colleges were defined as high schools that provide a curriculum intended to ensure that students earn a high school diploma and either an associate's degree or 60 credits toward the completion of a postsecondary credential.

- Students receive per pupil funding for K-12 and COF stipends of $77/$37.
- Bill requires the curriculum to be designed for completion in four years for any early college starting 2020-21.
- State Board of Education will evaluate the 20 current early colleges.
The bill attempted to create the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Capital Grant Program in the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment (CDLE) to assist area technical colleges, community colleges, and schools districts with the purchase or lease of equipment, or the construction or maintenance of a building used for CTE.

$10m fiscal note

Died in first appropriations committee
Interim Committees

* Legislative Committee on School Finance
* Gallagher Alternatives Interim Committee
* School Start Time Interim Committee

House Chamber
ELECTIONS AHEAD
Who is going to be our next Governor?

Republican Ticket: Stapleton/Sias

Democratic Ticket: Polis/Primavera
Colorado Senate Partisan Breakdown: 2017-2018

Total: 35

Republicans: 18
Democrats: 16
Independents: 1

Colorado Senate
Colorado House of Representatives

Colorado House Partisan Breakdown 2017-2018

- Total: 65
- Democrats: 37
- Republicans: 28
Ballot Issues

* #93 Tax Increase for K-12
* Turned in signatures and currently verifying
* Allows multiple rates to apply to individuals, trusts, estates, and corporations
* Estimated $1.2B increase
* Sets residential rate at 7%
* Requires a new school finance act