

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**INTRODUCED**

LLS NO. 26-0817.01 Conrad Imel x2313

**HOUSE BILL 26-1175**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Brown and Sirota, Taggart**

**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Bridges and Kirkmeyer, Amabile**

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**House Committees**

Appropriations

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101     **CONCERNING SPENDING FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND FOR**  
102             **SPECIFIED EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES, AND, IN CONNECTION**  
103             **THEREWITH, PERMITTING APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE STATE**  
104             **EDUCATION FUND FOR THE COLORADO TEACHER OF THE YEAR**  
105             **PROGRAM AND REQUIRING APPROPRIATIONS FROM THE STATE**  
106             **EDUCATION FUND FOR SPECIFIED PURPOSES IN SUPPORT OF THE**  
107             **"COLORADO READ ACT", DISCONTINUING ANNUAL TRANSFERS**  
108             **TO CASH FUNDS FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND FOR THE**  
109             **SAME, AND REPEALING THE CASH FUNDS.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that*

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

*applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)*

**Joint Budget Committee.** Under existing law, money is annually transferred from the state education fund to the Colorado teacher of the year fund for the Colorado teacher of the year program and to the early literacy fund to fund specified purposes in support of the "Colorado READ Act".

The bill discontinues the annual transfers and instead permits the general assembly to appropriate money from the state education fund for the Colorado teacher of the year program and requires the general assembly to appropriate at least \$34 million from the state education fund for the same specified purposes in support of the "Colorado READ Act". The bill repeals the Colorado teacher of the year fund and the early literacy fund, effective September 1, 2027.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

**SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-61.5-105, **amend** (1)(a.5); and **add** (5) and (6) as follows:

**22-61.5-105. Colorado teacher of the year fund - created - legislative declaration - repeal.**

(1) (a.5) In addition to any ~~moneys~~ MONEY credited to the fund pursuant to ~~paragraph (a) of this subsection (1)~~ SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION, beginning in the 2014-15 budget year and in each budget year thereafter THROUGH THE 2025-26 BUDGET YEAR, the state treasurer shall annually transfer from the state education fund created in section 17 (4) of article IX of the state constitution to the fund twenty-four thousand eight hundred dollars.

(5) (a) ON JULY 1, 2026, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ALL UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND THAT DOES NOT ORIGINATE FROM GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS CREDITED TO THE FUND PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (1)(a) OF THIS SECTION TO THE STATE EDUCATION FUND.

1 (b) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ALL UNEXPENDED  
2 AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND ON AUGUST 31, 2027, TO THE  
3 STATE EDUCATION FUND.

4 (6) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2027.

5 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-61.5-104, **add** (4)  
6 as follows:

7 **22-61.5-104. Colorado teacher of the year program - created**  
8 **- administration - funding - legislative declaration - rules.**

9 (4) (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MAY ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE  
10 MONEY FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND CREATED IN SECTION 17 (4) OF  
11 ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION FOR THE PROGRAM.

12 (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT, FOR PURPOSES OF  
13 SECTION 17 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, THE COLORADO  
14 TEACHER OF THE YEAR PROGRAM IS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN  
15 PROVIDING PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES FOR TEACHERS AND MAY  
16 THEREFORE RECEIVE FUNDING FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND  
17 CREATED IN SECTION 17 (4) OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

18 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1210, **amend**  
19 (1) introductory portion and (1)(d)(I); and **add** (8) and (9) as follows:

20 **22-7-1210. Early literacy fund - created - legislative**  
21 **declaration - repeal.**

22 (1) The early literacy fund is ~~hereby~~ created in the state treasury  
23 and is referred to in this section as the "fund". The fund ~~shall consist~~  
24 CONSISTS of:

25 (d) (I) For the 2013-14 budget year, an amount equal to sixteen  
26 million dollars from the state education fund, and for the 2014-15 budget  
27 year, and each budget year thereafter THROUGH THE 2025-26 BUDGET

1 YEAR, an amount equal to thirty-four million dollars from the state  
2 education fund. On July 1, 2013, and on July 1 each year thereafter  
3 THROUGH JULY 1, 2025, the state treasurer shall transfer the appropriate  
4 amount from the state education fund to the early literacy fund.

5 (8) (a) ON JULY 1, 2026, THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER  
6 ALL UNEXPENDED AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND TO THE  
7 STATE EDUCATION FUND; EXCEPT THAT THE STATE TREASURER SHALL NOT  
8 TRANSFER THE MONEY IN THE FUND THAT REMAINS AVAILABLE FOR  
9 EXPENDITURE THROUGH THE 2026-27 STATE FISCAL YEAR FOR THE  
10 DEPARTMENT'S "COLORADO READ ACT" TARGETED TRAINING INITIATIVE  
11 THAT PROVIDES LITERACY EDUCATION TRAINING FOR TEACHERS, READING  
12 INTERVENTIONISTS, PRINCIPALS, AND ADMINISTRATORS.

13 (b) THE STATE TREASURER SHALL TRANSFER ALL UNEXPENDED  
14 AND UNENCUMBERED MONEY IN THE FUND ON AUGUST 31, 2027, TO THE  
15 STATE EDUCATION FUND.

16 (9) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2027.

17 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 22-7-1215 as  
18 follows:

19 **22-7-1215. Funding for part - state education fund - legislative**  
20 **declaration.**

21 (1) BEGINNING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27, THE GENERAL  
22 ASSEMBLY SHALL ANNUALLY APPROPRIATE AT LEAST THIRTY-FOUR  
23 MILLION DOLLARS FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND CREATED IN  
24 SECTION 17 (4) OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION FOR THE  
25 FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

26 (a) TO IMPLEMENT THE PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN TO  
27 PROMOTE READING DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-7-1209 (7);

1           (b) TO CONTRACT WITH AND PAY THE DIRECT COSTS INCURRED IN  
2       OVERSEEING AN INDEPENDENT EVALUATOR AS PROVIDED IN SECTION  
3       22-7-1209 (8);

4           (c) TO IMPLEMENT THE EARLY LITERACY GRANT PROGRAM  
5       CREATED IN SECTION 22-7-1211;

6           (d) TO ALLOCATE PER-PUPIL INTERVENTION MONEY TO LOCAL  
7       EDUCATION PROVIDERS AS PROVIDED IN SECTION 22-7-1210.5; AND

8           (e) TO PAY THE COSTS INCURRED IN PROVIDING TO LOCAL  
9       EDUCATION PROVIDERS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN IMPLEMENTING THIS  
10      PART 12, TRAINING TO TEACH READING FOR TEACHERS EMPLOYED TO  
11      TEACH KINDERGARTEN THROUGH THIRD GRADE AND FOR READING  
12      INTERVENTIONISTS EMPLOYED TO TEACH FOURTH GRADE THROUGH  
13      TWELFTH GRADE, TRAINING FOR PRINCIPALS AND ADMINISTRATORS  
14      REQUIRED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1208 (6.5), AND TRAINING FOR  
15      LIBRARIANS PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-90-121; MONITORING THE USE OF  
16      MONEY RECEIVED AS PER-PUPIL INTERVENTION MONEY OR GRANTS  
17      THROUGH THE EARLY LITERACY GRANT PROGRAM; AND FULFILLING THE  
18      ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN THIS PART 12.

19          (2) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT, FOR THE PURPOSES  
20      OF SECTION 17 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION, THE PURPOSES  
21      DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1) OF THIS SECTION ARE IN FURTHERANCE OF  
22      PROVIDING STUDENTS ENROLLED IN KINDERGARTEN, FIRST, SECOND, OR  
23      THIRD GRADE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMMING, INTERVENTION  
24      INSTRUCTION, AND SUPPORT NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS, BY  
25      THE COMPLETION OF THIRD GRADE, CAN DEMONSTRATE A LEVEL OF  
26      COMPETENCY IN READING SKILLS THAT IS NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THEM  
27      IN ACHIEVING THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS AND EXPECTATIONS APPLICABLE

1 TO THE FOURTH-GRADE CURRICULUM, WHICH IS A PROGRAM FOR  
2 ACCOUNTABLE EDUCATION REFORM, AND MAY THEREFORE RECEIVE  
3 FUNDING FROM THE STATE EDUCATION FUND CREATED IN SECTION 17 (4)  
4 OF ARTICLE IX OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION.

5 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1211, **amend**  
6 (3) introductory portion as follows:

7 **22-7-1211. Early literacy grant program - created -**  
8 **definitions.**

9 (3) Based on the recommendations of the department, the state  
10 board shall award grants to applying local education providers or groups  
11 of local education providers, which grants are paid from money in the  
12 early literacy fund created in section 22-7-1210 OR FROM MONEY  
13 APPROPRIATED PURSUANT TO SECTION 22-7-1215 FOR THE EARLY  
14 LITERACY GRANT PROGRAM. Of the money allocated OR APPROPRIATED  
15 for the early literacy grant program, ~~pursuant to section 22-7-1210 (4)~~, the  
16 state board shall annually:

17 **SECTION 6. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
18 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
19 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
20 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
21 institutions.