

COLORADO PTA's TOP-PRIORITY BILLS

(S=Support O=Oppose)

***** EDU. QUALITY & EQUITY – SCHOOL FINANCE*****

O SB 39 (Lundberg) – Education Income Tax Credits for Nonpublic Schools

The bill establishes an income tax credit when taxpayers enroll a child in a private school or provide a scholarship for a child to enroll in a private school and the private school issues a credit certificate for either enrolling a child or providing a scholarship to a child for enrollment. The credit may be carried forward for 3 years but may not be refunded. In addition, the credit may be transferred, subject to certain limitations. The bill also establishes an income tax credit of \$1,000 for taxpayers who use home-based education for a child who was enrolled on a full-time basis in a public school in the state prior to being taught at home and \$500 for a child who was enrolled on a half-time basis in a public school prior to being taught at home.

O SB 61 (Hill & A.Williams/Sias) – Add'l Funding Charter Schools Operating Costs

The bill requires school districts to distribute revenue they receive from ongoing local property tax mill levies equally, on a per-student basis, to their charter schools. The bill does not require districts to redistribute to charter schools any amount of the mill levy revenue that was distributed before the 2017-18 budget year. The bill directs CDE to calculate a mill levy equalization payment for institute charter schools in the amount of the per pupil share of the mill levy overrides of the institute charter school's accounting district.

S HB 1187 (Thurlow/Crowder) – Change Excess State Revenues Cap Growth Factor

The bill modifies the excess state revenues cap authorized in Referendum C by allowing an annual adjustment for an increase based on the average annual change of Colorado personal income over the last 5 years, rather than adjusting for inflation and population.

*****EDU. QUALITY & EQUITY – PARENT ENGAGEMENT*****

S HB 1001 (Buckner/Kerr) – Employee Leave Attend Child's Activities

The bill recreates and reenacts the Parental Involvement in K-12 Education Act, which allowed an employee who is subject to the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to take leave from work for the purpose of attending academic activities for or with the employee's child. Academic activities include parent-teacher conferences or meetings related to special education services, interventions, dropout prevention, attendance, truancy, or discipline issues. Leave is limited to 6 hours per month and 18 hours in any academic year. The new law has no repeal date.

*****EDU. QUALITY AND EQUITY – EARLY CHILDHOOD*****

S SB 110 (Kefalas & Crowder) – Accessibility of Exempt Family Child Care

The bill increases the accessibility of legal child care by expanding the circumstances under which an individual can care for children from multiple families without obtaining a child care license, to include all children from the same family, as long as it does not exceed 4 children, with no more than 2 under age 2.

S HB 1106 (Wilson & Pettersen) – Extend Early Childhood Leadership Commission

The bill changes the repeal date for the Early Childhood Leadership Commission to 2023.

*****EDU. QUALITY AND EQUITY – OTHER*****

S SB 114 (Moreno) – Accountability for School Districts and Schools

The bill creates a new performance indicator that measures improvement achieved over the preceding 4 school years by schools, districts, and the state as a whole in student scores on state assessments and in closing the achievement and growth gaps. The bill directs the State Board of Education and the Department of Education to place the greatest emphasis on the academic growth performance indicator when determining the appropriate accreditation category for districts. The bill reduces the state’s authority to remove a district's accreditation based on performance under a Priority Improvement or Turnaround plan and requires the state review panel to critically evaluate the district's performance and recommend one or more corrective actions. It requires rules to be promulgated specifying the procedures for districts to appeal to the State Board of Education before losing accreditation.

****HEALTH & SAFETY – MENTAL HEALTH/SUICIDE PREV.****

S SB 68 (Todd/Singer) – School Counselors Early Support for Students

Under current law, a public school that includes any of grades 7 through 12 is eligible to receive a grant through the Behavioral Health Care Professional Matching Grant Program. The bill adds elementary schools to the list of public schools eligible to receive a grant. Under current law, a public middle, junior, or high school is eligible to receive a grant through the Counselor Corps Grant Program. The bill adds elementary schools to the list of schools eligible to receive a grant.

S HB 1038 (Lontine/Zenzinger) – Prohibit Corporal Punishment of Children

The bill prohibits a person employed by or volunteering in a public school, a state-licensed child care center, a family child care home, or a specialized group facility from imposing corporal punishment on a child. “Corporal punishment” means the willful infliction of, or willfully causing the infliction of, physical pain on a child.

S HB 1207 (Lee/Priola) – No Detention Facility Requirement Youth Ages 10-12

The bill removes the requirements for the Division of Youth Corrections to receive, detain, or provide care for any juvenile who is 12 years of age and older but less than 14 years of age, unless the juvenile has been arrested or adjudicated for a felony or a weapons charge that is a misdemeanor or felony. Provisions remain in statute for other programs and services for the age group that will no longer require placement of the juvenile in a detention facility.

S HB 1210 (Lontine & Buckner/Fields & Priola) – School Discipline for Preschool Through 2nd Grade

The bill prohibits a district, BOCES, charter school, or public preschool program from expelling a student, except as specifically required by federal law, and allows the enrolling entity to impose an out-of-school suspension on the student only under specified circumstances for 3 school days. Under additional specified circumstances, the enrolling entity may extend the out-of-school suspension to a total of 5 school days. Each district and charter school must ensure that its school discipline code reflects the requirements specified in the bill. Districts are required to adopt prevention and early intervention strategies to reduce the need for early childhood and early elementary grade suspensions and expulsions.

S 1 HB 1329 (Lee & Landgraf) – Reform Division of Youth Corrections

The bill renames the Division of Youth Corrections the “Division of Youth Services” and requires it to implement a pilot program to initiate a cultural change, to contract with an independent third party to facilitate, supervise, coach, and train staff and leadership of the division throughout the pilot program. The bill requires CDHS to report annually to the General Assembly data concerning educational outcomes, in addition to the recidivism rates it is currently required to report. The bill renames the Youth Seclusion Working Group the “Youth Restraint and Seclusion Working Group,” adds a member to the working group, expands its role to include advising on the use of restraints, requires the division to report to the working group concerning its use of restraints and seclusion, and requires the division to include in its reports an incident report or behavior management plan for any youth whom the division isolates from his or her peers for more than 8 hours in 2 consecutive calendar days.

S 1 HB 1347 (Garnett/Priola) – Transfer Student Threat & Assessment Documents

The bill creates definitions of a student "threat assessment" and a student "suicide assessment." The bill requires that when a student transfers to a new public school, if the student's file contains a threat or suicide assessment and if the new school, or a person acting on behalf of the student, requests copies of the student's records, the previous school, or out-of-home placement if applicable, is required to transfer the student's threat or suicide assessment to his or her new school with the other records requested. If a request for records is not made, the previous school is not required to independently transfer the threat or suicide assessment. Current law allows for the transfer of threat or suicide assessments, but it does not require it.

****HEALTH & SAFETY – OTHER****

O SB 5 (Holbert/P.Neville) – Handgun Safety Training for School Employees

The bill allows a county sheriff to provide a handgun safety training course to any employee of any public elementary, middle, junior high, or high school who also possesses a permit to carry a concealed handgun, after consulting with the school board to establish the curriculum for the course. Employees of a school district or charter school who possess a valid permit to carry a concealed handgun may carry a concealed handgun onto the grounds of a school if they have completed a handgun safety course provided by a county sheriff and approved by the district and have received permission from the local board or charter school to carry a concealed handgun onto school grounds.

S HB 1306 (Exum & McLachlan) – Test Lead in Public Schools’ Drinking Water

The bill directs the Department of Public Health and Environment to establish a grant program to test for lead in public schools' drinking water. CDPHE will give the highest priority to the oldest public elementary schools, then the oldest public schools that are not elementary schools, and then all other public schools. CDPHE may also consider ability to pay in administering the program. CDPHE is directed to use its best efforts to complete all testing and analysis by June 30, 2020. The public school must provide at least 10% local matching funds and give the test results to its local public health agency, its supplier of water, its school board, and CDPHE, which may use up to \$300,000 per year for 3 years for grants beginning on or after July 1, 2017, from the Water Quality Improvement Fund if there is money available after fully funding existing programs.