

STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND OCCUPATIONAL EDUCATION

March 13, 2024

TOPIC: Legislative Update

PRESENTED BY:

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EXPLANATION:

(Report generated on March 7, 2024.) The second regular session of the 74th General Assembly convened on January 10th and is now halfway through the 120- day legislative session. On March 13th, it will be Day 64 of the session.

Since the legislative team last reported to the Board in February, CCCS has provided testimony on several occasions for various bills, engaged in three more press conferences, and provided drafting support on bills of high priority to the Governor and General Assembly leadership to strengthen the state's workforce.

In late February, the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) began figure setting for various departments. Figure setting for higher education is scheduled for the first week of March, but final funding recommendations won't come until after the March revenue forecasts which are scheduled to come out on March 15th. After reviewing the two forecasts, one prepared by Legislative Council Staff and the other prepared by the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budget, the JBC will select one of the forecasts to build the state budget against. The JBC's state budget, referred to as the "Long Bill," will then go through the legislative process starting in late-March through mid-April.

Update on CCCS Priority Bills:

[SB24-051 Adult Education](#) passed General Assembly in late February and has been sent to the Governor for signature!

- Sponsors: Senators Rachel Zenzinger and Barbara Kirkmeyer and Representatives Cathy Kipp and Marc Catlin.
- Bill Summary: CCCS initiated this bill to amend implementation provisions, granted by Senate Bill 22-007, to allow the governing board for community colleges and board of trustees for local district colleges to set standards for high school graduation requirements. The legislation allows the flexibility needed for community colleges and local district colleges to develop customized curriculum relevant to adult learners and ability to couple a high school diploma with a career and technical education credential. The bill also allows CDE to roll forward unexpended and unencumbered funds for the adult education and literacy grant program.

[SB24-104 Career and Technical Education & Apprenticeships](#) passed the Senate Business, Labor, & Technology Committee on 2/13 unanimously, 7-0! Since this bill has a fiscal note, it requests state General Funds appropriations, the bill now heads to the Senate Appropriations Committee where it will likely wait until the budget is determined in March.

- Sponsors: Senator Jessie Danielson and Rep. Eliza Hamrick.
- The bill provides resources for CCCS's Career & Technical Education (CTE) Office to work with the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment's (CDLE's) State Apprenticeship Agency (SAA) to align the high school CTE system and registered apprenticeship system for programs related to infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, education, or health care. The bill also requires an expansion of aligned pathways, prioritizing "top jobs" as identified in Colorado's annual talent pipeline report.

[SB24-164 Institution of Higher Education Transparency Requirements](#), referred to as the "Student Bill of Rights" was initiated by the Department of Higher Education. CCCS has been an engaged partner throughout the drafting phase, advocating for language to strengthen and establish structures for better tracking and reporting for transfer pathways. The legislation seeks to address existing gaps and ensure the integrity of transfer initiatives. The bill also increases student access to information, including costs transparency, financial aid, and transfer of credits to a new institution, to help students make informed decisions and empower them to navigate their educational journey with confidence.

- Senators Buckner & Lundeen and Representatives McCluskie and Pugliese
- 02/21/24 Bill introduced and assigned to Senate Education.
- 02/20/24 Scheduled for Senate Education Committee hearing at 1:30pm. Dr. Landon Pirius and Dr. Marielena DeSanctis will testify on behalf of the CCCS.

Update on CCCS Controlled Maintenance and Capital Projects:

In February, the Capital Development Committee (CDC) and the Joint Technology Committee (JTC) submitted their respective funding recommendations for FY-25 projects to the JBC.

CDC's prioritization yielded recommendations for funding the entire list of controlled maintenance Levels 1 (61 projects total, of which 15 projects are for CCCS/Colleges totaling \$18.8M) and a partial list of Level 2 (10 projects, of which 2 projects are for CCCS Colleges totaling \$1.5M). **See attachment for list of projects: CCCS Controlled Maintenance Projects- CDC Recommendations for Funding.**

For capital construction, only Colorado Northwestern Community College's capital renewal project for the Rangely Campus (\$3.6M) was recommended for funding. Trinidad State College's capital project was listed "below the line" but TSC's capital construction project is now part of [HB24-1231 State Funding for Higher Education](#)

[Projects](#), where it will likely receive state funding for the full project (\$20M). Unfortunately, Pikes Peak State College’s capital construction project for a first responder training facility (\$40M) was not recommended for funding, but CCCS will continue to advocate for their project.

While the Governor recommended funding for both Front Range Community College’s and Otero College’s capital IT projects, both were not recommended by the JTC for funding. Again, CCCS will continue to advocate for funding these projects.

Monitored Bills:

As of March 7th, over 530 bills have been introduced and CCCS is tracking over 40 bills. The table below lists bills that CCCS is tracking.

#	Bill
Passed	
1	HB24-1203 Capital Construction Supplemental
2	HB24-1204 Capital Construction Information Technology
3	HB24-1210 Higher Education Longitudinal Data System Report Deadline
4	SB24-051 Adult Education
Postponed Indefinitely	
5	HB24-1049 School Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program
6	HB24-1070 Allowing Certain Items at School Graduation
7	SB24-012 Reentry Workforce Development Cash Assistance Pilot Program
Under Construction	
8	HB24-1015 Workplace Suicide Prevention Education
9	HB24-1018 College Textbook Sales Use Tax Exemption
10	HB24-1044 Additional PERA Service Retirees for Schools
11	HB24-1082 First-Generation-Serving Higher Education Institutions
12	HB24-1087 Professional Endorsement Special Education Teaching
13	HB24-1131 Local College Districts
14	HB24-1139 Death Benefit for State Employee Surviving Spouse
15	HB24-1168 Equal Access to Public Meetings
16	HB24-1226 Tuition Assistance for Colorado National Guard & Dependents
17	HB24-1231 State Funding for Higher Education Projects
18	HB24-1235 Reduce Aviation Impacts on Communities
19	HB24-1260 Prohibition Against Employee Discipline
20	HB24-1262 Maternal Health Midwives
21	HB24-1278 Continuation of Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board
22	HB24-1296 Modifications to the Colorado Open Records Act
23	HB24-1305 Changes for Concurrent Enrollment Students
24	HB24-1317 Workforce Data Collection
25	HB24-1323 School Graduation Attire
26	HB24-1324 Attorney General Restrictive Employment Agreements
27	HB24-1325 Tax Credits for Quantum Industry Support

28	HB24-1340 Incentives for Post-Secondary Education
29	HB24-1364 Education-Based Workforce Readiness
30	HB24-1365 Opportunity Now Grants & Tax Credit
31	SB24-014 Seal of Climate Literacy Diploma Endorsement
32	SB24-044 Public Employees' Retirement Association Retiree Refundable Income Tax Credit
33	SB24-050 Colorado Workforce Demonstration Grants Pilot Program
34	SB24-053 Racial Equity Study
35	SB24-104 Career & Technical Education & Apprenticeships
36	SB24-131 Prohibiting Carrying Firearms in Sensitive Spaces
37	SB24-135 Modification of State Agency & Department Reporting Requirements
38	SB24-143 Credential Quality Apprenticeship Classification
39	SB24-156 College Preparation & Enrichment Program
40	SB24-164 Institution of Higher Education Transparency Requirements
41	SB24-173 Regulate Mortuary Sciences Occupations

RECOMMENDATION:

No Board action required.

ATTACHMENT(S):

CCCS Controlled Maintenance Projects- CDC Recommendations for Funding