

COLORADO SUCCEEDS' 2017 POLICY HIGHLIGHTS



Student benefits:



Equitable funding for public charter students. Colorado became the first state to ensure local funding for education is shared equally with public charter school students.



Statewide access to computer science and technology education. Technology skills will now be included in Colorado's academic standards, which guide student learning from elementary through high school.



A new STEM-endorsed diploma will recognize and reward a high school students' mastery in one or more STEM fields and their acquisition of essential skills like critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity.



The opportunity to learn directly from industry professionals in the classroom. Tech professionals now have the ability to co-teach computer science courses without needing a teaching license.



Incentives for districts to prepare students for life beyond high school. School districts are now encouraged to offer students multiple pathways that demonstrate college and career readiness, including industry credentials and concurrent enrollment courses.



Increased opportunities to earn associate's degrees while in high school. A new law will expand the number of P-TECH programs, which bridge high school, community college, and the workplace into one six-year pathway.

BY THE NUMBERS

10 of 11

Bills we supported passed

6 of 6

Bills we opposed were defeated

\$35M

Of public funding steered toward our shared priorities

43,000

Public charter students who now have equitable funding

84

Meetings with legislators to discuss our policy priorities

63

Times our members and staff testified or contacted policymakers on our priorities

16

Media stories citing Colorado Succeeds' work

5

Op-eds Colorado Succeeds authored in major print media

5

Editorials in support of our policy priorities

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Educator benefits:



New opportunities to learn – and therefore teach - computer science. A competitive grant program will provide funds for teachers to complete computer science degrees, industry recognized certificates, or other high-quality training programs.



New computer science resources, materials, and support. The creation of a new, industry-led computer science resource bank will give educators access to free, open-source tools and programs to help them start or expand computer science programs.

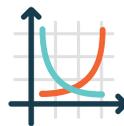


Undisturbed educator evaluation practices. Colorado's pioneering educator evaluation and tenure reform law provides educators with frequent, meaningful feedback about their performance and opportunities to improve. This law remains intact despite attempts to weaken it.

Taxpayers benefits:



An update to how Colorado funds its schools. A new legislative interim committee will work to improve the efficiency, equity, and effectiveness of Colorado's antiquated formula for funding schools.



Continued implementation of school and district accountability measures. Five bills that would have drastically weakened Colorado's assessment system, and undermined efforts to hold schools and districts accountable for student performance were defeated.



A more meaningful 9th grade assessment (PSAT) will replace the PARCC test. The PSAT is aligned to the SAT students take in their junior year and will save the state over \$600,000.