

2018 END OF SESSION REPORT

COLORADO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION & DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PREPARED BY AUGUST POLICY STRATEGIES
MAY 15, 2018

SESSION OVERVIEW

Considering the number of bills introduced, debated and passed, the 2018 legislative session can certainly be characterized as productive. Progress was made on a variety of critical policy issues including addressing the opioid crisis, public safety, funding for schools and transportation and PERA. It took longer than usual for the session to settle into a conventional flow, in part because of the struggle to address allegations of sexual harassment by several legislators.

For the first time in several years, the budget situation could be considered “flush.” A thriving economy, federal tax cuts (which actually increased state revenue) and last year’s fix to the Hospital Provider Fee together created approximately \$1 billion in new money. K-12 Education and transportation were the major beneficiaries though both constituencies would argue the need for further increases.

School districts will receive an additional \$475 per student, a 6.2 percent increase over last year. In total, the increase for education funding approaches half a billion dollars. Included within this total are \$150 million to buy down the budget stabilization factor, \$30 million for rural districts and \$8.5 million to address teacher shortages. A proposal by Colorado’s superintendents to change the school finance formula and ask the voters to put even more money into the system, HB18-1232, did not gain traction. School districts and their employees will also benefit from a \$225 million annual commitment to PERA to pay down the unfunded liability.

With regards to transportation funding, the legislature allocated \$495 million in new dollars and another \$150 million next year. Both are one-time investments. The deal also calls for \$50 million annually for the next twenty years if voters approve a sales tax increase in November. If voters do not approve an increase, in 2019 they would see a ballot question to bond for \$2.3 billion. A major point of contention was about how the dollars would be split between statewide projects, local projects and transit. In the final version, 70 percent goes to the Colorado Department of Transportation, 15 percent goes direct to local governments and 15 percent goes to a new multimodal transportation fund.

The deal on PERA reform went down to the wire passing shortly before midnight on the last day of session. In addition to the \$225 million annual contribution from the State, there is freeze on cost-of-living (COLA) increases for the next few years and future COLA’s will be limited to 1.5 percent versus the current two percent. Employee contributions will increase by two percent over three years and the employer contribution rate will increase by .25 percent. PERA currently operates a defined contribution plan for a small portion of participants. The defined contribution option will be expanded to local governments and higher education as of January 2019. The retirement age for new hires will be increased to 64.

Colorado lawmakers also took substantive steps to address the opioid addiction crisis. The 2017 Opioid and Other Substance Use Disorders Interim Study Committee recommended several bills for

consideration including proposals to address over prescribing, the shortage of health care professionals in certain areas, an increase in spending for prevention programs, and expanded Medicaid coverage of substance abuse treatment. The only bill recommended by the Interim Committee that failed would have created a pilot program for safe injection sites.

Health care policy continued to be an area characterized by significant disagreement between Republicans in the Senate and Democrats in the House. Proposals introduced in the House to create a reinsurance program and increase transparency related to health care costs failed. One notable exception to this pattern was HB18-1284 Disclosure of Prescription Costs at Pharmacies which ensures that pharmacists can provide accurate information to consumers about cost and price options for prescription drugs.

Finally, the legislature referred two measures to the ballot that could have long-term implications for politics in Colorado. If adopted by voters, the ballot question created by the passage of SCR18-004 will create a new, less partisan, process for drawing Congressional boundaries after the next census. SCR18-005 does the same but for State Senate and State House seats. If the measures are successful, Colorado is likely to see more competitive seats over the next decade.

STATE BOARD INITIATIVES

The State Board of Education (SBE) took a proactive approach to policy during the 2018 Legislative Session, promoting initiatives around school and district accountability, the READ Act and computer science literacy. In each case, we took a bi-partisan approach and engaged in a substantive feedback process with stakeholders.

- ≠ HB18-1355 Public Education Accountability makes adjustments to Colorado's school and district accountability law to ensure that all students receive a high-quality education that prepares them for college, career and life and to ensure that school districts have the needed support and oversight to achieve that goal. The bill passed the House on a vote of 64-1 and the Senate by a vote of 34-1.
- ≠ HB18-1393 strengthens the Reading to Ensure Academic Development (READ) Act by improving implementation, emphasizing resources for teacher supports and professional development, and establishing a process for improving the functionality of individualized READ plans. The bill passed the House on a vote of 34-21 and the Senate on a vote of 32-2. Additionally, we helped to secure an additional \$1 million in funding for the literacy grant program component of the READ Act.
- ≠ As part of the budget bill, also known as the Long Bill or HB18-1322, we were successful in adding \$500,000 to an existing Computer Science grant program. The funding will be used to train elementary school teachers across the state in how to teach computer science. The critical vote was when the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) decided 6-0 to include these dollars in the Long Bill.

STATE BOARD POSITIONS ON LEGISLATION

During the 2018 legislative session, the State Board took a position on sixteen pieces of legislation supporting twelve bills and opposing four. All of the bills supported by the Board passed. Three of the four bills opposed by the Board died, the exception being HB18-1286 School Nurse Give Medical Marijuana at School which was amended to address some of the concerns.

- ≠ HB18-1070, **supported** by the Board on a 6-0 vote, addressed Additional Public School Capital Construction Funding. In its final form, the bill specifies that the greater of forty million or ninety percent of excise taxes on retail marijuana be deposited into the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Fund for spending by the BEST program. The bill also transferred \$34 million of surplus funds in the fund to the BEST program with \$19 million to be used for lease payments and \$15 million to be used for cash grants. The bill **passed**.
- ≠ HB18-1095, **supported** by the Board on a 7-0 vote, addressed Educator License Requirements for Military Spouses. Under current law, individuals entering Colorado wishing to obtain an educator license are required to demonstrate three consecutive years of experience. Under the terms of HB18-1095 military spouses may now demonstrate three years of experience within the last seven years instead of consecutively. The bill **passed**.
- ≠ HB18-1100, **supported** by the Board on a 7-0 vote, grants continuous spending authority for the Educator Licensure Cash Fund for three years. The bill **passed**.
- ≠ HB18-1130 School District Authorized Instructors, **supported** by the Board in its amended form 6-0, allows all applicants (not just military spouses per HB18-1095) to demonstrate three years of experience within the last seven years instead of consecutively. The bill **passed**.
- ≠ HB18-1193 Extend Advanced Placement Incentives Program, **supported** by the Board 6-0, extends the current advanced placement incentives pilot program which operates in rural school districts until 2021. The bill **passed**.
- ≠ HB18-1222, **opposed** unanimously by the Board would have established a process to systematically review all statutory K12 programs. The bill **failed** on a vote of 12-0 during its first hearing in the House Education Committee.
- ≠ HB18-1269, **supported** by the Board by a vote of 4-2, creates notification requirements for school districts to parents when employees are charged with certain felony crimes. The bill **passed**.
- ≠ HB18-1286 School Nurse Give Medical Marijuana at School, was **opposed** by the Board on a vote of 6-1. The bill **passed**, but in a substantially weaker form relative to introduction. As adopted, nonsmokable medical marijuana may be administered by school personnel. To do so, the principal and parent must agree to a plan. No one at the school is required to administer. The State Board is given rulemaking authority around the documentation that must be provided by parents.

- ≠ HB18-1355, **supported** by the Board unanimously, is the Board’s Accountability bill described above. The bill **passed**.
- ≠ HB18-1393, **supported** by the Board unanimously, is the Board’s READ Act bill described above. The bill **passed**.
- ≠ SB18-008 Reward Access to Arts Education in Public Schools, **opposed** by the State Board by a vote of 6-1, would have added access to arts courses as a factor in the school and district accountability frameworks. The bill **failed**.
- ≠ SB18-011 Students Excused from Taking State Assessments was **supported** by the State Board. The bill **passed** and requires that when rewarding students for participation in statewide tests, students whose parents excused them from the test be allowed to participate. We amended the bill to remove language requiring the Department to monitor infractions and impose penalties.
- ≠ SB-18-012 Military Enlistment School Performance Indicator was **supported** by the State Board and the bill **passed**. The bill requires CDE to treat military enlistment, when the data becomes available, similar to college enrollment in terms of the postsecondary and workforce readiness performance indicator for accreditation.
- ≠ SB18-160 Charter School Induction and Alternative Licensure Program, **supported** by the Board clarifies that charter schools and the state charter school institute may operate induction programs for teachers and other education professionals. The bill **passed**.
- ≠ SB18-225 Definition of Early College High Schools was **supported** by the Board on a 4-2 vote. The bill, which **passed**, amends the current definition of “early college” to specify that an early college must provide a curriculum designed to be completed within four years and result in an Associate’s Degree or sixty hours of college credit. The State Board is directed to review all existing early colleges to determine if they meet the new definition.
- ≠ SJR18-001 Repeal of the State Board of Education was **opposed** by the Board and **died** in its first committee hearing. The bill would have submitted a measure to the voters to repeal the State Board.
- ≠ Finally, while the Board did not take a position on HB18-1052 Exception to 2-Year Higher Education Service Areas, we did successfully obtain an amendment to ensure that school districts will be able to continue to negotiate with individual higher education providers regarding the tuition to be paid within concurrent enrollment programs.

CDE BUDGET REQUESTS

With Board approval, the Department submitted several budget requests to the Joint Budget Committee and the legislature this year. As passed, the Long Bill contained the \$140,000 requested by the Board for meeting transcription. Additionally, the Department submitted a request for \$2.3 million

in one-time spending to update information technology infrastructure and make security and data privacy improvements. The request for information technology updates was supplemented with a request for three new employees focused on information security improvement and modernization of the Department's data reporting processes and systems. These technology requests, which were a high priority for the Department, were approved.

In addition to the Department's requests, the Joint Budget Committee staff member assigned to CDE identified several issues in his briefing to the committee. These included concerns about early colleges and oversight of the School of the Deaf and the Blind. We worked closely with impacted stakeholders and JBC members and staff to reach resolution on both topics. SB18-225 addressed the early college issue. The Department and School of the Deaf and the Blind agreed to engage in a taskforce to address perceived problems.

The JBC committee staff member assigned to the Department of Human Services also identified concerns with the Part C ChildFind program in which school districts have been responsible for screening and identifying young children with disabilities in need of intervention services. Under the terms of HB18-1333, CDE will be required to enter into an interagency agreement with the Department of Human Services to study the administration of early intervention evaluations. The agreement must be signed by October 1, 2018 and the results of the study are due to the Joint Budget Committee by June 30, 2019.

Finally, the Joint Budget Committee and the legislature approved \$5.5 million for Charter School Institute authorized schools as a response to legislation passed last year requiring districts to share mill levy revenue with district-authorized schools.

TEACHER SHORTAGE & EDUCATOR LICENSURE

In his proposed budget, Governor Hickenlooper suggested \$10 million be spent to address teacher shortages in rural areas. The original proposal was to allocate the dollars on a per pupil basis to rural districts. The legislature decided on a different approach and ultimately only allocated \$8.5 million.

- ≠ HB18-1412 will provide \$3 million in grant funding for school districts to implement teacher retention initiatives. The grant program will be administered by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and the State Board of Education.
- ≠ Two million is for HB18-1332 Collaborative Educator Preparation Program Grants which creates a grant project within the Department of Higher Education to support joint initiatives among educator preparation programs, alternative teacher programs and school districts for preparing and placing educators.
- ≠ HB18-1002 directs CDE to identify geographic areas within the state and specific subjects for which there is a teacher shortage. It also allows higher education institutions to enter into agreements with districts to provide a teaching fellowship program where teaching fellows receive a \$10,000 stipend to cover costs during the fellowship year. The cost of the bill is split

between the state and higher education institutions with the state spending \$1.5 million over the next three years.

- ≠ “Grow your own” has been a popular theme within the teacher shortage conversation. HB18-1309 directs CDE to work with the Department of Higher Education to create a framework for a “grow your own” program that, amongst other provisions, includes employment with a school district under a teacher of record license during a student’s final year of education and payment of tuition by the school district for the student’s last 36 credit hours. The bill also creates the Partnership for Rural Education Preparation at the University of Colorado-Denver. Total costs for HB18-1309 are \$1.15 million over two years.
- ≠ Under current law, the Department of Higher Education provides up to twenty \$6,000 financial stipends annually to teachers in rural schools who are pursuing additional professional development through continuing education and who commit to employment in a rural school for at least three years. SB18-085 increases the number of annual stipends to sixty and expands the program to other education professionals. The appropriation for the bill is \$240,000 annually.

Additionally, there were several bills adopted that seek to simplify the process of obtaining an educator license. As discussed above, HB18-1095 Educator License Requirements Military Spouses and HB18-1130 School District-authorized Instructors allow for applicants to meet the three-year experience test over a period of seven years, versus the current consecutive requirement. SB18-229 CDE Student Teacher Criminal History Record Checks eliminates the requirement that student teachers obtain multiple background checks if they are working in different school districts.

PROGRAM EXPANSIONS

While legislation related to teachers primarily focused on the creation of new programs, there were also several bills which expanded or continued existing programs.

The tragic school shooting in Florida provided additional impetus to lawmakers to address school safety. SB18-269 expanded the role of the Department of Public Safety by creating a one-time \$30 million grant program. Local education providers must apply for funding that can be used for security related capital construction, training in student threat assessment, training for currently employed on-site school resource officers and school emergency response training for all school building staff. Additionally, HB18-1413 tasks the Department of Public Safety with creating an Enhance School Safety Incident Response Grant program which will focus on training programs and curricula, best practices and protocols, research and development, and technology and infrastructure updates to provide training and education. SB18-272 creates a \$400,000 grant program targeted at suicide prevention.

SB18-013 Expand Child Nutrition School Lunch Protection Act expands an existing program to provide free lunch to students in preschool through fifth grade who would otherwise pay for a reduced-cost

lunch. Under the terms of the legislation, the program is expanded to students in sixth through eighth grade which will cost the State between \$500,000 and \$750,000 per year.

HB18-1396 recreates a program run by CDE that had previously been funded with federal dollars. The grant program will provide funds to high schools to reduce or eliminate the cost of taking an advanced placement test for low-income students.

The recently established Career Development Success Program was expanded with HB18-1266. The program provides up to \$1,000 to school districts for each high school student that successfully completes an identified industry-certification, internship or pre-apprenticeship program or computer science AP course. Per HB18-1266, no single school district can receive funding for more than 10 percent of the total number of industry certifications, participating schools must explain the program to all high school students and the program was extended for five years.

Finally, HB18-1306 permits children in the foster care system to remain in their school of origin when their placement changes and establishes a permanent foster care education coordinator. This bill became quite controversial when language was added from SB18-228, a bill that had previously been killed by the House State Affairs Committee. As adopted, HB18-1306 lifts the longstanding ban on school districts providing transportation to students who attend their schools but live in a different school district, without the permission of the home district. The provision applies to all students not just youth in foster care.

COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF K12 EDUCATION LEGISLATION

There were 71 bills introduced addressing K12 education in the 2017 Session. Of these, 45 passed and 26 failed.

Bill #	Title	Sponsors	SBE Position	Status	Third Reading Votes
<u>HB18-1002</u>	Rural School District Teaching Fellowship Programs	Reps Hamner (D)/Rankin (R) Sens. Todd (D)/Coram (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 53-10 Senate 34-0
<u>HB18-1005</u>	Notice To Students Of Postsecondary Courses	Reps. J Becker (R)/Pettersen (D) Sen. Priola (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 49-15 Senate 23-12
<u>HB18-1014</u>	Social Studies Assessment In High Schools	Rep. Buck (R)	Monitor	Died	
<u>HB18-1019</u>	Kindergarten Through Twelfth Grade Accreditation Weighted Factors	Rep. Foote (D) Sen. Priola (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 56-9 Senate 35-0

Bill #	Title	Sponsors	SBE Position	Status	Third Reading Votes
<u>HB18-1021</u>	Task Force For Youth Experiencing Homelessness	Reps. Landgraf (R)/Hooton (D) Sen. Kefalas (D)	Monitor	Died	
<u>HB18-1034</u>	Career And Technical Education Capital Grant Program	Reps. McKean (R)/Covarrubias (R) Sen. Priola (R)	Monitor	Died	
<u>HB18-1037</u>	Concealed Handguns On School Grounds	Rep. Neville (R) Sen. Neville (R)	Monitor	Died	
<u>HB18-1052</u>	Exception To 2-year Higher Education Service Areas	Reps. Lundeen (R)/Bridges (D) Sen. Todd (D)	Monitor (Bill amended to address SBE/CDE concerns)	Passed	House 64-1 Senate 35-0
<u>HB18-1070</u>	Additional Public School Capital Construction Funding	Reps. Young (D)/Wist (R) Sens. Scott (R)/Zenzinger (D)	Support 6-0, 1 excused (Schroeder no vote)	Passed	House 60-3 Senate 35-0
<u>HB18-1088</u>	Funding For Full-day Kindergarten	Rep. Wilson (R)	Monitor	Died	
<u>HB18-1095</u>	Educator License Requirements Military Spouses	Reps. Carver (R)/Arndt (D) Sens. Todd (D)/Gardner (R)	Support 7-0	Passed	House 60-4 Senate 29-6
<u>HB18-1100</u>	Educator Licensure Cash Fund	Rep. Hamner (D) Sen. Lambert (R)	Support 7-0	Passed	House 53-11 Senate 34-0
<u>HB18-1101</u>	Retail Marijuana Sales Tax Appropriations For Schools	Rep. Hamner (D) Sen. Lambert (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 64-0 Senate 35-0
<u>HB18-1130</u>	School District-authorized Instructors	Reps. Williams (R)/Arndt (D)Sen. Gardner (R)	Support 6-0	Passed	House 53-11 Senate 34-0
<u>HB18-1134</u>	Use Of Colorado Preschool Program Positions	Reps. Pettersen (D)/Wilson (R) Sens. Martinez Humenik (R)/ Merrifield (D)	Monitor	Passed	House 49-11 Senate 33-0
<u>HB18-1159</u>	Supplemental Appropriation - Dept Of Education	Rep. Hamner (D) Sen. Lambert (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 65-0 Senate 34-0
<u>HB18-1171</u>	School Finance Mid-year Adjustment To Funding	Rep. Hamner (D) Sen. Lundberg (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 53-12 Senate 20-15

Bill #	Title	Sponsors	SBE Position	Status	Third Reading Votes
<u>HB18-1189</u>	Expanding Effective Teacher Residency Programs	Reps. Pettersen (D)/Sias (R) Sens. Todd (D)/Hill (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 53-10 Senate 33-2
<u>HB18-1193</u>	Extend Advanced Placement Incentives Program	Reps. Wilson (R)/Covarrubias (R) Sen. Zenzinger (D)	Support 6-0	Passed	House 59-4 Senate 35-0
<u>HB18-1197</u>	Student-centered Pilot Accountability Systems	Reps. Young (D)/Wilson (R) Sen. Moreno (D)	Monitor	Died	
<u>HB18-1209</u>	No 529 Account Income Tax Deduction For K-12 Kindergarten Through Twelfth Expenses	Reps. Pettersen (D)/Garnett (D) Sen. Donovan (D)	Monitor	Died	
<u>HB18-1213</u>	Declare Party Affiliation School District Director	Rep. Leonard (R)	Monitor	Died	
<u>HB18-1221</u>	Income Tax Deduction For 529 Account Kindergarten Through Twelfth Grade Expenses	Rep. Leonard (R) Sen. Neville (R)	Monitor	Died	
<u>HB18-1222</u>	Systematic Review Of Education Programs	Rep. J Becker (R)	Oppose 6-0	Died	
<u>HB18-1232</u>	New School Funding Distribution Formula	Rep. Young (D) Sens. Kerr (D)/Coram (R)	Monitor	Died	
<u>HB18-1266</u>	Career Development Success Program Expansion	Reps. Esgar (D)/Wilson (R) Sens. Hill (R)/Todd (D)	Monitor	Passed	House 47-14 Senate 28-7
<u>HB18-1269</u>	Parent Notice For Student Safety And Protection	Reps. Pettersen (D)/Lundeen (R) Sens. Fields (D)/Hill (R)	Support 4-2 (Rankin, Flores no votes)	Passed	House 58-3 Senate 33-2
<u>HB18-1277</u>	BEST Building Excellent Schools Today Financial Assistance Grant Application Requirements	Reps. J. Becker (R)/Esgar (D) Sens. Kefalas (D)/Baumgardner (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 63-0 Senate 35-0

Bill #	Title	Sponsors	SBE Position	Status	Third Reading Votes
<u>HB18-1286</u>	School Nurse Give Medical Marijuana at School	Rep. Roberts (D) Sens. Aguilar (D)/Marble (R)	Oppose 6-1 (Flores no vote)	Passed	House 47-17 Senate 30-5
<u>HB18-1306</u>	Improving Educational Stability for Foster Youth	Rep. Michaelson Jenet (D) Sens. Coram (R)/Moreno (D)	Monitor	Passed	House 43-21 Senate 34-0
<u>HB18-1309</u>	Programs Addressing Educator Shortages	Reps. Wilson (R)/Coleman (D) Sen. Hill (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 47-17 Senate 35-0
<u>HB18-1333</u>	Concerning part C Child Find Responsibilities of State Departments	Sen. Lambert (R)/Rep. Young (D)	Monitor	Passed	House 38-25 Senate 28-6
<u>HB18-1355</u>	Public Education Accountability System	Reps. Pettersen (D)/Sias (R) Sens. Moreno (D)/Gardner (R)	Support 7-0	Passed	House 63-1 Senate 34-1
<u>HB18-1379</u>	Public School Finance	Reps. Pettersen (D)/Wilson (R) Sen. Hill (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 54-7 Senate 35-0
<u>HB18-1393</u>	Effective Implementation Of Colorado Reading To Ensure Academic Development Act	Reps. Hamner (D)/Exum (D) Sen. Gardner (R)	Support 7-0	Passed	House 43-21 Senate 29-4
<u>HB18-1396</u>	Advanced Placement Exam Fee Grant Program	Rep. Buckner (D) Sens. Priola (R)/Moreno (D)	Monitor	Passed	House 43-19 Senate 26-9
<u>HB18-1412</u>	Retaining Teachers Grant Program	Reps. Buckner (D)/Lundeen (R) Sen. Hill (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 50-14 Senate 33-1
<u>HB18-1413</u>	Create School Safety Grant Program	Reps. Lee (D)/Neville (R) Sen. Zenzinger (D)	Monitor	Passed	House 62-2 Senate 34-0
<u>HB18-1416</u>	Student Suicide Prevention Grant Program	Reps. Carver (R)/McLachlan (D) Sen. Coram (R)	Monitor	Died	
<u>HB18-1421</u>	Procurement Process For Major IT Information Technology Projects	Rep. Rankin (R) Sen. Lambert (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 64-1 Senate 35-0

Bill #	Title	Sponsors	SBE Position	Status	Third Reading Votes
<u>HB18-1430</u>	State Agency Long-range Financial Plan	Reps. Young (D)/Van Winkle (R) Sen. Lundberg (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 63-2 Senate 35-0
<u>HB18-1434</u>	Safe2tell Program New Duties And Annual Report	Rep. Singer (D) Sens. Fields (D)/Gardner (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 43-22 Senate 27-8
<u>SB18-004</u>	Funding For Full-day Kindergarten	Sen. Kerr (D)	Monitor	Died	
<u>SB18-008</u>	Reward Access To Arts Education In Public Schools	Sen. Merrifield (D)	Oppose 6-1 (Flores no vote)	Died	
<u>SB18-011</u>	Students Excused From Taking State Assessments	Sens. Kerr (D)/Holbert (R) Reps. Kraft-Tharp (D)/ Lundeen (R)	Support 6-1 (Schroeder no vote)	Passed	House 54-9 Senate 34-1
<u>SB18-012</u>	Military Enlistment School Performance Indicator	Sen. Hill (R)/Rep. Pettersen (D)	Support 7-0	Passed	House 50-13 Senate 32-3
<u>SB18-013</u>	Expand Child Nutrition School Lunch Protection Act	Sens. Fields (D)/Gardner (R) Rep. Michaelson Jenet (D)	Monitor	Passed	House 36-29 Senate 24-11
<u>SB18-058</u>	Failure Report Child Abuse Statute Of Limitations	Sen. Fields (D) Rep. Carver (R)	Monitor	Died	
<u>SB18-075</u>	Campaign Contribution Limits School District Director	Sen. Merrifield (D) Rep. Arndt (D)	Monitor	Died	
<u>SB18-083</u>	Education Income Tax Credits For Nonpublic School	Sen. Lundberg (R) Rep. Ransom (R)	Monitor	Died	
<u>SB18-085</u>	Financial Incentives For Education In Rural Areas	Sen. Todd (D) Rep. McLachlan (D)	Monitor	Passed	House 48-17 Senate 28-7
<u>SB18-099</u>	Align Early Childhood Quality Improvement Programs	Sens. Merrifield (D)/Priola (R) Reps. Pettersen (D)/Wilson (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 39-22 Senate 27-8

Bill #	Title	Sponsors	SBE Position	Status	Third Reading Votes
<u>SB18-114</u>	Suicide Prevention Enhance Student Life Skills	Sen. Todd (D) Reps. Wilson (R)/McLachlan (D)	Monitor	Died	
<u>SB18-118</u>	Local School Board Authority Over Charter Schools	Sen. Merrifield (D) Rep. Arndt (D)	Monitor	Died	
<u>SB18-128</u>	Legislative Approval For State Agency Fee Increase	Sen. Gardner (R) Rep. Liston (R)	Monitor	Died	
<u>SB18-147</u>	Educator Loan Forgiveness Program	Sens. Coram (R)/Zenzinger (D) Reps. Rankin (R)/McLachlan (D)	Monitor	Died	
<u>SB18-151</u>	Colorado Department of Education Bullying Policies Research	Sens. Priola (R)/Fields (D)Reps. Buckner (D)/Wilson (R)	Support 6-0	Passed	House 40-24 Senate 28-7
<u>SB18-158</u>	School Access To Interoperable Communication Technology	Sens. Coram (R)/Garcia (D) Reps. Duran (D)/Catlin (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 46-18 Senate 34-0
<u>SB18-159</u>	Innovation School Operating As A Community School	Sen. Zenzinger (D)	Monitor	Died	
<u>SB18-160</u>	Charter School Induction And Alternative Licensure Program	Sen. Lambert (R) Rep. Hamner (D)	Support 6-0	Passed	House 61-0 Senate 33-2
<u>SB18-162</u>	Substitute Placement Agency Licensure	Sen. Martinez Humenik (R) Reps. Buckner (D)/Wilson (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 39-25 Senate 25-10
<u>SB18-163</u>	Extend Repeal Early Childhood Legislative Commission	Sens. Merrifield (D)/Martinez Humenik (R) Reps. Pettersen (D)/Wilson (R)	Monitor	Passed	House 39-26 Senate 22-13
<u>SB18-215</u>	Additional Funding For Small Rural Schools	Sens. Coram (R)/Crowder (R) Reps. Valdez (D)/Reyher (R)	Monitor	Died	
<u>SB18-225</u>	Definition Of Early College High Schools	Sen. Lambert (R) Rep. Hamner (D)	Support 5-2 (McClellan, Flores no votes)	Passed	House 63-0 Senate 35-0

Bill #	Title	Sponsors	SBE Position	Status	Third Reading Votes
<u>SB18-228</u>	Improving School Choice In Traditional Schools	Sen. Hill (R) Rep. Van Winkle (R)	Monitor	Died	
<u>SB18-229</u>	CDE Student Teacher Criminal History Record Checks	Sen. Martinez Humenik (R) Reps. Ransom (R)/McLachlan (D)	Monitor	Passed	House 65-0 Senate 34-0
<u>SB18-231</u>	Transition to Community-based Services Task Force	Sens. Lambert (R)/Moreno (D) Rep. Young (D)	Monitor	Passed	House 41-24 Senate 24-10
<u>SB18-264</u>	Prohibit Public School Teacher Strikes	Sen. Gardner (R) Rep. Lundeen (R)	Monitor	Died	
<u>SB18-269</u>	School Security Disbursement Program	Sens. Neville (R)/Moreno (D) Reps. Neville (R)/Bridges (D)	Monitor	Passed	House 64-0 Senate 35-0
<u>SB18-272</u>	Crisis and Suicide Prevention Training Grant Program	Sens. Todd (D)/Martinez Humenik (R) Reps. Carver (R)/McLachlan (D)	Monitor	Passed	House 53-12 Senate 27-8
<u>SCR18-001</u>	Repeal Of The State Board Of Education	Sen. Merrifield (D) Rep. Arndt (D)	Oppose 7-0	Died	

LOOKING AHEAD

The legislature is moving forward with several interim committees over the Summer and Fall. The School Finance Interim Committee, which was authorized in 2017 to meet for two years, will enter a more active phase as they seek consensus on a potential new school finance formula. Three committees were approved by Legislative Council: 1) Alternatives to the Gallagher Amendment; 2) K-12 School Start Times; and 3) an Evaluation of the Findings and Recommendations from the 2018 Legislative Workplace Study. Additionally, legislation was passed to continue interim committees focused on the opioid epidemic and early child education. Standard interims including Transportation Legislation Review and Water Resources will also meet along with Capital Development and the Joint Technology Committee which are active year-round.

In Colorado, 2018 is poised to be a significant election year. In addition to the 65 State House seats and 17 State Senate seats that are up for consideration, all statewide offices including Governor, Attorney General, Treasurer and Secretary of State will be on the ballot.

The large field of candidates in both the Republican and Democratic parties for Governor and other statewide offices will be officially narrowed down by the primary election on June 26. At this time, the Democratic front-runners include Jared Polis and Cary Kennedy. On the Republican side, Walker

Stapleton is leading over both Victor Mitchell and Doug Robinson. Phil Weiser has a solid head start in the Democratic Attorney General primary and will face Republican George Brauchler if he wins. The primary contest for Treasurer is vigorous for both parties with Dave Young the likely Democratic nominee and Polly Lawrence, Justin Everett and Brian Watson competing on the Republican side. This will be the first statewide primary election in which unaffiliated voters can participate. The impact of unaffiliated voters is unclear at this point, but political pros are watching closely to evaluate the magnitude of this shift in the composition of the primary voter base.

For the last several years, the Colorado House has been controlled by Democrats with a comfortable margin and the Colorado Senate has been controlled by Republicans with a very narrow margin. Just over 25 percent of the House seats are open, meaning the incumbent is either term-limited, running for another office or has chosen not to run again. Most of these are not competitive seats, and the House is likely to stay in Democratic control for the 2019 and 2020 legislative sessions. In the Senate there are eight open seats. Three Senate races are widely considered to be competitive: 1) Sen. Beth Martinez Humenik vs. Rep. Faith Winter; 2) Sen. Tim Neville vs. Tammy Story; and 3) Rep. Jessie Danielson vs. Christine Jensen. The outcome of any of these races could determine whether the Senate stays in Republican hands or switches to narrow Democratic control.

Finally, there are seventeen ballot initiatives that have been approved to collect signatures including a tax increase for schools, setback requirements for oil and gas development, compensation for takings and transparency in healthcare billing. Additionally, there is a transportation funding initiative supported by the business community that may also be on the ballot. To qualify for the statewide ballot, proponents must collect 98,492 verified signatures from registered Colorado voters. The deadline for submitting signatures varies by initiative but is no later than August 6.

It has been a pleasure to represent the State Board of Education and the Colorado Department of Education at the legislature this year. I will be reaching out shortly to board members and Department leadership to establish priorities for the Summer and Fall. You can expect regular updates over the next several months as interim committees meet and the political landscape continues to shift. As always, please do not hesitate to contact Jennifer Mello at 720-301-6137 or jennifer@augustpolicy.com if you have a specific question or need.