

# Summary of Legislation

## 2025



## Higher Education

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During the 2025 legislative session, the General Assembly considered a variety of measures related to higher education in Colorado. Specifically, the legislature adopted bills related to workforce development, credentials and degrees, pathways to student success, and student athlete compensation.

### Workforce Development

The General Assembly passed two bills aimed at bolstering workforce development. [House Bill 25-1186](#) creates the Work-based Learning Consortium Pilot Program in the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE). The consortium will work with institutions of higher education (IHEs) in order to promote work-based learning in higher education and study the impact of work-based learning and industry-sponsored projects on student learning outcomes. The creation of the pilot program is contingent upon the department receiving sufficient gifts, grants, or donations. In 2014, the General Assembly passed [Senate Bill 14-174](#), which created the Prosecution Fellowship Program, which provides funding to the Colorado District Attorneys' Council for fellowships for recent Colorado law school graduates in rural district attorneys' offices. [Senate Bill 25-067](#) makes several changes to the program, including providing the funding

directly to rural district attorneys' offices to recruit, hire, and retain new deputy district attorneys; defining which judicial districts are considered rural; and making changes to the composition of the fellowship committee.

### Credentials and Degrees

[House Bill 25-1221](#) allows Emily Griffith Technical College to offer an Associate of Applied Science degree. The degree must include an apprenticeship program and general education courses, and it must align with high-need, high-demand occupations. [House Bill 25-1038](#) requires CDHE to create a free, publically-accessible online platform and statewide database for current and prospective higher education students about which credits, courses, work-related experience, and prior learning opportunities are transferable to or between state IHEs.

Current law limits the number of students who can enroll in the Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine at one time. [House Bill 25-1131](#) removes the cap on student enrollment and eliminates other current financial limitations on the program.

### Student Athlete Compensation

Under current law, student athletes who are enrolled at public or private IHEs in Colorado may profit from their name, image, and

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likeness (NIL), while maintaining their amateur status. However, IHEs are not allowed to compensate a current or prospective student athlete, or pay a prospective student for his or her ability, performance, or potential. [House Bill 25-1041](#) removes these prohibitions, and allows an institution or an athletic association to provide compensation to a student athlete for the use of their NIL. The bill also expands the definition of “student athlete” to include individuals who participate in an intercollegiate sport.

to two years. [Senate Bill 25-154](#) specifies that any state IHE may participate in the TREP program as long as it offers courses at the community college tuition rate and guarantees that the courses transfer to other state IHEs.

## Pathways to Student Success

As defined in federal law, an “academic adjustment” is any modification to an institution’s academic requirements to ensure that the requirements do not discriminate against students with a disability. Currently, Colorado IHEs have their own processes for students to request accommodations or adjustments to their academic requirements. [Senate Bill 25-087](#) requires all IHEs to create a policy allowing students to self-disclose a disability and engage in a process to receive an academic adjustment or accommodation. The bill specifies what the policy must include and what documents a student may submit to determine eligibility.

In 2021, the Teacher Recruitment Education and Preparation (TREP) program was created through [Senate Bill 21-185](#). The program allows qualified K-12 students in an educator career pathway to remain in high school and concurrently enroll in postsecondary courses to earn college credit at no tuition cost for up