

# Summary of Legislation

## 2024



### Higher Education

During the 2024 legislative session, the General Assembly passed several pieces of legislation related to higher education, including financial assistance, workforce programs, and governance and administration.

#### Financial Assistance

The General Assembly passed several bills related to college affordability. [House Bill 24-1340](#) creates a new refundable income tax credit to encourage Colorado high school students to enroll in a Colorado institution of higher education. The credit is equal to the tuition and fees paid by the eligible student to the institution, minus any scholarships or grants. Students must be enrolled at a public state institution of higher education, community college, area technical school, or occupational school. Eligibility requirements for the credit include, but are not limited to:

- graduated from a Colorado high school within the last two years;
- qualify for in-state tuition;
- have enrolled in at least six credit hours or equivalent for the semester or term for which they are claiming the credit;
- have a grade point average of at least 2.5 for the semester claiming the credit; and
- have a household adjusted gross income of \$90,000 or less, as reported on their application for federal and state financial student aid.

In addition, [House Bill 24-1403](#) creates a financial aid program for students who have experience homelessness. For a Colorado student between 17 and 26 years old who has been identified as experiencing homelessness by Colorado school personnel at any time during high school, public institutions of higher education must provide financial assistance for the remaining balance of the student's total cost of attendance, minus financial aid received for the student's first 132 semester hours. Each institution of higher education must designate one employee as a liaison for qualifying students to provide information regarding application assistance, financial aid, and other support services.

#### Workforce Programs

The General Assembly passed [House Bill 24-1364](#), which requires the Colorado Department of Education to complete a financial study analyzing potential costs and cost savings related to the state's postsecondary education and workforce readiness programs.

In addition, [Senate Bill 24-143](#) requires state agencies to evaluate whether non-degree credentials meet certain standards and apply an international classification system to credential pathways and apprenticeships.

# Higher Education

## Governance and Administration

As a result of the Department of Regulatory Agencies' 2023 sunset report on [private occupational schools](#), the General Assembly passed [House Bill 24-1333](#), which continues the regulation of private occupational schools for nine years and requires the Private Occupational School Board to approve changes of ownership of a private occupational school. Private occupational schools are vocational schools, such as cosmetology or driving schools, that offer courses and credentials for specific occupations.

Currently, students enrolled in postsecondary institutions have rights related to:

- transparency of the cost of postsecondary education;
- seamless transfer of courses in certain circumstances;
- the ability to appeal an institution's decision not to accept transfer credits; and
- the right to know which work-related and prior learning experiences are awarded credit.

[Senate Bill 24-164](#) modifies processes regarding credit transfers between institutions of higher education and requires schools to provide students with specific information pertaining to costs. The bill also includes certain provisions related to data reporting, violations of the transfer policy, and appeals.

Finally, [House Bill 24-1082](#) requires the Colorado Department of Higher Education to identify first-generation-serving institutions of higher education.

A "first-generation-serving institution" is an institution of higher education that has either:

- an average resident, first-generation, undergraduate student population share for the most recent year for which data is available and the two prior years that equals or exceeds the Fall 2022 statewide average resident, first-generation, undergraduate population; or
- obtained a First Scholars Network of Institutions designation from the Center for First-Generation Student Success, or a similar third-party designation.

