

Summary of Legislation

2025



K-12 Education

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During the 2025 legislative session, the General Assembly considered a variety of measures related to K-12 education in Colorado. The legislature passed laws related to student health and well-being, student and school safety, standards and assessments, school accountability, and governance and funding.

Student Health and Well-being

[Senate Bill 25-164](#) clarifies who is allowed to distribute opioid antagonists in school settings and allows for additional opioid antagonist storage on school grounds. The bill also creates requirements for the State Board of Health regarding youth opioid use and overdose prevention. [House Bill 25-1293](#) requires that the State Board of Education (SBE) adopt health education standards for ninth through twelfth grade on drug overdose identification, risks, prevention, and response. The bill also allows public and non-public schools to seek gifts, grants, and donations to acquire and maintain a supply of opioid antagonists on school property. [Senate Bill 25-191](#) requires public schools, school districts, and nonpublic schools that have or acquire an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to place and maintain the AED in accordance with nationally

recognized, evidence-based standards for emergency cardiovascular care. The act eliminates requirements that written plans identify personnel authorized to use the AED and be reviewed and approved by a licensed physician.

[House Bill 25-1312](#) enacts the Kelly Loving Act, which establishes general legal protections for transgender individuals. Part of the act declares that if a school district or charter school chooses to enact or enforce a policy related to names, that policy must be inclusive of all reasons that a student might adopt a name that differs from their legal name. Additionally, a school must allow a student to dress in any way that adheres to the options provided in the school's dress code policy.

Student and School Safety

Under current law, school districts and charter schools may not hire a facial recognition services provider unless a contract was in place before August 10, 2022, or is related to a "generally available consumer product" such as a smartphone. This prohibition is scheduled to repeal on July 1, 2025. [Senate Bill 25-143](#) removes the repeal date and creates new exceptions to the facial recognition service contract prohibition, including if:

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- the service allows for analysis of facial features that relates to approved curriculum;
- school officials or peace officers use facial recognition to identify a known threat to school safety whose facial imaging was obtained legally; or
- there is a reasonable belief that the technology may assist in locating a missing student based on data that could indicate the student's presence near a school.

Schools must develop a policy for using facial recognition technology and must post notice near school entrances that they are using the technology.

[House Bill 25-1250](#) requires the Office of Gun Violence Prevention in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to post certain materials on its website for local education providers to use pertaining to gun violence, firearms safe storage, and suicide prevention. Local education providers must distribute these materials to caregivers of elementary and secondary school students at the start of each school year and also post the materials on their website.

Under current law, the use of restraint or seclusion by a state or local government is prohibited by the Protection of Individuals from Restraint and Seclusion Act. [House Bill 25-1248](#) removes schools and school districts from this act and enacts a separate law that:

- prohibits the use of restraint on a public school student at school or a school sponsored off-campus activity;
- identifies exceptions and conditions a local education provider must follow if using seclusion or restraints; and
- requires local education providers that use restraint to ensure proper training.

The bill also specifies requirements for reporting, rulemaking, and enforcement.

Standards and Assessments

In 2012, the General Assembly passed the Reading to Ensure Academic Development (READ) Act, which requires that public schools and districts ensure that each preschool and kindergarten student is assessed to determine the child's readiness for reading instruction. [Senate Bill 25-200](#) makes several changes to the READ Act, including:

- allowing schools and districts to assess for reading deficiencies and implement individualized readiness plans for certain students;
- expanding criteria for determining if a child has a reading deficiency and requiring teachers to evaluate if this includes any evidence of dyslexia;
- requiring school districts to annually screen students in kindergarten through third grade for dyslexia during a required reading assessment; and
- requiring the SBE to adopt rules to expand the minimum reading competency skill levels.

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[House Bill 25-1149](#) requires the SBE to adopt standards for Black Historical and Cultural studies and creates a 17-member advisory committee to support the effort. The committee must identify and recommend education materials that will be included in a resource bank housed in the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). School districts and the Charter School Institute (CSI) must incorporate the new standards into K-12 courses. [House Bill 25-1192](#) requires each student's Individual Career and Academic Plan to include practice filling out financial aid applications for college unless the student affirmatively declines or school personnel determines it is not feasible for the student. Additionally, the bill requires all school districts to incorporate existing financial literacy standards into current courses required for high school graduation.

School Accountability

[House Bill 25-1210](#) requires CDE to develop a streamlined format for school and school district performance, improvement, priority improvement, and turnaround plans that consolidates reporting requirements. CDE must maintain a centralized system for plan submissions. In 2023, the General Assembly passed [House Bill 23-1241](#), which created a task force to study and make recommendations regarding academic opportunities, inequities, promising practices in schools, and improvements to the accountability and accreditation system. [House Bill 25-1278](#) implements several of the recommendations made by

the task force and makes changes to state assessments and school accountability laws.

Governance and Funding

[House Bill 25-1135](#) requires that each school district and the CSI adopt and implement a policy concerning cell phone possession and use during the school day. The policy must also be posted on their website. [Senate Bill 25-063](#) requires local school boards and CSI to establish policies for the acquisition, retention, and display of library resources and for removing any materials from circulation. Certain elements must be included in these policies, including protecting against harassment and discrimination and complying with the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. The bill protects school librarians and volunteers from retaliation for refusing to remove material in accordance with the adopted policies.

[House Bill 25-1320](#), the annual School Finance Act, sets 2025-2026 funding levels for Colorado's 178 school districts and makes changes to the implementation of the new school finance formula adopted in [House Bill 24-1448](#).