

***** Unless otherwise noted, all language herein is subject to revision or amendment in the 2008 Colorado General Assembly *****

These legislative summaries do not necessarily reflect the full content of each piece of legislation, but focus on each proposal's content related most directly to P-3.

P-3 Sub-Committee
Governor Ritter's P-20 Council

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 28, 2008

**Colorado Preschool Program Expansion
School Finance Act
Rep. Pommer (D) and Sen. Windels (D)**

Status: Not yet introduced.

- Expand the program for 2008-09 to eliminate the current waitlist by:
 - Maintaining the current program capacity (16,360 slots), converting the 2,454 full-day kindergarten slots into slots for pre-school age children;
 - Ensuring the 2008-09 legislative intent to expand by 3,500 slots is met; and
 - Allocating approximately \$900,000 new dollars to serve approximately 250 additional children.
 - Together, these efforts will expand the preschool program's ability to serve 4-year olds by 6,205 slots in 2008-09.
- Change name from Colorado Preschool and Kindergarten Program (CPKP) back to the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP); and
- Permit school districts to choose one of two count dates (e.g., October 1 and February 1), giving those that need it an extra semester to put together the necessary partnerships, facilities, and teachers to serve an expanded population of children.

**Full-Day Kindergarten (FDK) Expansion
School Finance Act
Rep. Pommer (D) and Sen. Windels (D)**

Status: Not yet introduced.

- Full-day kindergarten will be a new factor calculated in the school funding formula, based on each district's kindergarten count, thereby distributing funds statewide; and
- School districts that have been receiving the 2,454 FDK slots via CPKP will have this funding maintained, but it will no longer be provided through CPKP;
- Legislation will encourage school districts to adopt quality standards for FDK (already established by CPKP and in use); and

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- School districts that are currently providing local funds to support FDK cannot supplant their local investment until 90% of all kindergarten age-eligible children in the district have free access to FDK.

**SB 212 Preschool to Postsecondary Education Alignment
Colorado Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K)
Sens. Romer (D) and Penry (R)
Reps. Witwer (R) and Scanlan (D)**

**Status: Passed Senate Education (with amendments)
Waiting to be heard in Senate Appropriations**

- Makes legislative findings concerning the alignment of education standards and assessments from preschool through post-secondary;
- Directs the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt school readiness standards *and* preschool through elementary content and skill standards;
- Directs the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt assessments that align with the school readiness standards *and* the preschool through elementary content and skill standards;
- Requires school districts that operate a preschool program to provide an individualized readiness plan, based on the use of authentic assessments aligned with the preschool standards, for each preschool student to assist student in progressing toward school readiness;
- Directs school districts to administer school readiness assessment to every enrolled kindergartener, specifying that results are to be used for population-level reporting only and may not be used to prohibit entry to first grade; and
- Directs Department of Education, Department of Higher Education, Child Care Division in Department of Human Services, and staff from Lt. Governor's Office to provide technical assistance to school districts.

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**HB08-1021 Early Access to Educational Services for Gifted Children who are Less Than Six Years of Age
Rep. Peniston (D)**

**Status: Passed House Education (with amendments)
Waiting to be heard in House Appropriations**

- Amends definition of gifted children to include children who are 4-years old;
- Permits school districts to enroll (and receive state funding for) 4-year olds in kindergarten and 5-year olds in first grade if they have been deemed to be "highly advanced gifted" based on criteria and processes established by the State Board of Education.

**SB08-089 Early Intervening Services for Students
Sen. Williams (D) and Rep. Gardner (R)**

**Status: Passed third reading in Senate (with amendments)
Passed House Education, awaiting second reading in House**

- Defines early intervening services as services for K-12 children, with emphasis on children in kindergarten through 3rd grade, who have not been identified as children with disabilities but who need additional academic and behavioral supports to succeed in a general education environment;
- Directs the State Board of Education to determine which programs and activities, including Response to Intervention (RTI), qualify as early intervening services; and
- Allows school districts to use 15% of Title I funds to provide early intervening services.

**SB08-065 Concerning Teacher Incentive Performance Programs
Sen. Spence (R)**

**Status: Passed Senate Education (with amendments)
Waiting to be heard in Senate Appropriations**

- Provide school districts with seed funding and technical assistance to design, develop, and plan alternative compensation systems for teachers that would help Colorado lift the academic performance of all students and meet its education goals of decreasing the dropout rate, closing the achievement gap, and increasing post-secondary certificates;
- Colorado Department of Education and the Governor's P-20 Council will work together to establish application criteria for districts that wish to receive seed funding;
- Application criteria must include the involvement of teachers in the design and development of the final plan;
- Seed funds may be used to secure technical assistance to support creation of a plan for a new compensation system;

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- School districts' final plans for alternative compensation systems must include specific mechanisms for addressing how the compensation system will:
 - Demonstrate measurable effectiveness
 - Measure decreasing the dropout rate
 - Help to close the achievement gap
 - Increase students' attainment of post-secondary certificates
 - Identify and securing a sustainable funding source.

**HB 1364 Concerning Interdepartmental Data Protocols
Rep. Benefield (D) and Sen. Windels (D)**

***Status: Passed House State, Veterans, and Military Affairs (with amendments)
Waiting to be heard in House Appropriations***

- Directs the Chief Information Officer (CIO) in the Governor's Office of Information Technology to convene a Data Protocol Development Council. Requires the CIO to contract for an evaluation of the state's information technology resources;
- Directs the Department of Human Services, county departments of social services, and local early childhood councils to work with the Colorado Department of Education to assign unique student identifiers to all children who receive government-subsidized preschool services (e.g., services provided through Child Care Development Block Grant and Head Start).