

Second Regular Session  
Seventy-first General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

BILL A

LLS NO. 18-0318.01 Brita Darling x2241

SENATE BILL

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Merrifield and Priola, Martinez Humenik

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Pettersen and Wilson, Buckner

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Senate Committees

House Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE ALIGNMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD QUALITY  
102 IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS WITH THE COLORADO SHINES  
103 QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM.

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Bill Summary

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)*

**Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission.** The bill amends the application and eligibility requirements for the school-readiness quality improvement program and the infant and toddler quality and availability grant program to align with the Colorado shines quality rating and improvement system to streamline the

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

administration of the programs.

The bill removes obsolete references to early childhood and education councils.

The bill makes conforming amendments to reflect the references changed in the bill and to remove terms no longer used in the programs.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6.5-101.5, **amend**  
3 (2); **repeal** (5), (6), (7), and (8); and **add** (6.5) as follows:

4 **26-6.5-101.5. Definitions.** As used in this part 1, unless the  
5 context otherwise requires:

6 (2) "Council" OR "EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL" means an early  
7 childhood council identified or established locally in communities  
8 throughout the state pursuant to section 26-6.5-103 for the purpose of  
9 developing and ultimately implementing a comprehensive system of early  
10 childhood services to ensure the school readiness of children five years  
11 of age or younger in the community. ~~A council may be an early childhood~~  
12 ~~care and education council so long as no more than one council exists in~~  
13 ~~a given service area.~~

14 (5) ~~"Early care and education provider" or "early care and~~  
15 ~~education facility" means a school district, provider, or facility that:~~

16 (a) ~~Is licensed pursuant to part 1 of article 6 of this title or that~~  
17 ~~participates in the Colorado preschool program pursuant to article 28 of~~  
18 ~~title 22, C.R.S.; and~~

19 (b) ~~Participates in local community councils.~~

20 (6) ~~"Early childhood care and education council" means a council~~  
21 ~~that represents public and private stakeholders identified or established~~  
22 ~~locally in communities throughout the state pursuant to section~~  
23 ~~26-6.5-106. An early childhood care and education council shall provide~~

1 ~~school-readiness quality improvement funding to early care and education~~  
2 ~~providers pursuant to section 26-6.5-106 (3) to enhance the school~~  
3 ~~readiness of children five years of age or younger.~~

4 (6.5) "EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM" MEANS A  
5 LICENSED CHILD CARE PROGRAM PURSUANT TO PART 1 OF ARTICLE 6 OF  
6 THIS TITLE 26 THAT PROVIDES CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION TO CHILDREN  
7 FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER.

8 (7) "Eligible elementary school" means a public elementary school  
9 that:

10 (a) (I) ~~For the school year immediately preceding submission of~~  
11 ~~the council's application for funding pursuant to section 26-6.5-106, is~~  
12 ~~required to implement a priority improvement or turnaround plan as~~  
13 ~~described in section 22-11-405 or 22-11-406, C.R.S., respectively, or is~~  
14 ~~subject to restructuring pursuant to section 22-11-210, C.R.S.; and~~

15 (II) ~~(Deleted by amendment, L. 2009, (SB 09-163), ch. 293, p.~~  
16 ~~1546, § 57, effective May 21, 2009.)~~

17 (b) ~~As of the date on which the council applies for funding~~  
18 ~~through the program, is receiving moneys pursuant to Title I of the federal~~  
19 ~~"Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965", 20 U.S.C. sec. 6301~~  
20 ~~et seq.~~

21 (8) "Pilot site agency" means a community consolidated child care  
22 services pilot site agency as it existed prior to May 31, 2007.

23 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6.5-103, **amend**  
24 (2) as follows:

25 **26-6.5-103. Early childhood councils - established - rules.**

26 (2) The statewide system of early childhood councils shall consist of ~~the~~  
27 ~~seventeen pilot site agencies and other~~ existing early childhood councils,

1 renamed through this part 1 as "early childhood councils", and new  
2 councils designated and convened pursuant to this part 1, subject to  
3 available appropriations. ~~from the general fund.~~

4 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6.5-103.3, **amend**  
5 (3) introductory portion as follows:

6 **26-6.5-103.3. Early childhood councils - applications - rules.**

7 (3) ~~A pilot site agency or other~~ AN existing early childhood council  
8 seeking to be newly identified as a council shall designate on its  
9 application a restatement of the following information:

10 **SECTION 4.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6.5-106, **amend**  
11 (3), (3.5), (4), (5) introductory portion, (5)(a) introductory portion, (5)(b),  
12 (5)(c), (5)(d), (5)(e), (6), (7), (8), and (9) as follows:

13 **26-6.5-106. School-readiness quality improvement program -**  
14 **created - Colorado shines quality rating and improvement system.**

15 (3) On and after ~~January 1, 2003~~ JULY 1, 2018, and continuing thereafter  
16 subject to sufficient and available federal funding, there is hereby created  
17 the school-readiness quality improvement program, referred to in this  
18 section as the "program", ~~pursuant to~~ WHICH IS ADMINISTERED BY THE  
19 DEPARTMENT AS PART OF THE COLORADO SHINES QUALITY RATING AND  
20 IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM. The state department ~~of human services~~ shall  
21 award ~~three years of~~ school-readiness quality improvement funding to  
22 eligible early childhood ~~care and education~~ councils identified or  
23 established throughout the state pursuant to ~~subsection (3.5) of this~~  
24 ~~section.~~ ~~School-readiness~~ SECTION 26-6.5-103. SCHOOL-READINESS  
25 quality improvement funding shall be awarded to improve the school  
26 readiness of children five years of age and younger who are enrolled in  
27 early ~~care and education facilities~~ CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

1 School-readiness quality improvement funding shall be awarded to  
2 eligible early childhood ~~care and education~~ councils based upon  
3 allocations made at the discretion of the state department and subject to  
4 available ~~federal~~ funding. Nothing in this section or in any rules  
5 promulgated pursuant to this section shall be interpreted to create a legal  
6 entitlement in any early childhood ~~care and education~~ council to  
7 school-readiness quality improvement funding. ~~pursuant to the program.~~  
8 ~~Moneys~~ MONEY awarded ~~through the program shall~~ MUST be used to  
9 improve the school readiness of children, five years of age and younger,  
10 cared for ~~at such facilities, who ultimately attend eligible elementary~~  
11 ~~schools~~ IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

12 (3.5) ~~(a) (F)~~ Communities throughout the state that do not have a  
13 ~~pilot site agency~~ AN EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL may identify an existing  
14 ~~entity~~ EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL IN ANOTHER COMMUNITY or establish  
15 a new ~~entity to serve as the~~ early childhood ~~care and education~~ council  
16 PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 26-6.5-103.3 AND 26-6.5-103.5 to work toward  
17 the development and implementation of a comprehensive early childhood  
18 system to ensure the school readiness of young children in the  
19 community. ~~A community may identify an existing entity, such as a~~  
20 ~~consolidated child care pilot site agency or an interagency coordinating~~  
21 ~~council or a district preschool program advisory council, to serve as its~~  
22 ~~early childhood care and education council, or it may establish a new~~  
23 ~~council. To the extent it is practical, early childhood care and education~~  
24 ~~councils shall be representative of the various public and private~~  
25 ~~stakeholders in the community, as specified in this subsection (3.5), who~~  
26 ~~are committed to supporting the preparedness of young children for~~  
27 ~~school. Such stakeholders shall include:~~

- 1           ~~(A) School districts;~~
- 2           ~~(B) The county department;~~
- 3           ~~(C) Private for-profit and nonprofit licensed child care providers~~  
4 ~~representing child care centers, family child care homes, and preschools;~~
- 5           ~~(D) Local resource and referral agency or agencies;~~
- 6           ~~(E) County, district, or municipal public health agencies; and~~
- 7           ~~(F) Local mental health community or communities.~~
- 8           ~~(H) In addition, each early childhood care and education council~~  
9 ~~may include, but is not limited to, representation from any combination~~  
10 ~~of the following:~~
- 11           ~~(A) The board of county commissioners;~~
- 12           ~~(B) The local head start grantee;~~
- 13           ~~(C) The Colorado preschool program established in article 28 of~~  
14 ~~title 22, C.R.S.;~~
- 15           ~~(D) Child care associations;~~
- 16           ~~(E) Other local governmental entities;~~
- 17           ~~(F) Parents or other consumers of early childhood care and~~  
18 ~~education services; and~~
- 19           ~~(G) Faith-based organizations.~~
- 20           ~~(b) For purposes of this section, the early childhood care and~~  
21 ~~education council, whether newly established in a community or newly~~  
22 ~~identified to serve as such, shall work toward consolidating and~~  
23 ~~coordinating funding, including school-readiness quality improvement~~  
24 ~~funding, to create a seamless early childhood system of collaboration~~  
25 ~~among the various public and private stakeholders for the effective~~  
26 ~~delivery of early childhood care and education to young children in the~~  
27 ~~community.~~

1           (4) **Application for funding.** (a) ~~(f)~~ An early childhood care and  
2 ~~education~~ council seeking school-readiness quality improvement funding  
3 from the state department pursuant to this section shall apply directly to  
4 the state department in the manner specified by rule of the state board of  
5 human services. An early childhood care and education council applying  
6 for school-readiness quality improvement funding pursuant to this section  
7 shall ~~meet the following minimum criteria:~~ DEVELOP AND SUBMIT A  
8 SCHOOL-READINESS PLAN TO IMPROVE THE SCHOOL READINESS OF  
9 CHILDREN IN THE COMMUNITY AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (6) OF THIS  
10 SECTION AND SHALL MEET ANY ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS  
11 SPECIFIED BY RULE OF THE STATE BOARD.

12           ~~(A) The community represented by the early childhood care and~~  
13 ~~education council shall include one or more eligible elementary schools;~~

14           ~~(B) The early childhood care and education council shall develop~~  
15 ~~and submit a school-readiness plan to improve the school readiness of~~  
16 ~~children in the community as described in subsection (6) of this section;~~  
17 ~~and~~

18           ~~(C) The early childhood care and education council shall~~  
19 ~~demonstrate the commitment of the early care and education facilities~~  
20 ~~identified in the school-readiness plan to cooperate with and participate~~  
21 ~~in the school-readiness quality rating system. described in subsection (5)~~  
22 ~~of this section.~~

23           ~~(H) An early childhood care and education council seeking~~  
24 ~~school-readiness quality improvement funding pursuant to this section~~  
25 ~~shall, in addition to the requirements set forth in subparagraph (f) of this~~  
26 ~~paragraph (a), meet any additional eligibility requirements specified by~~  
27 ~~rule of the state board.~~

1 (b) Early childhood ~~care and education~~ councils that receive  
2 school-readiness quality improvement funding pursuant to this section  
3 shall ~~distribute such moneys~~ PRIORITIZE THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MONEY  
4 to PARTICIPATING early ~~care and~~ CHILDHOOD education facilities  
5 ~~identified in the school-readiness plan described in subsection (6) of this~~  
6 ~~section~~ PROGRAMS THAT SERVE CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR  
7 YOUNGER WITH RISK FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH NOT BEING SCHOOL  
8 READY, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO CHILDREN LIVING IN LOW-INCOME  
9 FAMILIES, AS SPECIFIED BY RULE OF THE STATE BOARD.

10 (5) **Colorado shines quality rating and improvement system.**  
11 ~~The early childhood and school-readiness legislative commission created~~  
12 ~~in section 26-6.5-203 shall adopt a voluntary school-readiness quality~~  
13 ~~rating system. The rating system~~ THE COLORADO SHINES QUALITY RATING  
14 AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM, REFERRED TO IN THIS SECTION AS THE  
15 "COLORADO SHINES SYSTEM", shall measure the level of preparedness of  
16 and quality of services provided by an early ~~care and~~ CHILDHOOD  
17 education ~~provider~~ PROGRAM to prepare children to enter elementary  
18 school. The ~~school-readiness quality rating~~ COLORADO SHINES system  
19 shall:

20 (a) Measure ~~such~~ THE elements of quality of an early ~~care and~~  
21 CHILDHOOD education ~~facility as~~ PROGRAM, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED  
22 TO:

23 (b) Be variable to inform parents, counties, and other purchasers  
24 of early childhood ~~care and~~ education about the level of quality at an early  
25 ~~care and~~ CHILDHOOD education ~~facility~~ PROGRAM in a simple and  
26 easy-to-understand manner;

27 (c) Be supported by statistically valid research as a reliable



1 measure of quality of an early ~~care and~~ CHILDHOOD education facility  
2 PROGRAM;

3 (d) Include a quality improvement plan that ~~informs quality-rated~~  
4 ~~early care and education providers of their strengths and weaknesses and~~  
5 ~~that provides such providers with strategies to improve the quality of their~~  
6 ~~services~~ FACILITATES GOAL SETTING AND PLANNING RELATED TO  
7 IMPROVING PROGRAM QUALITY OVER TIME; and

8 (e) Have demonstrated effectiveness at improving the level of  
9 quality of ~~early care and~~ EARLY CHILDHOOD education ~~providers~~  
10 PROGRAMS in geographically diverse Colorado communities.

11 (6) **School-readiness plans.** Each early childhood ~~care and~~  
12 ~~education~~ council seeking to apply for school-readiness quality  
13 improvement funding pursuant to this section shall prepare and submit to  
14 the state department a three-year school-readiness plan that outlines  
15 strategies to improve the school readiness of children. ~~who reside in~~  
16 ~~neighborhoods with eligible elementary schools.~~ The school-readiness  
17 plan, at a minimum, ~~shall~~ MUST include:

18 (a) ~~The number and location of eligible elementary schools in the~~  
19 ~~community~~ A NARRATIVE THAT DEMONSTRATES THE NEED TO IMPROVE  
20 QUALITY AND INCREASE THE CAPACITY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD  
21 EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN ITS SERVICE AREA;

22 (b) ~~The number and location of early care and education providers~~  
23 ~~that will voluntarily participate in the school-readiness quality~~  
24 ~~improvement program;~~ A PLAN THAT DESCRIBES HOW THE EARLY  
25 CHILDHOOD COUNCIL WILL TARGET AND RECRUIT PROGRAMS THAT ARE  
26 RATED IN THE COLORADO SHINES SYSTEM AT A LEVEL TWO OR HIGHER  
27 AND THAT HAVE A FISCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COLORADO CHILD CARE

1 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, CREATED IN PART 8 OF ARTICLE 2 OF THIS TITLE 26;  
2 AND

3 ~~(c) A commitment that the early care and education providers~~  
4 ~~identified in the school-readiness plan will cooperate with and participate~~  
5 ~~in the school-readiness quality rating system; described in subsection (5)~~  
6 ~~of this section; and~~ STRATEGIES DEVELOPED JOINTLY WITH COMMUNITY  
7 PARTNERS TO INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM, COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OF HUMAN  
8 OR SOCIAL SERVICES TO TARGET SCHOOL-READINESS QUALITY  
9 IMPROVEMENT FUNDING TO IMPROVE THE LEVEL OF QUALITY AT  
10 PARTICIPATING EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

11 ~~(d) Community strategies to target school-readiness quality~~  
12 ~~improvement funding to improve the level of quality at participating early~~  
13 ~~care and education providers.~~

14 (7) **Rules.** (a) The state board of ~~human services~~ shall promulgate  
15 rules for the implementation of this section, including but not limited to  
16 rules that:

17 (I) Specify the procedure by which an early childhood ~~care and~~  
18 ~~education~~ council may apply for school-readiness quality improvement  
19 funding pursuant to the program; AND

20 (II) Specify the manner in which school-readiness quality  
21 improvement funding is distributed to early childhood ~~care and education~~  
22 councils, ensuring an equitable distribution between rural and urban  
23 communities; and

24 (III) Identify any additional eligibility requirements for early  
25 childhood ~~care and education~~ councils seeking school-readiness quality  
26 improvement funding. ~~as described in subparagraph (II) of paragraph (a)~~  
27 ~~of subsection (4) of this section.~~

1 (b) At a minimum, the rules promulgated pursuant to this  
2 subsection (7) ~~shall~~ MUST identify a specific and measurable level of  
3 improvement in the ~~school-readiness quality rating~~ COLORADO SHINES  
4 SYSTEM that an early care and CHILDHOOD education ~~provider~~ PROGRAM  
5 must achieve ~~over the course of the funding distribution period after~~  
6 ~~receiving an initial funding distribution through the program~~ WITHIN EACH  
7 COLORADO SHINES RATING CYCLE in order ~~for the provider~~ to continue  
8 receiving school-readiness quality improvement funding, as well as the  
9 eligibility criteria for continued participation in the program.

10 (8) **Funding.** (a) The school-readiness quality improvement  
11 program shall be funded using federal child care development fund  
12 ~~moneys~~ MONEY OR OTHER FEDERAL MONEY annually appropriated for the  
13 program. ~~Such moneys~~ THE MONEY shall be allocated by the state  
14 department to the eligible early childhood ~~care and education~~ councils for  
15 ~~implementation of the rating system and for~~ distribution to early care and  
16 CHILDHOOD education ~~providers~~ PROGRAMS, as provided in this section.

17 (b) ~~(f)~~ If ~~moneys are~~ MONEY IS required to match the federal child  
18 care development funds, such matching ~~moneys~~ MONEY may be from, but  
19 need not be limited to, general fund ~~moneys~~ MONEY appropriated by the  
20 general assembly, local ~~moneys~~ MONEY, or private matching ~~moneys~~. Any  
21 ~~state department staff that may be necessary to support the~~  
22 ~~school-readiness quality improvement program shall be funded by federal~~  
23 ~~child care development funds appropriated for the program and not from~~  
24 ~~general funds. The FTE authorization for any staff necessary to support~~  
25 ~~the school-readiness quality improvement program shall be eliminated~~  
26 ~~should federal funds no longer be available for the program~~ MONEY.

27 ~~(H)~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph ~~(f)~~ of this

1 ~~paragraph (b)~~; The general assembly ~~shall~~ IS not ~~be~~ obligated to  
2 appropriate general fund ~~moneys~~ MONEY if private matching ~~moneys~~ are  
3 MONEY IS not available or later ~~become~~ BECOMES unavailable.

4 (c) The state department ~~shall be~~ IS authorized to enter into a  
5 sole-source contract with an organization to provide the following:

6 (I) ~~Ratings of child care~~ QUALITY RATING ASSESSMENTS;

7 (II) Technical assistance for ~~child care providers~~ EARLY  
8 CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS;

9 (III) Community infrastructure and resource development for  
10 improving the quality of ~~child care~~ EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION; AND

11 (IV) Parent and consumer education on the IMPORTANCE OF  
12 quality of ~~child care providers in the community~~ EARLY CHILDHOOD  
13 EDUCATION.

14 (9) **Evaluation - report.** (a) Each early childhood ~~care and~~  
15 ~~education~~ council shall submit A REPORT to the state department a  
16 ~~summative thirty-month report~~ on or before ~~January 1, 2009~~ AUGUST 15,  
17 2019, and on or before ~~January 1 every three years~~ AUGUST 15 EACH  
18 YEAR thereafter. The report ~~shall~~ MUST address the quality improvement  
19 of the participating early ~~care and education facilities~~ CHILDHOOD  
20 EDUCATION PROGRAMS and the overall effectiveness of the  
21 ~~school-readiness quality improvement program~~ COLORADO SHINES  
22 SYSTEM at preparing ~~low-income children residing in communities with~~  
23 ~~eligible elementary schools~~, CHILDREN WITH IDENTIFIED RISK FACTORS for  
24 school. ~~Such reports~~; At a minimum, ~~shall~~ THE REPORT MUST address:

25 (I) The number of early ~~care and~~ CHILDHOOD education ~~facilities~~  
26 PROGRAMS and children who participated in the ~~school-readiness quality~~  
27 ~~improvement program~~ COLORADO SHINES SYSTEM, INCLUDING THE

1 NUMBER OF CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER SERVED AS A  
2 RESULT OF THE SCHOOL-READINESS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FUNDING IN  
3 HOME-BASED PROGRAMS AND IN CENTER-BASED PROGRAMS;

4 (II) The baseline quality ratings of each participating early care  
5 and CHILDHOOD education provider PROGRAM during each year of  
6 participation FOR EACH COLORADO SHINES RATING CYCLE;

7 (III) An analysis and explanation of the quality improvement  
8 strategies undertaken at each early care and CHILDHOOD education facility  
9 PROGRAM; and

10 (IV) The barriers to quality improvement that were encountered;

11 AND

12 (V) ANY OTHER DATA REQUIRED BY THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

13 (b) (I) On or before ~~April 1, 2009~~ DECEMBER 1, 2019, and on or  
14 before ~~April 1~~ DECEMBER 1 every three years thereafter, the state  
15 department, or any private entity with which the state department is  
16 hereby authorized to contract for this purpose, shall submit a consolidated  
17 statewide report, based upon the reports prepared and submitted by the  
18 early childhood care and education councils, addressing the items set  
19 forth in ~~paragraph (a) of this subsection~~ SUBSECTION (9)(a) OF THIS  
20 SECTION to the early childhood and school readiness legislative  
21 commission and to the members of the education committees of the house  
22 of representatives and the senate of the general assembly, OR ANY  
23 SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE.

24 (II) NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 24-1-136 (11)(a)(I), THE REPORT  
25 REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (9)(b)(I) OF THIS SECTION CONTINUES  
26 INDEFINITELY.

27 (c) Reporting early childhood care and education councils, as well

1 as the state department or any private entity with which it may contract  
2 for reporting purposes, may draw upon the evaluations and studies  
3 prepared by a nationally recognized research firm to report on the school  
4 readiness of children in quality-rated early ~~care and~~ CHILDHOOD education  
5 ~~facilities~~ PROGRAMS.

6 (d) Each early childhood ~~care and education~~ council shall work  
7 with state and local agencies, such as school districts, to support efforts  
8 to track, through high school graduation, the future academic  
9 performance of children who receive ~~school-readiness~~ services from early  
10 ~~care and~~ CHILDHOOD education ~~providers who~~ PROGRAMS THAT receive  
11 funding pursuant to this section.

12 **SECTION 5.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6.7-102, **amend**  
13 the introductory portion, (1), and (4); **repeal** (6); and **add** (1.3) as  
14 follows:

15 **26-6.7-102. Definitions.** As used in this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 6.7,  
16 unless the context otherwise requires:

17 (1) "Colorado child care assistance program" or "CCCAP" means  
18 the Colorado child care assistance program ~~in the state department~~  
19 CREATED IN PART 8 OF ARTICLE 2 OF THIS TITLE 26.

20 (1.3) "COLORADO SHINES SYSTEM" MEANS THE COLORADO SHINES  
21 QUALITY RATING AND IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM ESTABLISHED IN SECTION  
22 26-6.5-106.

23 (4) "Early childhood EDUCATION program" means a ~~school~~  
24 ~~district, provider, head start program, or facility that provides child care~~  
25 ~~and education to low-income infants and toddlers, has a contract as a~~  
26 ~~provider through the Colorado child care assistance program, and is either~~  
27 licensed CHILD CARE PROGRAM pursuant to part 1 of article 6 of this title

1 ~~or participates in the Colorado preschool program pursuant to article 28~~  
2 ~~of title 22, C.R.S. TITLE 26 THAT PROVIDES CHILD CARE AND EDUCATION~~  
3 ~~TO INFANTS AND TODDLERS LIVING IN LOW-INCOME FAMILIES.~~

4 (6) ~~"Tiered reimbursement" means a pay structure that reflects an~~  
5 ~~increased rate of reimbursement for early childhood programs that receive~~  
6 ~~moneys through CCCAP.~~

7 **SECTION 6.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 26-6.7-103  
8 as follows:

9 **26-6.7-103. Colorado infant and toddler quality and**  
10 **availability grant program - creation.** Subject to available  
11 appropriations, there is hereby created in the state department the  
12 Colorado infant and toddler quality and availability grant program. ~~The~~  
13 ~~goal of the grant program is to improve quality in infant and toddler care,~~  
14 ~~provide tiered reimbursement to high-quality early childhood programs,~~  
15 GRANTS ARE AWARDED THROUGH THE COLORADO SHINES SYSTEM TO  
16 IMPROVE QUALITY IN LICENSED INFANT AND TODDLER CARE and increase  
17 the number of low-income infants and toddlers served through  
18 high-quality early childhood EDUCATION programs, as well as promote  
19 voluntary ~~parental involvement~~ FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS, AS DETERMINED  
20 FOR THE COLORADO SHINES SYSTEM. A program is considered  
21 "high-quality" if it is RATED in the top ~~two ratings~~ THREE LEVELS of the  
22 state's ~~quality rating and improvement~~ COLORADO SHINES system. ~~or is~~  
23 ~~accredited by a state department-approved accrediting body, or is an early~~  
24 ~~head start program meeting federal standards.~~ Early childhood councils  
25 and ~~county departments must jointly~~ MAY apply for ~~moneys~~ MONEY  
26 through the ~~grant program~~ STATE DEPARTMENT, which ~~will be~~  
27 ~~administered by the state department~~ ADMINISTERS THE PROGRAM AS PART

1 OF THE COLORADO SHINES SYSTEM. AN early childhood EDUCATION  
2 ~~programs that are~~ PROGRAM THAT IS within the service area of an early  
3 childhood council ~~and within the county jointly applying for the grant~~  
4 may apply to the early childhood council for ~~moneys~~ MONEY that would  
5 allow ~~them to achieve one of the objectives of the grant program~~ THE  
6 PROGRAM TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF INFANTS AND TODDLERS LIVING  
7 IN LOW-INCOME FAMILIES SERVED THROUGH HIGH-QUALITY EARLY  
8 CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

9 **SECTION 7.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **amend** 26-6.7-104  
10 as follows:

11 **26-6.7-104. Eligibility for grants - applications - deadlines.**

12 (1) The state department shall develop an application process and issue  
13 a request for proposals for the grant program, including notification of  
14 available ~~moneys~~ MONEY to early childhood councils, ~~and county~~  
15 ~~departments~~, eligibility criteria, proposal requirements, and award criteria.

16 (2) An applicant to the grant program is eligible for a grant award  
17 pursuant to this ~~article~~ ARTICLE 6.7 if:

18 (a) The application is made ~~jointly between~~ BY an early childhood  
19 council AND INCLUDES STRATEGIES DEVELOPED JOINTLY WITH  
20 COMMUNITY PARTNERS, INCLUDING, AT A MINIMUM, COUNTY  
21 DEPARTMENTS OF HUMAN OR SOCIAL SERVICES. ~~and a county department.~~

22 If an early childhood council serves more than one county, it may submit  
23 a single application ~~that combines multiple counties in its~~ FOR THE  
24 COUNTIES THAT MAKE UP ITS DESIGNATED service area.

25 (b) The early childhood EDUCATION programs to which the grant  
26 ~~moneys~~ MONEY will be distributed have ~~contracts~~ ACHIEVED A QUALITY  
27 RATING PURSUANT TO THE COLORADO SHINES SYSTEM OF AT LEAST A



1 LEVEL TWO AND HAVE FISCAL AGREEMENTS with CCCAP;

2 (c) The ~~application~~ EARLY CHILDHOOD COUNCIL demonstrates a  
3 need and provides a plan to improve quality and increase the capacity for  
4 early childhood EDUCATION programs THAT SERVE INFANTS AND  
5 TODDLERS THREE YEARS OF AGE OR YOUNGER in its DESIGNATED service  
6 area. ~~The goal of the grant program is to increase the number of infants~~  
7 ~~and toddlers served through high-quality early childhood programs.~~ The  
8 early childhood EDUCATION programs may be home-based or  
9 center-based.

10 (d) ~~It provides a plan detailing how it will provide tiered~~  
11 ~~reimbursement; and~~ THE APPLICANT MEETS ANY OTHER CRITERIA SET  
12 FORTH IN THE APPLICATION PROCESS DEVELOPED PURSUANT TO THIS  
13 SECTION.

14 (e) ~~It meets any other criteria set forth in the application process~~  
15 ~~developed pursuant to this section.~~

16 (3) (a) ~~In fiscal year 2013-14, grant applications must be received~~  
17 ~~by the state department on or before July 31, 2013~~ SUBJECT TO  
18 AVAILABLE APPROPRIATIONS, the state department shall review  
19 applications and determine which applicants will receive grants and the  
20 amount of each grant. ~~Grant awards must be made on or before~~  
21 ~~September 1, 2013, through the fund.~~

22 (b) ~~For each fiscal year thereafter, subject to available~~  
23 ~~appropriations, grant applications must be received by the state~~  
24 ~~department on or before June 30 of the prior fiscal year. The state~~  
25 ~~department shall review applications and determine which applicants will~~  
26 ~~receive grants and the amount of each grant. Grant awards must be made~~  
27 ~~on or before August 1 through the fund.~~

1           ~~(c) If in any fiscal year the full appropriation by the general~~  
2 ~~assembly for the grant program is not dispersed as specified in paragraphs~~  
3 ~~(a) and (b) of this subsection (3), the state department shall review~~  
4 ~~proposals and award grants as the applications are received and not~~  
5 ~~require the applications to be held until the next grant cycle.~~

6           **SECTION 8.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 26-6.7-105, **amend**  
7 (1) introductory portion and (1)(a) as follows:

8           **26-6.7-105. Reporting requirements.** (1) No later than ~~four~~  
9 ~~months after the conclusion of a grant, the~~ AUGUST 15 EACH YEAR, AN  
10 early childhood council that received the grant shall provide the state  
11 department with an annual report concerning the outcomes of the grant.  
12 The report must include, at a minimum:

13           (a) A summary of data received from early childhood EDUCATION  
14 programs that received grant ~~moneys~~ MONEY;

15           **SECTION 9.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-304, **amend** (1)  
16 introductory portion as follows:

17           **22-7-304. Council - advisory duties - technical assistance -**  
18 **report.** (1) The council shall inform, at a minimum, the early childhood  
19 councils, ~~and the early childhood care and education councils created~~  
20 ~~pursuant to article 6.5 of title 26, C.R.S.,~~ public schools, school districts,  
21 the state charter school institute, the department, the state board, the  
22 department of higher education, the Colorado commission on higher  
23 education, and the governing boards for the state institutions of higher  
24 education concerning best practices and strategies, aligned with the  
25 national standards for family-school partnerships, for increasing parent  
26 involvement in public education and promoting family and school  
27 partnerships, including but not limited to best practices and strategies in

1 the following areas:

2 **SECTION 10.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1010, **amend**  
3 (1) introductory portion and (1)(a)(II) as follows:

4 **22-7-1010. State board - commission - public input - staff**  
5 **assistance.** (1) In fulfilling their duties ~~under~~ PURSUANT TO this part 10,  
6 the state board and the commission, at a minimum, shall:

7 (a) Meet with interested persons throughout the state, including  
8 but not limited to:

9 (II) Representatives of early childhood councils; ~~and early~~  
10 ~~childhood care and education councils;~~

11 **SECTION 11.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-11-305, **amend**  
12 (4)(b) as follows:

13 **22-11-305. Accredited with priority improvement plan - school**  
14 **district or institute - plan contents - adoption.** (4) An early childhood  
15 learning needs assessment must determine the extent to which:

16 (b) Children are enrolled in publicly funded early learning and  
17 development programs within the school district or in private early  
18 learning and development programs that participate in the ~~school~~  
19 ~~readiness~~ COLORADO SHINES quality RATING AND improvement ~~program~~  
20 SYSTEM ~~created~~ ESTABLISHED in section 26-6.5-106;

21 **SECTION 12.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-37.5-703.5,  
22 **amend** (1) introductory portion and (1)(f)(VII) as follows:

23 **24-37.5-703.5. Education data subcommittee - created - duties**  
24 **- repeal.** (1) The education data subcommittee is hereby created as a  
25 subcommittee of the advisory board. The education data subcommittee  
26 ~~shall consist~~ CONSISTS of the following members:

27 (f) At least ten members appointed by the governor with expertise

1 in data sharing by education agencies, including at least one  
2 representative from each of the following groups:

3 (VII) Early childhood councils established pursuant to section  
4 26-6.5-103; ~~C.R.S., and early childhood care and education councils~~  
5 ~~established pursuant to section 26-6.5-106, C.R.S.;~~

6 **SECTION 13. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
7 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
8 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
9 8, 2018, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2018); except that, if a  
10 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
11 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
12 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
13 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
14 November 2018 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
15 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.