

**UPDATED SUMMARY
SENATE BILL 14-167**

Second Regular Session - Sixty-ninth Colorado General Assembly

This summary applies to the reengrossed version of this bill as introduced in the second house. It does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. This summary reflects only the main points of the legislation.

The bill creates the opportunity schools pilot initiative (initiative) in the department of education (department). The goal of the initiative is to provide additional funding and support for alternative education campuses that serve populations of 95% high-risk students to enable the campuses to implement research-based, transformative school models that will improve students' postsecondary and career success. The initiative will also result in identification of best practices and models that other schools may replicate.

The commissioner of education must appoint an advisory committee to assist the department in implementing the initiative. Based on recommendations from the department and the advisory committee, the state board of education (state board) must adopt rules to implement the initiative.

Beginning in the 2015-16 school year, the state board will select 2 cohorts of alternative education campuses, for a total of 3 or more alternative education campuses that serve no more than 600 students, to participate in the initiative. The applicants and the school designs that they propose to implement must meet several criteria. Applicants that the state board selects to participate in the initiative are called opportunity schools.

In addition to the funding an opportunity school normally receives, each opportunity school receives an amount equal to 30% of the statewide average per pupil revenues multiplied by the school's pupil enrollment in each budget year in which it participates in the initiative. The extra funding is paid from the opportunity schools pilot initiative fund (fund) created in the bill. The fund consists of a one-time appropriation of moneys and such gifts, grants, and donations as the advisory committee may solicit and receive.

Each opportunity school is subject to the same accountability requirements as other alternative education campuses. In addition, the department must annually collect and publish data concerning the support services that the opportunity schools provide, and the department and the advisory committee will regularly review each opportunity school's performance focusing on indicators that demonstrate that students are successfully obtaining skills needed to achieve postsecondary and workforce success. After at least 2 school years of performance data are available, the department and the advisory committee must determine whether the opportunity school is making adequate progress and, if it is not, may recommend that the state board reduce or discontinue the amount of additional funding the opportunity school receives.

The department and the advisory committee must develop clear measures to evaluate the success of the initiative. After the initiative has been operating for 3 years, and every 3 years thereafter, the department will hire an independent entity to perform a review of the initiative, using the measures, and prepare a report to assist the general assembly in deciding

whether to continue funding the initiative. The department will submit the report to the education committees of the general assembly and post the report on its web site.

Italicized words indicate new material added to the original summary; dashes through words indicate deletions from the original summary.
Prepared by the Office of Legislative Legal Services.