

**First Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**ENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 15-0871.03 Brita Darling x2241

**SENATE BILL 15-267**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

**Hill**, Holbert, Marble, Neville T., Woods

**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

**Hamner**,

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**Senate Committees**

Education  
Appropriations

**House Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING THE FINANCING OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND, IN**  
102      **CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

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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://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

The bill sets the statewide base per pupil funding amount for the 2015-16 budget year at \$6,292.39, which is an inflationary increase of 2.8% and establishes the minimum amount of total program funding for the 2015-16 budget year. The minimum amount of total program funding reflects a reduction of the dollar amount of the negative factor by \$25 million.

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.*

SENATE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
April 23, 2015

For the 2016-17 budget year, the difference between the amount of statewide total program funding calculated without the negative factor and the amount of statewide total program funding calculated with the negative factor cannot exceed the dollar amount of that difference for the 2015-16 budget year.

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

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-104, **add** (5)

3 (a) (XXII) and (5) (g) (I) (F) as follows:

4 **22-54-104. District total program - definitions.** (5) For  
5 purposes of the formulas used in this section:

6 (a) (XXII) FOR THE 2015-16 BUDGET YEAR, THE STATEWIDE BASE  
7 PER PUPIL FUNDING IS \$6,292.39, WHICH IS AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO \$6,121,  
8 SUPPLEMENTED BY \$171.39 TO ACCOUNT FOR INFLATION.

9 (g) (I) For the 2010-11 budget year and each budget year  
10 thereafter, the general assembly determines that stabilization of the state  
11 budget requires a reduction in the amount of the annual appropriation to  
12 fund the state's share of total program funding for all districts and the  
13 funding for institute charter schools. The department of education shall  
14 implement the reduction in total program funding through the application  
15 of a negative factor as provided in this paragraph (g). For the 2010-11  
16 budget year and each budget year thereafter, the department of education  
17 and the staff of the legislative council shall determine, based on budget  
18 projections, the amount of such reduction to ensure the following:

19 (F) THAT, FOR THE 2015-16 BUDGET YEAR, THE SUM OF THE TOTAL  
20 PROGRAM FUNDING FOR ALL DISTRICTS, INCLUDING THE FUNDING FOR  
21 INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOLS, AFTER APPLICATION OF THE NEGATIVE  
22 FACTOR, IS NOT LESS THAN SIX BILLION TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-THREE  
23 MILLION NINE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED

1 THIRTY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$6,233,955,737); EXCEPT THAT THE  
2 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE STAFF OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
3 SHALL MAKE MID-YEAR REVISIONS TO REPLACE PROJECTIONS WITH  
4 ACTUAL FIGURES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ACTUAL PUPIL  
5 ENROLLMENT, ASSESSED VALUATIONS, AND SPECIFIC OWNERSHIP TAX  
6 REVENUE FROM THE PRIOR YEAR, TO DETERMINE ANY NECESSARY  
7 CHANGES IN THE AMOUNT OF THE REDUCTION TO MAINTAIN A TOTAL  
8 PROGRAM FUNDING AMOUNT FOR THE APPLICABLE BUDGET YEAR THAT IS  
9 CONSISTENT WITH THIS SUB-SUBPARAGRAPH (F). FOR THE 2016-17  
10 BUDGET YEAR, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CALCULATED STATEWIDE TOTAL  
11 PROGRAM FUNDING AND ACTUAL STATEWIDE TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING  
12 MUST NOT EXCEED THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CALCULATED STATEWIDE  
13 TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING AND ACTUAL STATEWIDE TOTAL PROGRAM  
14 FUNDING FOR THE 2015-16 BUDGET YEAR.

15 **SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-106, amend**  
16 **(1) (b) (I), (2) (a) (II) (A), and (4) (c); and repeal (1) (b) (II) as follows:**

17 **22-54-106. Local and state shares of district total program.**  
18 **(1) (b) (I) Except as provided in subsections (11) and (12) of this section,**  
19 **the state's share of a district's total program is the difference between the**  
20 **district's total program and the district's share of its total program. except**  
21 **that, unless otherwise provided by subparagraph (II) of this paragraph (b),**  
22 **no district shall receive less in state aid than an amount established by the**  
23 **general assembly in the annual general appropriation act based upon the**  
24 **amount of school lands and mineral lease moneys received pursuant to**  
25 **article 41 of this title and section 34-63-102, C.R.S., multiplied by the**  
26 **district's funded pupil count.**

27 **(II) (A) For the 2010-11 budget year through the 2014-15 budget**

1 year, the requirement that no district shall receive less in state aid than an  
2 amount established by the general assembly in the annual general  
3 appropriation act as specified in subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b)  
4 shall not apply to any district.

5 (B) On or before January 15, 2015, the department of education  
6 shall submit a report to the joint budget committee of the general  
7 assembly and to the education committees of the senate and the house of  
8 representatives, or any successor committees, regarding the estimated  
9 fiscal impact of and the potential number of districts that will be impacted  
10 by restoring the requirement, in the 2015-16 budget year, that no district  
11 shall receive less in state aid than an amount established by the general  
12 assembly in the annual general appropriation act as specified in  
13 subparagraph (I) of this paragraph (b).

14 (2) (a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection (2),  
15 for reorganized districts, for the 2007 property tax year and property tax  
16 years thereafter, each district shall levy the lesser of:

17 (II) (A) Subject to the provisions of sub-subparagraph (B) of this  
18 subparagraph (II), the number of mills that will generate property tax  
19 revenue in an amount equal to the district's total program for the  
20 applicable budget year minus the district's minimum state aid, if  
21 applicable for that budget year, and minus the amount of specific  
22 ownership tax revenue paid to the district.

23 (4) (c) If a supplemental appropriation is not made by the general  
24 assembly to fully fund the state's share of the total program of all districts  
25 including funding for institute charter schools or a supplemental  
26 appropriation is made to reduce the state's share of the total program of  
27 all districts including funding for institute charter schools, the state aid of

1 each district and the funding for each institute charter school shall be  
2 reduced in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph (c). The total  
3 program of each district that receives state aid shall be reduced by a  
4 percentage determined by dividing the deficit in the appropriation or the  
5 reduction in the appropriation, whichever is applicable, by the total  
6 program of all districts that receive state aid. The state aid of each district  
7 shall be reduced by the amount of the reduction in the district's total  
8 program or the amount of state aid, whichever is less. even if, for the  
9 2009-10 budget year or any budget year thereafter, the reduction would  
10 result in a district receiving less state aid than the amount of minimum  
11 state aid for each district as determined by the general assembly for the  
12 applicable budget year. The funding for each institute charter school shall  
13 be reduced in proportion to the reduction in the total program of the  
14 district from which the institute charter school's funding is withheld. The  
15 department of education shall see that the reduction in state aid required  
16 by this paragraph (c) is accomplished prior to the end of the budget year.

17 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-54-114, amend  
18 (2.3) as follows:

19 **22-54-114. State public school fund. (2.3)** Notwithstanding any  
20 provision of this article to the contrary, of the total amount appropriated  
21 by the general assembly in the annual appropriation bill for each budget  
22 year to meet the state's share of the total program of all districts and the  
23 total funding for all institute charter schools, the department of education  
24 may transfer an amount specified by the general assembly in the annual  
25 general appropriation bill for that budget year to offset the direct and  
26 indirect administrative costs incurred by the department in implementing  
27 the provisions of this article. The total program of each district that

1 receives state aid and the total funding for each institute charter school  
2 shall be reduced by a percentage determined by dividing the amount of  
3 the transfer by the total program of all districts that receive state aid plus  
4 the total funding for all institute charter schools. The state aid of each  
5 district shall be reduced by the amount of the reduction in the district's  
6 total program or the amount of state aid, whichever is less. even if, for the  
7 2009-10 budget year or any budget year thereafter, the reduction would  
8 result in a district receiving less state aid than the amount of minimum  
9 state aid for each district as determined by the general assembly for the  
10 applicable budget year. The department of education shall ensure that the  
11 reduction in state aid and institute charter school funding required by this  
12 subsection (2.3) is accomplished prior to the end of the budget year. The  
13 reductions described in this subsection (2.3) shall be in addition to any  
14 reduction that may be required pursuant to section 22-54-106 (4) (c).

15 **SECTION 4. Appropriation.** For the 2015-16 state fiscal year,  
16 \$25,000,000 is appropriated to the department of education. This  
17 appropriation is from the general fund. To implement this act, the  
18 department may use this appropriation for the state share of districts' total  
19 program funding.

20 **SECTION 5. Appropriation to the department of education**  
21 **for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015.** In section 2 of Senate Bill  
22 15-234, amend Part III (2) (A) Footnote 6, as follows:

23 **Section 2. Appropriation.**  
24 6 Department of Education, Assistance to Public Schools, Public  
25 School Finance, State Share of Districts' Total Program Funding  
26 -- Pursuant to Section 22-35-108 (2) (a), C.R.S., the purpose of  
27 this footnote is to specify what portion of this appropriation is

1           intended to be available for the Accelerating Students Through  
2           Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT) Program for FY 2015-16. The  
3           Department of Education is authorized to utilize up to \$3,652,000  
4           \$3,666,850 of this appropriation to fund qualified students  
5           designated as ASCENT Program participants. This amount is  
6           calculated based on an estimated 550 FTE participants funded at  
7           a rate of \$6,640 \$6,667 per FTE pursuant to Section 22-54-104  
8           (4.7), C.R.S.

9           **SECTION 6. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
10          determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
11          preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.