

Legislation proposed by Education and Poverty Subcommittee of the EOPR Task Force

“Comprehensive Community Education Support”

Part 1. Encourage alliances and collaborations among existing entities to focus on reducing poverty through provision of support services to children, adults, and families involved in education.

- Add to the statute creating Family Resource Centers (Article 18 of Title 26) a provision that their local governing advisory councils may work with local early childhood providers, local schools, local family literacy providers, and local institutions of higher education.
- Add to the statute creating Family Resource Centers (Article 18 of Title 26) a provision that their local governing advisory councils may work with private and nonprofit organizations that work to improve the lives of people in poverty.
- Add to the statute creating Family Resource Centers (Article 18 of Title 26) a requirement that the centers work with low-performing schools as defined in the Education Accountability Act of 2009 (Article 11 of Title 22).
- Add to the statute creating Family Resource Centers (Article 18 of Title 26) a requirement that the centers focus on helping low-income adults and families have access to services that support their education, including family literacy, early childhood education, K-12, postsecondary, and adult basic education.
- Add to the statute on Collaborative Management of Multi-Agency Services Provided to Children and Families (Article 1.9 of Title 24) a requirement that adults and families in poverty be part of the population to be served.
- Add to the statute on Collaborative Management of Multi-Agency Services Provided to Children and Families (Article 1.9 of Title 24) the following as agencies or entities that counties may enter into memorandums of understanding with: early childhood councils, school districts, BOCES or Regional Service Area Councils, community college boards, the Board of Regents, the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, Family Resources Centers (pursuant to Article 18 of Title 26), workforce centers (pursuant to Colorado Works), and the State Advisory Council on Parent Involvement in Education (pursuant to Part 3 of Article 7 of Title 22).

Part II. Improve educational practices that lead to poverty reduction [these can be phased in over time when funding permits].

- Eliminate out-of-school suspension.
- Require that students in kindergarten through 3rd grade who had been in Head Start or the Colorado Preschool Program are placed in high-quality classrooms (small class sizes, teachers with training in early childhood development, etc.).
- Encourage community colleges to provide classes to help parents learn English and gain workforce readiness skills.
- Expand Family Resource Centers statewide.
- Require that the Child Care Assistance Program serve students in postsecondary education or adult basic education.
- Extend assistance services to adults who had formerly received child welfare services.
- Increase the scope of the School Readiness Quality Improvement Program to serve all eligible providers.
- Create an infrastructure to provide mentoring for low-income students P-20, particularly for adults.

- Encourage community colleges and other institutions of higher education to provide case management for students in crisis, with medical problems, legal problems, or with family issues like domestic violence so they are not forced to drop out.
- Allow students in community colleges and other institutions of higher education who have full-time jobs more flexibility and time to take all the courses required for graduation.
- Expand TANF assistance to students in 4-year institutions of higher education beyond just the first two years.