

# Legislation



COLORADO LEAGUE *of*  
CHARTER SCHOOLS

## HB22-1202

### HB22-1202: At-risk Student Measure For School Finance

- Sponsors: Rep. Leslie Herod (D), Rep. Julie McCluskie (D), Sen. Rachel Zenzinger (D), Sen. James Coleman (D)
- The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on May 3, 2022

#### **Description**

Concerning the creation of a new measure in the public school funding formula for identifying at-risk students, and creating a working group within the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to implement the new measure in a future budget year.

#### **Overview**

This new law identifies a new at-risk measure to identify students who are at risk of below-average academic outcomes because of socioeconomic disadvantage or poverty in order to allocate resources through the state's public school funding formula to serve those students. The new measure includes a district's percentage of students certified as eligible for free lunch, supplemented by the direct certification of students participating in Medicaid or Children's Basic Health Plan; and a neighborhood socioeconomic status index that weights student needs based on five socioeconomic status neighborhood factors.

This law requires CDE to apply to the United States Department of Agriculture to obtain authorization for direct certification of students participating in the medical assistance program and the children's basic health plan. In this case, a school can better allocate students with needed sources. It also specifies the membership of the working group and includes issues that the working group may consider in constructing and implementing the new at-risk measure, including collecting necessary data, constructing

# 2022

#### **Colorado League of Charter Schools**

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a neighborhood socioeconomic-status index linked to students' addresses, and testing the at-risk measure with actual student data, if available.

## **School Impact**

The new at-risk measure may change allocations of school finance funding beginning in FY 2023-24 and the amount or type of work required to count at-risk students. The bill may also increase workload for any district whose representatives serve on the working group by a minimal amount. Due to the lack of details estimated, potential changes to the total state share of school finance and individual district allocations cannot be estimated at this time.