



Early High School Graduate Innovation Program

- Allows early high school graduates from low-income households to receive funding for postsecondary education or training programs during what would have been their fourth year of high school.
- Implements a pilot program in which for five local education providers (LEP's) or group of LEP's can apply to participate.
- Creates a part-time position within the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE), Coordinator of Innovation Programs, who, in part, will manage outreach, outcomes reporting, and coordination of the program.

Implemented by [SB21-106](#), (23-3.3-1301) "Fourth-Year Innovation Pilot Program".
Program funding appropriated by state legislature.

High School Selection and Participation Details

- The Colorado Commission on Higher Education will create an application process and select five Colorado LEP's or group of LEPs to participate from a mix of urban, suburban and rural areas.
- First cohort to begin during the 2021-22 school year, and final cohort during the 2025-26 school year.
- A student who graduates prior to their fourth year of high school receives the greater of: 75% of the FY 2021-22 average state share of per pupil revenue, or \$3,500, as determined during the 2021 legislative session.
- A student who graduates prior to the second semester of their fourth year receives the greater of: 45% of the FY 2021-22 average state share of per pupil revenue, or \$2,000.
- Schools will receive 25% of the average state funding allocation for each student. Schools are encouraged to direct this funding towards academic counseling and support for students who could participate in this pilot program.
- Participating LEP's must annually report to CDHE demographic and other information on the number of participating students.

Postsecondary Program Eligibility

- State and private occupational (as defined in section 23-64-103 (20)) higher education institutions and training program providers who meet the eligibility and quality requirements for funding under the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) are eligible.
- Participating programs must provide reports on funding disbursement, number of students, demographics, program enrollment, as well as exit data regarding completion rates, earnings, and employment outcomes for graduates.

Student Eligibility & Use of Funds

- Students must enroll in a qualifying educational or training program, must be Pell eligible, or have been eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch in any grades 8 through 12.
- Students must begin their post-secondary program within eighteen months of graduation.
- Funds will first be used to pay tuition, fees, or other expenses within the institution. Unspent funds may then be used by the student for other qualifying expenditures, including textbooks, equipment, or transportation.

For More Information

<https://cdhe.colorado.gov/students/preparing-for-college/early-high-school-graduate-program>

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