

First Regular Session  
Sixty-ninth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

DRAFT  
9.14.12

**BILL 3**

*Temporary storage location: C:\temp\13-099\_wpd.tmp*

LLS NO. 13-0099.01 Brita Darling x2241

**INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL**

**Educational Success Task Force**

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**SHORT TITLE: "Academic Acceleration School District Policy"**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING POLICIES RELATING TO ACADEMIC ACCELERATION IN**  
102 **PRESCHOOL THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE.**

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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>.)*

**Educational Success Task Force.** The bill requires each school district and institute charter school to adopt a policy concerning academic acceleration for students. The policy may include provisions outlined in the bill.

*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

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

2           **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 finds that:

4           (a) High-ability students who are above grade level in one or more  
5 subjects or who meet academic content standards at an accelerated rate  
6 should be challenged and supported to reach their full potential;

7           (b) School districts that have a transparent, systemwide academic  
8 acceleration policy for referring students, evaluating the academic needs  
9 of the students, and implementing appropriate acceleration interventions  
10 are more likely to provide these high-ability students with a challenging  
11 education;

12           (c) A school district acceleration policy may include academic  
13 interventions such as accelerating a student in a single subject,  
14 compacting curriculum, dual-enrollment, credit by examination, advanced  
15 placement or international baccalaureate programs, early entrance to  
16 kindergarten, grade acceleration, grade telescoping, and early entrance to  
17 college; and

18           (d) Participation in academic acceleration interventions under a  
19 school district's policy should not be limited to only those students who  
20 have been identified as gifted and talented, but to all students who  
21 demonstrate high ability and who may benefit from content acceleration  
22 or other acceleration interventions in their area or areas of strength.

23           (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that each school  
24 district and each institute charter school must adopt a systemwide  
25 academic acceleration policy for referral, evaluation, and academic  
26 intervention for high-ability students enrolled in the school district or in

1 the institute charter school.

2 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-32-109, **add** (1)  
3 (pp) as follows:

4 **22-32-109. Board of education - specific duties.** (1) In addition  
5 to any other duty required to be performed by law, each board of  
6 education shall have and perform the following specific duties:

7 (pp) (I) TO ADOPT A POLICY ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2013,  
8 CONCERNING ACADEMIC ACCELERATION FOR STUDENTS, WHICH POLICY IS  
9 APPLIED EQUITABLY TO ALL STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.  
10 ACADEMIC ACCELERATION ALLOWS A STUDENT TO PROGRESS THROUGH AN  
11 EDUCATION PROGRAM AT A RATE FASTER OR AT AGES YOUNGER THAN THE  
12 STUDENT'S PEERS. THE ACADEMIC ACCELERATION POLICY MAY INCLUDE,  
13 BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

14 (A) THE PROCESS FOR REFERRAL FOR ACADEMIC ACCELERATION  
15 AND PROCEDURES THAT ENSURE THE FAIR, OBJECTIVE, AND SYSTEMATIC  
16 EVALUATION OF THE STUDENTS REFERRED;

17 (B) A DECISION-MAKING PROCESS FOR ACCELERATED PLACEMENT  
18 THAT INVOLVES MULTIPLE PERSONS, INCLUDING A STUDENT'S PARENTS,  
19 RATHER THAN A SOLE DECISION-MAKER;

20 (C) GUIDELINES FOR THE PRACTICE OF ACADEMIC ACCELERATION,  
21 INCLUDING THE CATEGORIES, FORMS, AND TYPES OF ACADEMIC  
22 ACCELERATION AND THE AWARD OF CREDIT;

23 (D) GUIDELINES FOR PREVENTING NON-ACADEMIC BARRIERS TO  
24 THE USE OF ACCELERATION AS AN EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTION; AND

25 (E) AN APPEALS PROCESS FOR DECISIONS RELATED TO ACADEMIC  
26 ACCELERATION, AS WELL AS A PROCESS FOR EVALUATING THE ACADEMIC  
27 ACCELERATION POLICY AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN SUCCESSFULLY

1 ACCELERATING STUDENTS.

2 (II) IN DESIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING THE ACADEMIC  
3 ACCELERATION POLICY, A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY UTILIZE ANY RESOURCES,  
4 INCLUDING MODEL ACADEMIC ACCELERATION POLICIES, MADE AVAILABLE  
5 THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND ANY NATIONAL  
6 RESEARCH CONTAINING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEVELOPING  
7 SUCCESSFUL ACADEMIC ACCELERATION POLICIES.

8 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-30.5-505, **add**  
9 (20) as follows:

10 (20) THE INSTITUTE SHALL ENSURE THAT EACH INSTITUTE  
11 CHARTER SCHOOL ADOPTS A POLICY, ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2013,  
12 CONCERNING ACADEMIC ACCELERATION FOR STUDENTS, WHICH POLICY IS  
13 APPLIED EQUITABLY TO ALL STUDENTS. ACADEMIC ACCELERATION  
14 ALLOWS A STUDENT TO PROGRESS THROUGH AN EDUCATION PROGRAM AT  
15 A RATE FASTER OR AT AGES YOUNGER THAN THE STUDENT'S PEERS. AN  
16 INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL'S ACADEMIC ACCELERATION POLICY MAY  
17 INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE PROVISIONS DESCRIBED IN  
18 SECTION 22-33-109 (1) (pp).

19 <{*Does committee want a petition clause or safety clause? August 1,*  
20 *2013 policy date.*>