

First Regular Session
Sixty-ninth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

REDRAFT

9.21.12

Double underlining
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BILL B

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LLS NO. 13-0099.01 Brita Darling x2241

INTERIM COMMITTEE BILL

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Murray, Fields

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

None

SHORT TITLE: "Academic Acceleration School District Policy"

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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

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.*

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, but need not
13 be limited to, academic interventions such as accelerating a student in a
14 single subject, compacting curriculum, concurrent enrollment, credit by
15 examination, advanced placement or international baccalaureate
16 programs, specialized advanced academic programs, independent
17 academic studies, grade acceleration, grade telescoping, and early
18 entrance to college; and

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

24 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that each school
25 district and each institute charter school shall adopt a systemwide
26 academic acceleration policy for referral, evaluation, and academic

1 intervention for high-ability students enrolled in the school district or in
2 the institute charter school.

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

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

8 (pp) (I) TO ADOPT A POLICY ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2014,
9 CONCERNING ACADEMIC ACCELERATION FOR STUDENTS, WHICH POLICY IS
10 APPLIED EQUITABLY TO ALL STUDENTS IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT.
11 ACADEMIC ACCELERATION ALLOWS A STUDENT TO PROGRESS THROUGH AN
12 EDUCATION PROGRAM AT A RATE FASTER OR AT AGES YOUNGER THAN THE
13 STUDENT'S PEERS. THE ACADEMIC ACCELERATION POLICY MAY INCLUDE,
14 BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING:

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

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

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

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

26 (E) AN APPEALS PROCESS FOR DECISIONS RELATED TO ACADEMIC
27 ACCELERATION, AS WELL AS A PROCESS FOR EVALUATING THE ACADEMIC

1 ACCELERATION POLICY AND ITS EFFECTIVENESS IN SUCCESSFULLY
2 ACCELERATING STUDENTS.

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

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

11 (20) THE INSTITUTE SHALL ENSURE THAT EACH INSTITUTE
12 CHARTER SCHOOL ADOPTS A POLICY, ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2014,
13 CONCERNING ACADEMIC ACCELERATION FOR STUDENTS, WHICH POLICY IS
14 APPLIED EQUITABLY TO ALL STUDENTS. ACADEMIC ACCELERATION
15 ALLOWS A STUDENT TO PROGRESS THROUGH AN EDUCATION PROGRAM AT
16 A RATE FASTER OR AT AGES YOUNGER THAN THE STUDENT'S PEERS. AN
17 INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL'S ACADEMIC ACCELERATION POLICY MAY
18 INCLUDE, BUT NEED NOT BE LIMITED TO, THE PROVISIONS DESCRIBED IN
19 SECTION 22-33-109 (1) (pp).

20 **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
21 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
22 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
23 7, 2013, if adjournment sine die is on May 8, 2013); except that, if a
24 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
25 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
26 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
27 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

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- 1 November 2014 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.