

Senate Bill 22-165 Colorado Career Advisor Training

Legislative Fact Sheet
April 6, 2022

Confirmed Sponsors:

Senator Jeff Bridges & Representative Mandy Lindsay

Overview:

Senate Bill 22-165, providing training for quality career advising between multiple sectors, is a recommendation of Colorado's Education Leadership Council (ELC) and a continuation of a successful program that was interrupted by COVID-19.

Providing access to quality career advisors can help address Colorado's skills and credential attainment gap and is fundamental to support Coloradans in accessing good jobs. Many students and adults across Colorado do not know what positions are in-demand or what credentials are needed to pursue and secure high-paying jobs. Career advisors exist in K-12, higher education, adult education and workforce settings.

By offering training for career advising professionals across sectors, Colorado can magnify the impact and develop needed career advising capacity. These training strategies reduce duplication in the system, support career advisors in honing and deepening their skills, and ensure evidence-based practices and data driven decisions are supported by using labor market information within Colorado's career advising processes.

Importance of Career Advising:

High-quality career advising starts early in a students' K-12 academic journey and provides them with the appropriate guidance to make informed decisions during high school and post-graduation. Career advising activities also benefit employers and postsecondary institutions and pay dividends for local, regional and our state's economy.

The basis for a strong career advising model is realized through qualified, trained professionals who have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to guide students across varying grade levels in identifying their career goals and understanding the path to achieving those goals. A qualified career advisor uncovers students' career interests through individual aptitude assessments and shares aligned, in-demand career opportunities informed through labor market data, such as Colorado's Talent Pipeline Report. Effective advising then illustrates the pathway and related training options, bringing clarity on how their goals can be achieved through various levels of education and training.

The Challenge of Career Advising:

Capacity for career advising is critical to job success toward a living wage for youth and adults. Colorado is on the precipice of more intentional career advising that engages students and adults throughout their career journey. This project supports the goal of high school students across our state graduating with a high school credential in one hand and postsecondary credential in the other. Helping Coloradans understand which industries have good jobs across our state, which translates to economic mobility for Colorado families, is a core strategy for the state to pursue to ensure students are able to make informed decisions about their future.

Fiscal Impact:

\$1M from the General Fund to the Colorado Career Advising Training Program Cash Fund in the Colorado Department of Education.

Supporting Organizations:



Testimony:

- » Sarah Heath, Colorado Community College System
- » Britta Blodgett, Colorado Workforce Development Council
- » Chris Gdowski, Adams 12 Five Star Schools
- » Traci Sanchez, Colorado School Counseling Association
- » Elina Medina, Denver Public Schools

Contact Information

Caitlin Adams | Legislative Liaison
caitlin.e.adams@state.co.us
256.466.5935