**Colorado Legislative Update**

**Prospect Valley Elementary PTA**

**11 May 2011**

All bills, active and inactive, of interest to the Colorado PTA are summarized below and can be explored in detail at <http://www.coloradocapitolwatch.com/bill-tracker/0/902/2011/> . Twelve bills were signed into law while seven were postponed indefinitely.

| **Senate Bill #11-** | **Title** | **Summary** | **Senate Committee(s)** | **CO PTA position** | **Status** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 001 | Knowledge Based Economy Fund | Assures that education is considered when extra funds are discovered. | Finance | Pro | Postponed indefinitely 5/3/11 |
| 012 | Student Possession Prescription Drugs | Allows student to self-administer prescription drugs such as anti-allergy drugs, inhalers, etc. Schools that are losing nurses, etc., may find this useful. Applies to devices. | House & Senate Ed | Monitor | Signed by Governor 3/25/11 |
| 029 | State Land Board Annual Reports | Increases the transparency of reporting of trust lands money by requiring a trust report to be published annually on Nov 1 and presents the report to agricultural and education committees. | Senate Ed & House Ed | Pro | Signed by Governor 3/22/11 |
| 034 | Required Reporting for Abuse/Neglect | Adds educators who provide services to WIC users to report child abuse. | Senate Health & Human Svcs (HHS) & House Judiciary | Pro | Sent to Governor 4/19/11 |
| 040 | Coach Youth Sports Concussions Education | Each public and private middle school, junior high school, or high school, and each private club or recreation facility is directed to require each coach with primary supervisory responsibility for a youth athletic activity to complete annual concussion recognition education. | Senate HHS, House Health & Environment | Pro | Signed by Governor 3/31/11 |
| 052 | Goals for Higher Education System | Includes a legislative declaration concerning the areas of focus for the statewide system of higher education and the intent of the general assembly to provide rewards for institutions of higher education that make progress in these areas. | House & Senate Ed | Con | House passed 3rd reading 05/10/11 |
| 069 | Educational Management Organizations | An educational management organization contracting with a local education provider (e.g., school district, board of cooperative services, charter school) to operate a public school in the state must obtain certification from the department of education by filing an application and paying a certification fee. | Ed, Finance | Monitor | Postponed indefinitely |
| 070 | Special Ed Students Higher Ed Transitions | Allows colleges to see the Individualized Ed. Program that was used while a special ed student was still in high school; allows parents to be involved in conversations with higher ed related to their special ed child; allows special ed kids to have three additional years to get services; requires colleges to give students IEP accommodation services, which helps kids stay in school; also applies to kids in concurrent enrollment programs. | House & Senate Ed | Monitor | 2/24 passed S Ed & ref. to Appropriations; hearing 4/18/11; House 2nd reading laid over daily |
| 080 | School Improvement Plans | A school district board of education (local school board), before adopting a school turnaround plan, shall hold a public meeting for the purpose of allowing members of the public to provide input to the local school board concerning the contents of the school turnaround plan, including but not limited to any proposals for the use of grant funds. | House & Senate Ed | Monitor | Postponed indefinitely 05/10/11 |
| 109 | Public Ed Fund Tax Checkoff | Adds a checkoff on State income tax for public contributions to an Ed Fund through Jan 2021. Allows Dept of Revenue to skim its costs from the public ed fund before distributing half the remainder to Districts and the Institute of Charter Schools and the half to higher ed. |  | Pro | Assigned to Senate Appropriations 04/29/11 |
| 126 | Unsubsidized In-State Tuition | Allows undocumented workers to qualify for in-state tuition provided certain conditions are met. | House & Senate Ed | Pro | Postponed indefinitely 4/25/11 |
| 133 | Discipline in Public Schools | Directs the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice to instruct the Juvenile Justice Task Force to create a working group to study and collect data concerning the use of criminal justice sanctions and specified school discipline strategies in the public schools in the state. Point of the bill is unclear; will monitor until it is clarified. | Senate Judiciary; House Ed | Monitor | House 3rd reading passed 05/06/11 |
| 157 | Modification to School Finance Act | The bill makes several changes to the "Public School Finance Act of 1994" (act) and to the funding for the act, including supplemental kindergarten enrollment funding, mid-year adjustments to budget stabilization factor, and effect of refinance with federal moneys or other allocations. | Senate Appropr. & House Appropr. | Con | Signed by Governor |
| 188 | Charter School Moral Obligation Oversight | Increases State's oversight of financing of capital construction for Charter schools | House & Senate Ed. | Monitor | Signed by Speaker of the House 4/27/11 |
| 209 | Long Appropriations Bill | More cuts to Education $250m cut down from $330m cut. (*sic*) | House & Senate Appropriations | Con | House vote to override Governor’s partial veto passed 05/11/11 |
| 230 | Financing Of Public Schools | See text. | Senate Appropriations, House Ed | Con | Signed by Speaker of the House 05/10/11 |
| 259 | School District Mill Levy Override Incentive | For 2012-13, a school district that gets voter approval for a mill levy increase will receive partial state matching funds on the local tax revenues raised by that district. | Senate Ed, L Gov | Con |  |

| **House Bill #**  **11-** | **Title** | **Summary** | **House Committee(s)** | **CO PTA position** | **Status** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1014 | Child Care Contribution Income Tax Credit | Gives a child care credit for quality child care. Supports access to early child education. | Finance, Appropr. | Monitor | 2/16 passed Finance (11-2), ref. to Appropriations |
| 1048 | Income Tax Credits For Nonpublic Ed | Reduces funding to general public education by giving tax credits to people who want to send kids to private schools. CO PTA is opposed because it does not meet PTA standards for public financing of schools. Removes money from general public education by giving money (*i.e.*, tax credits) to families spending it on private schools. | Ed, Finance, Appropriations | Con | 2/7 passed Ed, 3/3 passed Finance, ref. to Appropriations; final action failed 5/3 |
| 1053 | Incarceration for Truancy and Contempt | Removes the requirement for incarcerating parents when kids are truant. Also leaves discretion to school districts to decide whether to take the child to court. | Ed | Pro | Passed House & Senate, signed by Speaker 3/25/11 |
| 1055 | Facilities for Charter Schools | Allows charter schools to request and be granted the use of any otherwise unused district building. The district would get out of using the building and gradually reduce costs, but the district won't be able to sell the building if a charter wants to use it. | House Ed, Judiciary; Senate Veterans & Military Affairs | Con | Postponed indefinitely |
| 1069 | Physical Activity Expectation in Schools | Supports efforts to provide adequate time and opportunity for physical fitness in all schools and recess in all elementary schools. Ensures that no school can decrease the current amount of physically active time, mandates that schools meet at least 150 minutes active time per week, stipulates that recess cannot replace physical education, and gives parents information on the qualifications of the supervising individual while children are engaged in physical activity. | House & Senate Ed | Monitor | Signed by Governor 4/20/11 |
| 1077 | Education of Gifted Children | Separates gifted children reporting requirements from special education reporting requirements. Passed House and Senate. | House Ed, Senate Ed | Pro | Signed by Governor 03/18/11 |
| 1089 | Charter Schools Grant Applications | Allows charter schools to go directly to the federal government for grants without permission from school boards. The ramifications for special education could be negative. | House Ed; Senate State, Veterans, & Military Affairs | Con | Signed by Governor 03/25/11 |
| 1121 | Bar Felons from School Employment | Enacts the "Felon-Free Schools Act of 2011." A school district, a charter school, or an institute charter school is prohibited from employing as a nonlicensed employee a person who has a conviction for certain enumerated criminal offenses, although it does allow felons convicted of drug abuse to work in positions with no student contact. | Ed, Appropriations | Monitor | Passed House; Referred to Appropriations |
| 1126 | Improving Parent Involvement in Schools | Requires each school district board of education (district board) to adopt a parent involvement policy that will apply to each of the public schools of the school district. | House & Senate Ed | Pro | Signed by Governor 4/21/11 |
| 1145 | Availability Background Check Child Care | Would change the requirements for background checks for any licensed facility, agency, or licensee to include Colorado Bureau of Investigation and FBI checks for all potential employees, regardless of the length of time a potential employee has resided in Colorado. | Ed, Appropriations | Pro | Passed Committee (13-0), referred to Appropriations |
| 1193 | Family Advocacy Juvenile Mental Health | Would change the status of the integrated system-of-care family advocacy for mental health juvenile justice populations from demonstration programs to permanent programs | House Health & Environment; Senate HHS | Monitor | Signed by Governor 3/30/11 |
| 1201 | Streamlining Educator Licensing | Relaxes regulations requiring the Dept of Ed to verify continuing education information for license renewal. Individuals would complete an affidavit of training which they believe qualifies for credit, and pay a fee, which goes to the DOE to cover costs of renewing licenses. |  | Pro |  |
| 1248 | Composition of PERA Board | Shifts composition of PERA board. CO PTA opposed because SB10-001 needs time to work before it’s clear whether it’s time to shift up the PERA board. | Veterans & Military Affairs | Con |  |
| 1253 | Charter Schools & At-Risk Funding | Currently there are 2 funding formulas for district charter schools. Bill would allow charter school to apply for use of an adjusted formula that accounts for the number of at-risk students it enrolls, not a district-wide value. | Ed | Monitor | Postponed indefinitely |
| 1254 | Bullying in Schools | Bill requires each school to maintain a record of each confirmed bullying incident and requires principals to submit an annual report. Bill requires districts to adopt dress code policies that promote unity and pride an uniformity of dress. Requires that every teacher receive anti-bullying PD at least once every two years. Requires that schools survey each student concerning severity of bullying in their schools and that principals report a summary of the survey results annually. If this bill is incentivized as a grant-funded program and does not require participation, it’s supportable. | House & Senate Ed | Pro | Interim Committee in 2013 will study and report recommendations to Joint Ed by Jan. 1, 2014 |
| 1270 | Parents Convert Low-Performing School | Parents of students enrolled in a low-performing public school may submit a petition to the school district board of education (local school board) to close the school or convert the school to a charter school or an innovation school. | Ed | Monitor | Postponed indefinitely |
| 1277 | Statutory Changes to K-12 Education | Sec. 1 no new unfunded mandates Sec. 2 changes the definition of at-risk students Sec's. 3-36 myriad of other changes to make compliance with state mandates easier or unnecessary. | House & Senate Ed | Monitor | House concurred w/ Senate amendments 5/10/11 |

***For current information and discussion regarding CO PTAs positions on these bills please visit the following website: :***

**http://www.coloradocapitolwatch.com/bill-tracker/0/902/2011/**

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