

Legislative update

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Whether you know it or not, CSDSIP is working hard for you at the Colorado Capitol! So far this session, we provided feedback on a number of bills that can or will impact schools. Like you, we are sensitive to legislation that will expand schools' risk exposure, increase schools' liability, or make compliance more difficult.

Key Legislation

Budget Package

We have also been keeping a close eye on the Joint Budget Committee (JBC) as they finalize their latest budget package. According to the March 2021 Economic Forecast from the Office of State Planning and Budgeting (OSP) and Legislative Council Staff, the current forecast contains mostly good news. Due to aggressive cost-cutting last year, federal assistance, and a better-than-expected revenue forecast, the General Assembly is currently looking at a \$5.29 billion surplus for FY2021-22.

While \$5.29 billion is a significant increase from the December 2020 projection, most of the increase consists of one-time funds.

SB21-088 - CONCERNING ESTABLISHING A CIVIL CAUSE OF ACTION FOR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AGAINST A MINOR

CSDSIP is working with a stakeholder group of other local government associations and CASB to offer suggested amendment changes to this bill.

SB21-056 - CONCERNING EXPANSION OF THE OPPORTUNITIES TO ADMINISTER MEDICAL MARIJUANA AT SCHOOL TO A STUDENT WITH A VALID MEDICAL MARIJUANA RECOMMENDATION

As soon as the bill was introduced, CSDSIP, CASE, CASB, the Colorado Rural Alliance, and the School Nurse Association and school attorneys engaged with the bill sponsors on several amendments. We succeeded in making many improvements to the legislation, including adding immunity language to protect employees and volunteers from criminal prosecution or civil suit when acting in good faith and clarifying that employees cannot be forced to administer cannabis against their will.

SB21-182 - CONCERNING SCHOOL DISCIPLINE, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, ADDRESSING DISPROPORTIONATE DISCIPLINARY PRACTICES AND CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM AND SUPPORTING STUDENTS AT RISK OF DROPPING OUT OF SCHOOL

SB182 touches on data reporting, school discipline, and the role of law enforcement in schools. The bill began with broad support under the dome but has also generated vocal criticism from those inside and outside the Capitol. CSDSIP is taking a lead in providing feedback as well as coordinating with other education stakeholders including CASE and the Colorado Rural Schools Alliance to ensure the broadest possible set of tools remain available to ensure school safety.

We will provide another update on our efforts after the session ends.