



Please SUPPORT HB 16-1375

This bill seeks to **reduce the administrative burdens**, better align deadlines with the availability of information, and provide time for **more in depth evaluation** by:

1. **Changing the due date of the annual Report on Concurrent Enrollment** to April 1st, from February 1st, better aligning the deadline with the availability of the information to compile the report.
2. **Establishing a three-year rolling cycle** for institutions of higher education to submit their **information security plans**, ensuring each institution submits once every three years.

BACKGROUND

The Colorado Department of Higher Education (DHE) has the responsibility for several dozen statutory annual report requirements. Some reports come from the institutions and the Department is required to review and comment on. For many, the Department compiles, analyzes, and synthesizes information into reports to inform policy decisions and planning conversations. Each of these reports, individually, is important for its own purpose but also take a significant amount of time and resources to complete.

The Department always strives to ensure the utmost quality of its work and reports. It is for this reason that we seek changes to the deadlines for certain reports at this time:

Annual Report on Concurrent Enrollment

The statutorily required annual Report on Concurrent Enrollment is prepared jointly by DHE and the Colorado Department of Education. It provides schools, school districts, students, parents, and policymakers with valuable data on concurrent enrollment participation at a school, school district, and statewide level. This data is presented by various metrics including gender, race/ethnicity, free or reduced lunch status, and ASCENT participation.

There are time constraints that both departments must work within that challenge meeting the current deadline - the primary challenge is the timing of the availability of the information from school districts and institutions of higher education, and the subsequent iterative process to verify the information. The compilation of this report relies heavily on elements regarding student enrollment, courses taken, ASCENT program, and cooperative agreements. This information is generally received in the last quarter of the preceding year and can take several months to complete the verification process before even beginning the report.

Reporting on Institutional Information Security Plans

Each year each institution of higher education is required submit to DHE a report concerning the development and implementation of the institution's information security plan and compliance with the requirements of the state. The Department and the Chief Information Security Officer are then required to review and provide feedback on these plans to the institutions.

These are complex reports to develop, and take a considerable amount of time to review. Modifying the submission requirement to a three year rolling basis would allow the institutions more time to devote to the details of their information security reports as well as provide for a more thorough period of review and feedback on such programs.



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