



2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION – Higher Education Budget Requests and Legislative Agenda
BUDGET REQUEST

Governor Hickenlooper’s final budget request would invest an additional \$130 million in higher education amounting to a nearly 13% increase. This proposed increase shares the dividends of a thriving economy to support the middle class of today and build the middle class of tomorrow.

- **R1 – Invest in College Affordability and Outcomes**
 Appropriate an **annualized increase of \$120.9 million in General Funds** to address affordability for students in FY 2019-20 and provide **\$23 million** for state need-based financial aid. This amount, based off the FY 2018-19 annualized request, is designed to allow institutions to cover inflationary and healthcare benefit costs without increasing tuition for Colorado residents.
- **R2 – Tuition Spending Authority**
 Appropriate **\$50.8 million in cash fund spending authority** to reflect tuition revenue for FY 2019-20. Since the request for operating funds (R1) is designed to maintain existing tuition rates for resident students, R2 allows for an increased rate for non-resident students.
- **R3 – Fort Lewis College Native American Tuition Waiver**
 Appropriate an **increase of \$2.3 million in General Funds** to fund the Fort Lewis College Native American Tuition Waiver in FY 2019-20, fully covering student enrollment and tuition costs.
- **R4 – The Colorado Teacher Scholarship**
 Appropriate **\$6.6 million in General Funds** to create a Colorado Teacher Scholarship which is designed to increase the pipeline into the teaching profession. This would provide a six-year scholarship program for students committed to pursuing an education career in Colorado. It would also create an online recruitment tool.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

- **Erasing Equity Gaps through Supplemental Academic Instruction**
 This proposal will scale a best practice in student success statewide by replacing all traditional developmental education courses with supplemental academic instruction (otherwise known as co-requisite remediation) by 2020. In doing so, we can reduce the cost of college for students and remove a barrier for students that prevents them from making meaningful and timely progress toward a credential.
- **Creating a Review Process for the Higher Education Funding Allocation Model**
 This proposal charges the Colorado Commission on Higher Education and Colorado Department of Higher Education to create and implement a review process for the higher education funding allocation model. This process will be enacted every five years and will study the existing incentive structure within the model while providing an opportunity for stakeholder feedback on potential model changes.
- **Making Concurrent Enrollment Count**
 This proposal would ensure all concurrent enrollment courses offered by institutions of higher education as part of the Concurrent Enrollment Program Act (C.R.S. §22-35-101) count toward a student’s future degree or certificate.
- **Expanding State Aid to All Colorado Students to Increase Postsecondary Opportunities**
 This proposal would make students in Colorado who do not have lawful immigration status eligible for state financial aid if they meet certain criteria.
- **Removing Barriers to Tuition Assistance for Dependents of Those Killed or Disabled in the Line of Duty**
 This statutory fix would ensure Colorado dependents of law enforcement, fire or National Guard personnel killed or disabled in the line of duty can access tuition assistance funds already appropriated for their use.



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