



HB 23-1231: Colorado Academic Accelerator Grant Program (COAAP)

Legislative Intent and Goals

The Colorado Academic Accelerator Grant Program (COAAP) was authorized in 2023 through Colorado’s “Improving Mathematics Outcomes in Prekindergarten Through Twelfth Grade Education” Act. COAAP seeks to increase students’ proficiency and achievement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) through their participation in academic and enrichment activities occurring in funded community learning centers during out-of-school time (OST), such as before school, after school, summer and the fifth day for schools on a four-day week.

Grant Webpage:
<https://ed.cde.state.co.us/studentssupport/coiap>

Legislation: [C.R.S. 22-2-146.6](#)

Through COAAP funding, grantees provide opportunities for free academic enrichment and support activities including tutorial services to help students, particularly those who attend high-needs schools, to meet rigorous state academic standards, specifically in mathematics and science, and to increase student proficiencies and outcomes in mathematics. Grantees also offer families of students active and meaningful opportunities to engage in students' education, including opportunities to increase mathematics literacy and numeracy and related educational development.

Grantees and Funding

Colorado Department of Education (CDE) allocated \$7,556,121 to 22 grantees operating 53 community learning centers in 2024-2025. Allocations by program are in the appendix on pages 4 and 5 of this report. More than one-third of grantees (40%) are from the Metro region, just under one-fifth (19%) are from the North Central region, 13% are from the Southeast, 21% are from the West Central region, 6% are from the Pikes Peak region and 2% are from the Southwest. Grantees are primarily community-based organizations (40%) and districts (43%), with the remaining grantees being charter schools (8%), consortiums (8%), and Institutes of Higher Education (2%). Programs associated with individual schools serve primarily elementary aged students (68%), but some also serve middle (30%) and high school students (2%). Three programs serve entire districts with elementary, middle and high school students. For the first year of funding, grantees reported serving 4,660 students. Of these students, 3.4% were in prekindergarten or kindergarten, half (50.3%) were in first through fifth grades, 40% were in sixth through eighth grades, and 6.4% were in high school.

Reporting Metrics

Per legislation, primary outcomes associated with COAAP include:

- financial savings for families
- data on student engagement including dropout rates, graduation rates, mobility rates and chronic absenteeism and
- student academic improvement in mathematics, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, grade, level, disability, socioeconomic status, geographic location and English learner status where possible.

Financial Savings for Families

Financial savings for families primarily fall into three categories offered by every grantee: 1) out-of-school time care in which students have access to a multipurpose supervised program providing an array of activities when school is not in session; 2) tutoring defined as supplemental academic enrichment that is aligned with Colorado Academic Standards and designed to deepen student knowledge in set subject areas; and 3) provision of nutrition needs such as meals and snacks. Table 1 shows estimated cost savings for families in the 2024-25 school year based on grantee reports of activities offered and the estimated cost associated with these activities outside of the COAAP program. All estimates of cost are conservative and vary within Colorado. The reporting period was from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Other cost savings not included in the table derive from additional programs offered by grantees, including those around financial literacy, social and emotional well-being and postsecondary workforce readiness.

Table 1. Cost Savings for Families through COAAP Provided Services

Services Provided	Reporting Period Average	Average Students Benefitting in Reporting Period	Average Cost Outside of COAAP Program*	Average Savings for Families Per Grantee
Out-of-school-time Care Hours	482.4	83.6	\$8.53 per hour	\$344,003.30
Tutoring Hours	91.8	109	\$23.11 per hour	\$231,243.28
Snacks and Meals	289.4	150	\$1.91 per meal or snack	\$82,913.10

Note. *Costs for services were estimated conservatively. Out-of-school care time costs were derived from a report on the [Child Care Opportunity Index](#) in Colorado. The average costs per month for the top ten most populous counties were averaged and then divided by 20 days and then 8 hours to find an average cost per hour, presuming 8 hours of care on four, five-day workweeks, each month. The cost of tutoring was based on average starting rate for hiring a tutor in Colorado on [care.com](#). The cost of meals was derived from [School Lunch Debt Statistics](#). The average cost to produce a school lunch in 2014 was halved given that this metric covers both snacks and meals.

Student Engagement

Dropout rates, graduation rates and mobility rates for the 2024-25 school year will be available in January 2026. A third-party evaluator, as required by legislation, will provide an updated report in spring 2026 that includes this data analysis.

55.8% of schools with COAAP programming had lower chronic absenteeism rates in 2024-25 than they did the year prior, despite a statewide rise in chronic absenteeism.

To examine chronic absenteeism at the student level, grantees provided State Assigned Student Identifiers (SASIDs) for 4,551 of the 4,660 students served in 2024-25 (SASIDs were not available for prekindergarten or some kindergarten students). Of those students, 2023-24 and 2024-25 chronic absentee data were available for 88.1% (4,009 students). More than half of the students for whom data were available (60.6%) were not chronically absent in 2023-24 or 2024-25. Of those students who were chronically absent in 2023-24 (1,115 students), just under one third (30.1%; 336 students) were no longer chronically absent in 2024-25, the year they took part in COAAP programming.

Among the 52 COAAP centers for whom state data were available, more than half (55.8%; 29 schools) had lower chronic absentee rates in 2024-25 than they did in the year prior to COAAP programming (2023-24). This is notable given that the state chronic absentee rate increased in 2024-25. As a cohort, the chronic absentee rate decreased from 34.7% in 2023-24 to 34.5% in 2024-25.

Student Academic Improvement in Mathematics

Grantees reported on student improvement in mathematics in the first year of COAAP programming using the i-Ready math diagnostic, Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) testing and Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) scores. Of the 2,335 students who were assessed, more than three quarters (76.4%) showed improvement after participation in COAAP programming (as defined by each grantee through year end reporting submitted to CDE). Disaggregated results by region are displayed in Table 2. In addition, grantees submitted disaggregated student data, which will be aggregated and reported in spring 2026 by the legislatively mandated external evaluator.

76.4% of students assessed showed improvement in mathematics after participation in COAAP programming.

Table 2. Grantee Reported COAAP Participant Improvement in Mathematics by CDE Field Services Regions

Region	Students Assessed	Students Showing Improvement	Percent of Students Showing Improvement
Pikes Peak	197	149	75.6%
Metro	880	568	64.5%
West Central	500	451	90.2%
Southwest	18	17	94.4%
Southeast	352	301	85.5%
North Central	388	299	77.1%

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Appendix: Grantees Funded by HB 23-1231 COAAP Dollars in 2024-25

Type	CDE Field Services Region	Fiscal Agent/Organization/District	Center/School Name	Allocation by Site FY25-26
District	Metro	Adams 12 Five Star Schools	Malley Drive Elementary School	\$165,000.00
District	Metro	Adams 12 Five Star Schools	North Star Elementary School	\$165,000.00
District	Metro	Adams 12 Five Star Schools	North Mor Elementary School	\$120,000.00
District	Metro	Adams 12 Five Star Schools	Stukey Elementary School	\$165,000.00
District	Metro	Adams County 14	Central Elementary School	\$162,500.00
District	Metro	Adams County 14	Rose Hill Elementary School	\$162,500.00
District	Metro	Adams County 14	Kearney Middle School	\$162,500.00
District	Metro	Adams County 14	Lester Arnold High School	\$162,500.00
District	Metro	Adams-Arapahoe 28J	Edna & John W. Mosley P-8	\$126,962.00
CSI	North Central	Axis International Academy - CSI	Axis International Academy	\$166,500.00
CBO	Metro	Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Denver	Johnson Elementary School	\$174,600.00
CBO	Southeast	Boys & Girls Clubs of Pueblo County - District 60	Park View Elementary School	\$174,600.00
CBO	Southeast	Boys & Girls Clubs of Pueblo County - District 60	Columbian Elementary School	\$174,600.00
CBO	Southeast	Boys & Girls Clubs of Pueblo County - District 70	Avondale Elementary School	\$174,600.00
CBO	North Central	Boys and Girls Clubs of Larimer County	Laurene Edmondson Elementary	\$70,616.00
CBO	North Central	Boys and Girls Clubs of Larimer County	Lincoln Elementary	\$69,836.00
CBO	North Central	Boys and Girls Clubs of Larimer County	Sarah Milner Elementary	\$73,678.00
CBO	North Central	Boys and Girls Clubs of Larimer County	Winona Elementary	\$72,608.00
District	Metro	Denver County 1	Newlon Elementary School	\$180,000.00
District	Metro	Denver County 1	Responsive Arts & Steam Academy (RASA)	\$180,000.00
Charter	Metro	DSST Schools	DSST: College View Middle School	\$88,990.00
Charter	Metro	DSST Schools	Conservatory Green Middle School	\$59,320.00
Charter	Metro	DSST Schools	Green Valley Ranch Middle School	\$59,320.00
District	North Central	Estes Park R-3	Estes Park Elementary School	\$97,767.00
CBO	West Central	EUREKA! McConnell Science Museum	Orchard Avenue Elementary	\$137,576.00
CBO	West Central	EUREKA! McConnell Science Museum	Lincoln Orchard Mesa Elementary	\$80,162.00
CBO	West Central	EUREKA! McConnell Science Museum	Tope Elementary	\$78,877.00
CBO	West Central	EUREKA! McConnell Science Museum	Mesa View Elementary	\$80,161.00
District	Pikes Peak	Harrison 2	Panorama Middle School	\$179,722.00
District	Pikes Peak	Harrison 2	Carmel Community School	\$179,721.00
District	Pikes Peak	Harrison 2	Fox Meadow Middle School	\$179,721.00
CBO	North Central	Kids at Their Best, Inc.	Fort Morgan Middle School	\$180,000.00
CBO	North Central	Kids at Their Best, Inc.	Green Acres Elementary School	\$165,000.00
CBO	North Central	Kids at Their Best, Inc.	Beaver Valley Elementary School	\$150,000.00
CBO	North Central	Kids at Their Best, Inc.	Pioneer Elementary School	\$165,000.00
Consortium	Southeast	La Veta Re-2	La Veta School District RE-2	\$54,000.00
Consortium	Southeast	La Veta Re-2	Aguilar School District RE-6	\$54,000.00
District	West Central	Mesa County Valley 51	Pear Park Elementary School	\$180,000.00

Type	CDE Field Services Region	Fiscal Agent/Organization/District	Center/School Name	Allocation by Site FY25-26
District	West Central	Mesa County Valley 51	Rocky Mountain Elementary School	\$179,460.00
District	West Central	Mesa County Valley 51	Fruitvale Elementary School	\$180,000.00
CBO	West Central	Riverside Educational Center	Bookcliff Middle School	\$180,000.00
CBO	West Central	Riverside Educational Center	Grand Mesa Middle School	\$180,000.00
CBO	West Central	Riverside Educational Center	Mount Garfield Middle School	\$180,000.00
CBO	West Central	Riverside Educational Center	Orchard Mesa Middle School	\$180,000.00
District	Metro	Sheridan 2	Sheridan High School	\$180,000.00
Consortium	Southeast	South Central BOCES	Peakview Elementary School	\$81,000.00
Consortium	Southeast	South Central BOCES	Trinidad Middle School	\$81,000.00
District	Metro	St Vrain Valley RE1J	Longs Peak Middle School	\$174,664.00
District	Metro	St Vrain Valley RE1J	Sunset Middle School	\$174,664.00
District	Metro	St Vrain Valley RE1J	Thunder Valley K-8	\$174,664.00
District	Metro	St Vrain Valley RE1J	Timberline PK-8	\$174,664.00
CBO	Southwest	The Pinhead Institute Inc	West End RE-2	\$82,347.00
IHE	Metro	University of Colorado - Boulder	STEM Launch	\$158,452.00