



# The Bell Policy Center

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Success from the session

## **Ritter signs bills to boost student success, opportunity**

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In front of a standing-room-only crowd, including legislators, the lieutenant governor, the state treasurer, the commissioner of education, key education stakeholders, school administrators, teachers and -- most important of all -- hundreds of students, Gov. Bill Ritter today signed into law nine education bills passed during this year's legislative session. The ceremony was held at the Denver Public Schools' Career Education Center in north Denver.

Among the bills signed by the governor were two that the Bell Policy Center was particularly active in supporting. [House Bill 1319](#) creates a statewide system of "concurrent enrollment" through which high school students can simultaneously complete their diplomas and earn college credits, certificates or associates degrees. [Senate Bill 90](#) establishes a state-level advisory council and grant program to increase parental involvement in education.

Calling the concurrent enrollment bill the signature education legislation of the session, the governor told the audience that its creation and passage were made possible through a real team effort. He thanked a number of individuals and groups, including the Bell Policy Center, for their participation in and support of the process.

Many of the bills signed by the governor today are important not only because of the impact they will have on student success and educational opportunity in our state, but also because of their potential role in helping Colorado compete for a share of the \$4 billion federal "Race to the Top" grant funding set aside for states' education improvement efforts.

Here is the full list of the education bills signed by Gov. Ritter today:

Senate Bill 90 -- Parent Involvement in Education  
Senate Bill 123 -- Healthy Choices Dropout Prevention  
Senate Bill 160 -- Alternative Teacher Programs and Licensure  
Senate Bill 163 -- Education Accountability System  
Senate Bill 256 -- School Finance Act  
Senate Bill 282 -- DPS Retirement PERA Merger  
House Bill 1065 -- Educator Identifier Pilot Program  
House Bill 1243 -- Increase High School Graduation Rates  
House Bill 1319 -- Concurrent Enrollment Public School Students