Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

STATE

REVISED FISCAL IMPACT

(replaces fiscal note dated February 11, 2014)

Drafting Number: LLS 14-0699

Date: March 17, 2014 Bill Status: House Appropriations

Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Scott

Sen. Todd; Scheffel

Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

SHORT TITLE: LOCAL ACCOUNTABILITY REQMTS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	<u>\$142,750</u>	
General Fund	\$142,750	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: \$142,750 General Fund - Colorado Department of Education (FY 2014-15)		

This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

Summary of Legislation

This bill, as amended by the House Education Committee, creates the Standards and Assessments Task Force to study how the statewide student assessment system is administered, how data are used, and the impact of statewide student assessments on local testing systems, instructional time, and administrative workload for school districts and public schools. Specifically, the task force study is intended to examine:

- the interaction of statewide assessments with the educator performance evaluation system and with the statewide accountability system for school districts and the State Charter School Institute (CSI):
- the interaction between local and statewide assessment systems and the impact the combined systems have on instructional time and test preparation in schools; and
- the feasibility of waving certain assessment requirements.

The bill requires that the Speaker and minority leader of the Colorado House of Representatives, the President and minority leader of the Colorado Senate, and the Chairman of the State Board of Education appoint the task force's members no later than July 1, 2014.

The 15-member task force is comprised of representatives of school district administrators, school boards, teachers, charter schools, parents, the business community, students, and the national consortia currently developing assessments in mathematics and English language arts for use by Colorado. The task force may meet as often as necessary; however, members serve without compensation or reimbursement for expenses. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is required to provide information and staff support to the task force.

No later than January 31, 2015, the task force and the department are required to prepare a final report of findings and legislative recommendations, if any, and present those to a joint education committee of the General Assembly. The task force may also prepare one or more minority reports. The task force is repealed July 1, 2015.

State Expenditures

This bill increases state expenditures by \$142,750 in FY 2014-15.

The CDE will require the following contracted services to implement the bill:

Task force coordination: \$17,750 to contract with a meeting coordinator to facilitate task force activities, staff meetings, prepare draft agendas and presentations, communicate with task force members and other stakeholders, keep meeting minutes, collect and compile data for the task force review, and help draft and edit a final report and minority report (if any).

Assessment cost and implementation study: \$75,000 to procure a study to analyze the total annual cost to the department and to school district and charter schools of preparing for and administering statewide and local (benchmarking and formative) assessments. The contractor will also analyze opportunity costs, and local capacity to implement the standards and assessments. The estimated price of the cost analysis is based on other contracted services the department has procured in the past.

Accountability feasibility data analysis: \$30,000 of contracted services for statisticians and assessment experts with the Center for Education Assessment to analyze different assessment scenarios and implications for the state public school accountability system. Changing assessments will have varying impacts on the continued use of the Colorado growth model, and the calculation of student academic growth and other accountability metrics used in the accreditation process.

Legal analysis of options: \$20,000 to purchase legal services and analysis from the Department of Law. Legal services will help the CDE to determine the legality of allowing parents to opt-out of state assessments, other options available, and the implications of local flexibility under federal requirements. The CDE will purchase about 220 hours of legal services at a blended rate of \$91.08 per hour.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State Appropriations

For FY 2014-15, this bill requires an appropriation of \$142,750 General Fund to the Colorado Department of Education. Of this amount, the Department of Law requires \$20,000 in reappropriated funds.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education Law