

FINAL FISCAL NOTE

Sen. Johnston; Rivera Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

SHORT TITLE: SCHOOL BOARDS MEETING IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
State Revenue	Potenital Gifts, Grants, or Donations	
State Expenditures	up to \$1,500 Annually	
Cash Funds	up to \$1,500 Annually	
Appropriation Required: \$1,500 - 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 creates an academic growth award to recognize public high schools that achieve high levels of student academic growth. Subject to available appropriations, the State Board of Education is required to make awards that resemble the trophies presented for athletic accomplishments to the public high school achieving the highest growth in each of the school groupings established by the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA) for the sport of football.

Background

The School Awards Program provides financial awards to the highest performing schools in the state, based on the schools' levels of attainment on statewide assessments. The program also rewards districts that demonstrate high rates of longitudinal growth as measured by the Colorado growth model, and further awards schools with large at-risk populations that demonstrate high rates of longitudinal growth.

In past years, approximately 50-70 schools have been eligible to receive awards; however, awards were not distributed in FY 2007-08 and FY 2008-09 due to lack of funding. In both FY 2009-10 and FY 2010-11, the School Awards Program Fund received \$250,000. The program received no funding in subsequent fiscal years and no funding is proposed for the program in FY 2014-15. There is no FTE attached to the School Awards Program and in years when funding is available, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) has assigned existing department staff to administer the awards. The School Awards Program Fund may receive gifts, grants, and donations to help fund financial rewards and other tangible items of recognition for high academic achievement.

State Revenue

The bill authorizes the CDE to use funding from gifts, grants, or donations for the existing school awards program in order to pay for the new academic growth awards. No amount of these donations is identified.

State Expenditures

If sufficient funds are obtained from gifts, grants, or donations, the bill authorizes the CDE to spend up to \$1,500 annually from the School Awards Program Fund to purchase six academic growth trophies, and to present them to the public high school with the highest academic growth in each school grouping.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 29, 2014, and takes effect August 6,2014, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

The bill includes a "no appropriation" clause stating that the General Assembly determines the act can be implemented within existing appropriations. If the CDE obtains sufficient donations to implement the bill, the department must seek cash fund spending authority during the regular budget setting process.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education