

Background

The bill permits administration of the same placement tests in grades 9 through 12 that are currently administered to all first-time freshmen in the community college system. The system uses the Accuplacer, a suite of computerized placement tests that assess college readiness in reading, writing, and math. First-time freshmen must take one of three mathematic placement tests, and one each reading and writing diagnostic tests, for a total of three units of the Accuplacer assessment. This fiscal note assumes that this the same battery of tests can be administered to each student in grades 9-12.

State Expenditures

In FY 2012-13 new expenditures total \$1.0 million. In FY 2013-14, the bill will cost up to \$320,917. For FY 2012-13, the bill appropriates \$1.0 million from the State Education Fund to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to reimburse school districts, charter schools, and the CSI, if they choose to administer the basic skills tests.

Currently, the total number of high school students is 243,233. It is not anticipated that every student will be tested; however, if every student is given all three tests at \$1.75 per test, the total cost in FY 2012-13 to reimburse schools is \$1,276,973, an amount which exceeds the appropriation in the bill, but likely sufficient to cover demand. In FY 2013-14, an estimated 61,127 students will enter grade 9. Having administered the tests to each high school student in the previous year, testing these new high school students will cost an additional \$320,917.

School District Impact

School districts, charter schools, and the CSI will have additional costs if they choose to administer the placement tests, including increased effort to add diagnostic data into a student's ICAP, and prepare appropriate interventions. The Accuplacer is an Internet-based test. Each student must have access to a computer and Internet service, and schools must provide test proctors. It is estimated that each student will take approximately two hours to complete all three tests, thus reducing instructional hours. The cost to purchase the tests (up to \$1.0 million) will be reimbursed by the CDE.

Pursuant to Section 22-32-143, C.R.S., as specified by House Bill 11-1277, school districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) may submit estimates of fiscal impacts within seven days of a bill's introduction. As of the date of this fiscal note, no summaries of fiscal impacts were submitted by districts or BOCES for this bill. If summaries of fiscal impacts are submitted by districts or BOCES in the future, they will be noted in subsequent revisions to the fiscal note and posted at this address: <http://www.colorado.gov/lcs>.

State Appropriations

For FY 2012-13, this bill includes an appropriation of \$1,000,000 from the State Education Fund to the Colorado Department of Education.

Departments Contacted

Education

Higher Education