



Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
REVISED NO FISCAL IMPACT

(replaces fiscal note dated February 19, 2008)

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Date: April 14, 2008

Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Merrifield
Sen. Williams

Bill Status: Senate Education

Fiscal Analyst: David Porter (303-866-4375)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE PROVISION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PERTAINING TO COLORADO PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH LITERACY CHALLENGES THAT INCLUDE DYSLEXIA.

Summary of Legislation

This **reengrossed bill** identifies the content of technical assistance and training the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) may provide school districts regarding issues faced by students with literacy challenges, including dyslexia. The bill specifies that technical assistance and training shall include at least: areas of awareness, assessment, identification, and evidence-based progress monitoring. It must also include scientifically based interventions to address a student's needs.

The CDE is encouraged to work with the Department of Higher Education in developing technical assistance and providing training. The CDE must report the status of efforts to implement this bill to the State Board of Education and the Education Committees of the General Assembly each year, beginning January 10, 2009.

The bill is effective 90 days following final adjournment of the General Assembly unless a referendum petition is filed (August 6, 2008, if final adjournment is May 7, 2008).

Assessment

Currently, the CDE provides literacy training as one of its federally-funded special education activities. These activities incorporate most of the bill's training provisions. Under this bill, the department will refocus efforts currently supported by federal funds. To a large degree, current activities will be built upon and more heavily stressed. In cases where new concepts or activities must be developed, these can be accomplished as part of ongoing program improvements. Both refocusing literacy training efforts and meeting the bill's reporting requirements will be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Since the bill does not create new local or state government revenue or expenditures, it is assessed as having no fiscal impact.

Departments Contacted

Education

Higher Education