

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

Drafting Number: LLS 15-1003	Date: June 11, 2015
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Steadman Rep. Hamner	Bill Status: Signed into Law
	Fiscal Analyst: Marc Carey (303-866-4102)

BILL TOPIC: INCREASING CAP ON APPROPRIATION FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue			
State Expenditures			
General Fund	\$141,471	\$161,258	
FTE Position Change			
Appropriation Required: \$141,471 General Fund - Dept. of Education (FY 2014-15) \$161,258 General Fund - Dept. of Education (FY 2015-16)			

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

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the General Assembly may annually appropriate up to \$1,500,000 to the Department of Education (CDE) to provide free lunches for publically funded preschool and K-5 students who would otherwise be required to pay a reduced price for lunch. This bill, **recommended by the Joint Budget Committee**, increases the limit to \$2,500,000 for FY 2014-15 and thereafter.

Background

The Child Nutrition School Lunch Program, created by Senate Bill 08-0123, provided state funding to reimburse school districts for each lunch served to a child in kindergarten through second grade who is eligible for a reduced price meal. The reimbursements allow schools to provide lunches at no charge to students what would otherwise be required to pay a reduced price for lunch.

House Bill 14-1156 expanded the program to include students in the third through fifth grade. The combined appropriation for the program in that bill and House Bill 14 -1336 (the Long Bill) totaled \$1,641,471. However, a separate statutory provision limits appropriations for the program to no more than \$1.5 million annually. Thus, current appropriations exceed the statutory cap and the CDE will be unable to support anticipated reimbursements in FY 2014-15 and FY 2015-16.

State Expenditures

Colorado Department of Education. This bill will increase expenditures in the department for the Child Nutrition School Lunch program by \$141,471 in FY 2014-15 and \$161,258 in FY 2015-16.

School District Impact

The amount of reimbursement funds that districts will receive from CDE for the Child Nutrition School Lunch program will increase by \$141,471 in FY 2014-15 and \$161,258 in FY 2015-16.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on May 1, 2015.

State Appropriations

This bill includes the following General Fund appropriations to the Department of Education:

- \$141,471 in FY 2014-15; and
- \$161,258 in FY 2015-16.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

Joint Budget Committee Staff