

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

Drafting Number: LLS 14-0620	Date: June 4, 2014
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Marble Rep. Saine	Bill Status: Postponed Indefinitely
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SHORT TITLE: DELAY STATEWIDE TESTING STUDY ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	\$332,887	\$89,406
General Fund	310,919	79,468
Centrally Appropriated Costs**	21,968	9,938
FTE Position Change	1.75 FTE	.75 FTE
Appropriation Required: \$310,919 General Fund - Colorado Department of Education (FY 2014-15)		

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

** These costs are not included in the bill's appropriation. See the State Expenditures section for more information.

Summary of Legislation

This bill creates the Colorado Academic Standards Task Force in the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to study the adoption and implementation of the Colorado Academic Standards. The task force and the CDE are required to select an independent entity to prepare a cost-benefit analysis of implementing the Colorado Academic Standards.

The bill identifies the size and composition of the task force, which must include legislators, members of the State Board of Education (SBE), representatives of higher education, teachers, and parents. The chairman of the SBE serves as chairman of the task force. Task force members serve without compensation; however, they may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses. The task force must be appointed by July 1, 2014, and conduct at least ten public meetings throughout the state beginning no later than August 1, 2014. Task force meetings must include time for public testimony.

The task force must report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the SBE, and the education committees of the General Assembly no later than December 15, 2015. Following the report, the SBE must conduct at least one public meeting, and participate in one joint meeting with the education committees, to discuss the report and any recommendations for changing the academic standards. Following the report, the SBE is authorized to adopt recommendations of the task force.

The bill delays implementation of Colorado's new statewide assessments scheduled to begin in the 2014-15 school year. Instead, the state will continue operating under the Transitional Colorado Assessment Program (TCAP) for one additional year in order to allow the task force to complete its work. The CDE may not administer any of the assessments created by the multi-state

consortia known as the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), and instead must ensure that only assessments that can be administered using paper and pencil remain available to local education providers.

Background

Academic standards. Colorado Academic Standards define the knowledge and skills that the state expects students to learn and be able to demonstrate for postsecondary success. The state first adopted standards in 1993. Legislation in 2008 (CAP4K) required the SBE to adopt new standards and assessments to better align public education systems from preschool through higher education. In 2009, the SBE adopted new standards for English language competency, mathematics, science, history, geography, and several other content areas.

Common core standards. Common core standards are a multi-state effort to establish a set of nationally shared expectations for the knowledge and skills that all students need for postsecondary success. The National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers led the development of the common core standards, which states may voluntarily adopt and implement. When the common core standards in English language arts and mathematics were released in June 2010, the CDE authorized a study to compare the state's current English and math standards with the common core. The report indicated that the state's standards were closely aligned and, in August 2010, the SBE adopted the common core standards in mathematics and English into the Colorado Academic Standards.

Assessments. Each spring the state evaluates students in grades 3 through 10 to measure student proficiency on the academic standards. The Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) served as the principal statewide assessment starting in 1997. CAP4K required the development of new assessments capable of measuring the new standards. To allow districts time to transition between old and new standards, the CDE designed the TCAP to temporarily replace the CSAP while new assessments are developed. The TCAP is capable of measuring both the old and new standards. In the 2013-14 school year, the TCAP will be administered in reading, writing, and mathematics, along with newly developed assessments for science and social studies. Beginning with the 2014-15 school year, new assessments measuring only the new content standards will be used.

States that adopted the common core are collaborating to develop assessments aligned to the common standards in mathematics and English language arts. Colorado is participating in the assessment development process through PARCC; Colorado joined PARCC in 2010 and became a Governing Board member in 2012. The PARCC assessments in mathematics and English language arts will be ready for state use during the 2014-15 school year.

State Expenditures

This bill increases state expenditures by \$332,887 and 1.75 FTE for FY 2014-15 and by \$89,406 and .75 FTE for FY 2015-16. State costs are displayed in Table 1 and described below.

Table 1. Expenditures Under SB 14-136		
Cost Components	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16
Personal Services	\$160,425	\$68,355
FTE	1.75	0.75
Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay	9,894	713
Contract Services: Cost Benefit Analysis	75,000	-
Contract Services: National Comparisons & Content Review	50,000	-
Task Force Meetings	15,600	10,400
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	21,968	9,938
TOTAL	\$332,887	\$89,406

* Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Project administration. The CDE must increase staff to coordinate the work of the task force. For FY 2014-15, the department will hire 1.0 FTE project manager and the equivalent of .75 FTE academic content specialists to administer the project and manage the work of the task force. New project management FTE will support task force meetings, coordinate scheduling and member travel, prepare agendas, conduct research, prepare other task force materials, and coordinate contracted services for a cost-benefit analysis.

Content specialists in English language competency and literacy, mathematics, science, social science, and other content areas are also necessary to support discussions and provide relevant expertise and support task force activities. The CDE must redirect existing staff and hire new specialists for this effort. Total FTE cost is estimated at 1.0 FTE over two fiscal years (.75 FTE in FY 2014-15 and .25 FTE in FY 2015-16).

Contract services. The CDE will contract an independent entity to prepare a cost-benefit analysis and to assist with standards comparison and other state and international benchmarking. Based on similar services obtained to implement CAP4K, the cost-benefit analysis is estimated at \$75,000 and the benchmarking review is estimated at \$50,000. Contract services are for FY 2014-15 only.

Task force meetings. At least ten public meetings of the task force must be held statewide. Expenses for staff travel and member reimbursement, as well as for meeting space and other administrative costs are estimated at \$2,600 per meeting. The task force will meet 6 times in FY 2014-15 and 4 additional times in FY 2015-16.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. The centrally appropriated costs subject to this policy are estimated in the fiscal note for informational purposes and summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Centrally Appropriated Costs Under SB 13-136*		
Cost Components	FY 2014-15	FY 2015-16
Employee Insurance (Health, Life, Dental, and Short-term Disability)	\$10,827	\$4,640
Supplemental Employee Retirement Payments	11,141	5,298
TOTAL	\$21,968	\$9,938

*More information is available at: <http://colorado.gov/fiscalnotes>

School District Impact

This bill interrupts the scheduled implementation of CAP4K. For the past several years, districts have been preparing to transition to new Colorado academic standards and assessments, including online assessments. Districts will have unspecified costs to adjust timing for staff professional development and other implementation efforts associated with new standards and assessments in order to delay final implementation until the task force can make its recommendations.

Pursuant to Section 22-32-143, C.R.S., 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>

Effective Date

The bill was postponed indefinitely by the Senate Education Committee on February 13, 2014.

State Appropriations

For FY 2014-15, this bill requires an appropriation of \$310,919 General Fund and 1.75 FTE to the Colorado Department of Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education