


Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
FINAL
FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 09-0294	Date: June 11, 2009
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Hudak	Bill Status: Signed into Law
Rep. Benefield; Merrifield	Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

TITLE: CONCERNING MEASURES TO INCREASE PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN PUBLIC EDUCATION.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2009-2010	FY 2010-2011
State Revenue		
Cash Funds		
Parent Involvement Grant Program Fund	Potential Gifts, Grants, and Donations	
State Expenditures*		
Cash Funds		
Parent Involvement Grant Program Fund		
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: The Governor signed the bill into law on May 21, 2009, and unless a referendum petition is filed, the bill will take effect August 5, 2009.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2009-2010: None.		
School District Impact: See School District Impact section.		

** Grant awards will make up the largest cost component of the program and are based on available appropriations or donations. There will also be personal services and operational costs to administer the program. These costs are conditioned on sufficient money in the cash fund. See State Revenue and State Expenditure sections for details.*

Summary of Legislation

This bill creates the Colorado State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education in the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). Composition of the council must include 5 parents of public school children in addition to representatives from federally funded parent centers, teachers, administrators, school boards, state agencies, and education associations. The council will advise state agencies concerning best practices and strategies for increasing parent involvement in education and promoting family and school partnerships. The bill requires that appointments to several other state advisory boards include parents of public school children.

The bill creates the Parent Involvement in Education Grant Program in the CDE to assist public schools to increase parent involvement. School districts or Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) may apply for grants on behalf of public schools. The bill sets eligibility requirements for the schools and identifies the kinds of programs that may be funded.

The State Board of Education must promulgate rules for the grant program, and the advisory council shall review all grant applications and recommend recipient schools to the board. The board will make annual awards based on availability of funds. The bill creates the Parent Involvement Grant Program Cash Fund to pay for the costs of the program and to consist of any money the General Assembly appropriates to the fund, including any appropriation from the State Education Fund. The department may also seek and accept gifts, grants, and donations.

The grant program shall only commence when a total of \$20,000 is credited to the fund. In any fiscal year in which \$20,000 is received, the CDE is permitted to use up to 1 percent of money in the fund to offset the costs of grants, and an additional 1 percent may be used to offset the costs of providing meeting space, equipment, and staff services to the advisory council. Both the advisory council and the grant program are repealed July 1, 2019.

Under current law, schools must have an advisory committee. This bill renames and replaces these with accountability committees and specifies requirements for their composition. Each school district, public school, and district charter school must appoint or create a process for the election of an accountability committee.

State Revenue

The CDE is permitted to seek and accept gifts, grants, and donations for the grant program, and to offset administrative costs of the advisory council. No moneys from these sources is identified.

State Expenditures

This bill authorizes the CDE to use up to 1 percent of money in the cash fund to offset costs to host the State Advisory Council for Parent Involvement in Education, and 1 percent of money in the cash fund to offset administrative costs of the Parental Involvement in Education Grant Program. This fiscal note assumes that grant awards will be provided based on the amount received in donations, and appropriations provided by the General Assembly; however, the CDE will not issue any grants until at least \$20,000 is received in the fund. ***For these reasons, the bill is assessed as having a conditional fiscal impact on state expenditures.***

Grants. The bill is silent on the amount of money in the grant program or the size of individual awards to be provided to schools. After administrative costs have been met, this will be the largest cost component of the bill.

Program Administration. If money is available for grants, the department will require staff to implement the program and provide technical assistance to grant recipients. Staff will also manage communication and outreach for the program and provide assistance to the advisory council. Overseeing a grant program requires staff roughly on the order of 0.1 FTE (200 hours) for each \$100,000 in grants dispersed from the program. As an illustration, if the program is credited with \$1.0 million, the department will require 1.0 FTE administrative support.

School District Impact

Eligible schools may see increased revenue from grants beginning in FY 2009-10; however any award is conditioned on sufficient appropriations or donations to the cash fund. Charter schools that do not currently have a separate accountability committee may have expenses related to creating a new body within their charter. These costs are not quantified.

Departments Contacted

Education

Human Services

Higher Education

Public Health and Environment