

**CONDITIONAL FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 10-0182  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. King K.  
 Rep. Merrifield

**Date:** January 15, 2010  
**Bill Status:** Senate Education  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING THE SCHOOL AWARDS PROGRAM FUND.

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2010-2011</b>	<b>FY 2011-2012</b>
<b>State Revenue*</b>		
Cash Funds		
School Awards Program Cash Fund	\$4,200*	\$4,200*
<b>State Expenditures*</b>		
Cash Funds		
School Awards Program Cash Fund	\$4,200*	\$4,200*
<b>FTE Position Change</b>		
<b>Effective Date:</b> The bill is effective upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2010-2011:</b> None required.		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b> None.		

\* *State revenue and expenditures are conditional on sufficient money received from gifts, grants, and donations. No amount of donations have been identified.*

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill, recommended by the Interim Committee to Study School Finance, authorizes the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to accept gifts, grants, and donations to the School Awards Program Fund to pay for tangible items of recognition such as banners and trophies. These items are to be awarded to public schools that are eligible to receive the John Irwin Schools of Excellence award, the Governor’s Distinguished Improvement award, or the Centers of Excellence award (collectively, the School Awards Program).

**Background**

The School Awards Program provides financial awards to the highest performing schools in the state, based on the schools' levels of attainment on statewide assessments. The program also rewards districts that demonstrate high rates of longitudinal growth as measured by the Colorado growth model, and further awards schools with large at-risk populations that demonstrate high rates of longitudinal growth. In past years, approximately 50-70 schools have been eligible to receive

awards; however, awards were not distributed in FY 2007-08 and FY 2008-09 due to lack of funding. The FY 2009-10 School Finance bill (SB09-256) transferred \$250,000 from the Read-To-Achieve Fund to the School Awards Program Fund to be awarded in FY 2009-10. There is no FTE attached to the School Awards Program and in years when funding is available, the CDE has assigned existing department staff to handle the awards.

### **State Revenue**

The bill authorizes the department to accept gifts, grants, and donations to pay for and deliver the items of recognition. No amount of donations are currently identified; however, this fiscal note assumes that ***\$4,200 per year*** is needed to cover program costs identified in the State Expenditures section.

### **State Expenditures**

***Total state expenditures are \$4,200 to supply the tangible items of recognition.*** State costs are conditional, contingent on the receipt of sufficient gifts, grants, and donations. The amount used for banners and trophies is dependent on the CDE receiving gifts, grants, or donations. This fiscal note assumes that the CDE will provide items of recognition based on actual revenue received.

***Items of Recognition.*** In FY 2008-09, 50 schools received awards from the program and 70 schools were eligible for the award. This fiscal note assumes that the CDE will provide the banner or trophy to all 70 eligible districts. A tangible item of recognition, such as a trophy or banner, costs approximately \$50 plus \$10 to ship. Therefore, the total cost to provide the items is \$4,200 (70 schools \* \$60 = \$4,200).

### **State Appropriations**

Money in the School Awards Program Cash Fund must be annually appropriated; therefore, if sufficient money is received, the department will need a supplemental appropriation in order to provide the items of recognition to the schools/districts. Since tangible items of recognition will only be provided if sufficient revenue is received, spending authority will be addressed during the annual appropriation process.

### **Departments Contacted**

Education