

**LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 11-0307
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Beezley
 Sen. Spence

Date: March 11, 2011
Bill Status: House Education
Fiscal Analyst: Jonathan Senft (303-866-3523)

TITLE: CONCERNING PARENTAL AUTHORITY TO EFFECT TRANSFORMATIONS OF LOW-PERFORMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2011-2012	FY 2012-2013
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	See State Expenditures section.	
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: August 10, 2011, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 11, 2011, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2011-2012: None.		
School District Impact: See School District Impact section.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill allows parents of students enrolled in a low-performing school to petition the local school board to close the school, convert the school into a charter or innovation school, or give students priority to enroll in a higher-achieving school in the district. The local school board can reject a valid petition on limited grounds. If rejected, the petition may be appealed to the State Board of Education for a final decision. This bill also sets procedures and time frames for closing or converting a school.

Background

Established under SB-08-130, an innovation school is one that implements untraditional practices in a variety of areas to improve student outcomes. It is able to obtain waivers from state laws and collective bargaining agreements.

School District Impact

Under this bill, local school boards may need to evaluate and respond to parental petitions. This process requires staff to respond within certain time frames. Costs will vary depending on the number of petitions submitted and the nature of negotiations between the parents and the local school board. Costs may also be incurred if students are given priority to higher-performing district schools that may not have extra capacity in classroom space or number of teachers.

Conversion costs from non-charter to charter schools, or innovation schools, range broadly depending on the proposed goals. The costs to districts to perform this conversion, if any, are indeterminate, as are the responsibilities for payment.

Under this bill, the State Board of Education is required to hear appeals when the local school board rejects a petition. This responsibility can be handled within the board's normal functions and does not require additional appropriations.

Departments Contacted

Education