



FINAL
FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 12-0586
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Mitchell
Rep. Holbert

Date: June 20, 2012
Bill Status: Signed into Law
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TITLE: CONCERNING PARENTAL CONSENT FOR THE COLLECTION OF INFORMATION FROM STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, school districts must obtain written parental consent before requiring student participation in a survey, analysis, or evaluation that addresses or requests certain personal student information. This bill adds assessments to this list of documents for which prior parental consent is required; however, the bill's provisions do not apply to standardized assessments administered as part of the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP), or the assessments developed pursuant to the Preschool to Postsecondary Education Alignment Act (CAP4K). In addition, prior parental consent must be obtained prior to requiring social security numbers or information regarding religious affiliation. For a parent's consent to be valid, the district must make a written copy of the document available for inspection at convenient locations and times. The bill was signed into law by the Governor on June 8, 2012, and takes effect August 8, 2012, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

Background

Social security numbers and information on religious affiliation are not currently collected as part of district assessments, or as part of statewide assessments administered under the CSAP. The ACT college entrance exam, administered to each eleventh grader as part of CSAP requirements, asks for, but does not require a participant's social security number. If a student chooses to provide his or her social security number, it can be used to obtain results directly from ACT, Inc.

Assessment

This bill does not impose a new mandate on schools or require that the Colorado Department of Education increase the administrative efforts to implement the CSAP. If assessments are added at a district level in the future that are intended to collect personal information, districts will be able to meet the notification requirements in the bill within existing resources. This fiscal note assumes that such notifications and parental waivers can be included in a single document in annual registration packets, and no additional staff time will be required.

Departments Contacted

Education