

**STATE
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 13-0387
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Hamner
 Sen. Todd

Date: February 13, 2013
Bill Status: House Education
Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

TITLE: CONCERNING STATUTORY CHANGES TO K-12 EDUCATION.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2013-2014	FY 2014-2015
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Effective Date: August 7, 2013, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 8, 2013, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2013-2014: None required.		
Local Government Impact: None.		

Summary of Legislation

This bill addresses several areas of statute governing K-12 education. Among its many provisions, the bill:

- specifies that if a charter school applies for any non-formulaic state or federal grant, the school is the Local Education Agency (LEA) for the purposes of applying for and determining eligibility for the grant, and may request that the state Charter School Institute (CSI) act as the grant manager;
- extends for one year continuous spending authority to the CDE for the educator licensure cash fund;
- restates the commissioner of education's responsibility to assign and monitor a unique educator identifying number and to assist the state Board of Education (BOE) to evaluate teacher preparation programs at institutions of higher education and prepare an annual report;
- authorizes the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to develop a definition of course completion and to collect student-level course completion data from schools and districts; and
- aligns existing statutes concerning statewide assessments with the development and implementation schedule for new statewide assessments.

With respect to the Accelerating Students through Concurrent Enrollment (ASCENT) program, this bill:

- authorizes the Concurrent Enrollment Advisory Board to recommend a funding allocation model to the SBE in the event that the number of qualified students seeking participation in ASCENT exceeds available appropriations;
- prioritizes ASCENT funding for schools and districts with historically low college participation rates, and for students eligible for free and reduced lunch, whenever the number of qualified students exceed available appropriations; and
- removes some obsolete reporting requirements.

State Expenditures

This bill will have minimal impacts on state expenditures. Managing federal and state grants impacts several divisions in the CDE, such as the offices of federal grants, accounting, public school finance, and information technology. Under existing law, only school districts and the state Charter School Institute are LEAs. This bill specifies that any charter school may also be an LEA for the purpose of applying for competitive state or federal grants. This may expand the pool of applications for grant money, however no immediate increase in grant applications or awards is anticipated.

The CDE collects data and monitors state grants made to an LEA. The CDE may have slightly increased costs to adjust data systems to accommodate new LEAs. Once a charter school wins a competitive state grant as an LEA, the CDE will collect additional information and monitor the school and the grant manager in the same way it monitors any LEA. Any additional cost is estimated to be minimal and can be absorbed within existing appropriations.

The bill also extends continuous spending authority for the educator licensure cash fund. For FY 2013-14 and FY 2014-15, the fund is not subject to appropriations made by the General Assembly.

Departments Contacted

Education

Higher Education

Law