

**STATE and LOCAL
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 14-0364	Date: January 16, 2014
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Todd Rep. Murray	Bill Status: Senate Education
	Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

SHORT TITLE: GED OR HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY EXAMINATIONS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal impact. See State Expenditures	
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None		

Summary of Legislation

The bill changes the term "general equivalency diploma" or "GED" to "high school equivalency examination" throughout statute.

Background

The GED examination measures the major academic skills and concepts associated with four years of regular high school instruction. The exam provides an opportunity for persons who have not graduated from high school to earn a high school equivalency diploma. The GED examination measures competency in five subject areas: language arts-writing, social studies, science, language arts-reading, and mathematics.

GED tests are only administered by GED testing centers authorized by the national GED Testing Service and approved by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). These sites include school districts, community colleges, and nonprofit adult education programs. There are currently 34 official GED testing centers in Colorado, and an additional 83 sites ("addendum sites") that are affiliated with GED testing centers and authorized as GED testing locations.

State Expenditures

The CDE will have increased costs to update existing rules, technical documents, and websites related to the administration of high school equivalency examinations. The department can also anticipate additional inquiries to the GED office concerning the change. It is estimated that these activities will require approximately \$10,500 to complete; however, as these activities are ongoing, this fiscal note assumes the department will update printed documents only as needed to replenish an exhausted supply and that website and other system updates can be accomplished within the department's normal schedule of maintenance. For these reasons, the bill can be implemented within the department's existing appropriations.

School District and Community College Impact

At the local level, school district and community college programs acting as approved GED testing centers will similarly experience increased costs to update existing forms, technical documents, and website information related to the testing centers' procedures for administering a high school equivalency examination.

Under current law, school districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) may submit estimates of fiscal impacts within seven days of a bill's introduction. As of the date of this fiscal note, no summaries of fiscal impacts were submitted by districts or BOCES for this bill. If summaries of fiscal impacts are submitted by districts or BOCES in the future, they will be noted in subsequent revisions to the fiscal note and posted at this address: <http://www.colorado.gov/lcs>

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

Higher Education