

**STATE and LOCAL  
FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 14-0960  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Kerr; Zenzinger

**Date:** May 1, 2014  
**Bill Status:** Senate Education  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

**SHORT TITLE:** STATEWIDE SOCIAL STUDIES TEST ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-17
<b>State Revenue</b>			
<b>State Expenditures</b>			
General Fund			
State Education Fund	(\$335,190)	(\$333,323)	(\$333,323)
<b>FTE Position Change</b>			
<b>Appropriation Required: (\$335,190) - Colorado Department of Education (FY 2014-15)</b>			

\* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

**Summary of Legislation**

Under current law, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is required to administer an annual statewide assessment in social studies to students enrolled in a single elementary grade, middle school grade, and high school grade.

In the 2014-15 school year, the CDE intended to administer the social studies assessment to students enrolled in a single elementary grade, middle school grade, and high school grade. This bill delays administration of the social studies assessment in high school until the 2015-16 school year.

After all of the students enrolled in the grade selected for testing in each elementary, middle, and high school in the state have taken the social studies assessment once, the CDE may choose to administer the social studies assessment annually to a representative sample of public schools so long as it administers the assessment in each public school at least once every three years. If the CDE chooses a three year assessment schedule, a school district or a charter school may ask the CDE to administer the test in a public school that is not scheduled. The CDE must administer the assessment in the requested school in the school year following the school year in which the request is made.

**State Expenditures**

***This bill reduces state expenditures by about \$335,000 for FY 2014-15, FY 2015-16, and FY 2016-17.*** These reductions may be offset if districts choose to administer the social studies assessment in years when their schools are not scheduled to participate in the three year assessment schedule.

Creating and administering statewide assessments in social studies has both fixed and variable costs. For example, developing content for the tests and conducting the necessary psychometric evaluation of the test for validity and reliability are fixed costs which are unchanged by the amount of tests administered. Holding the fixed costs constant and assuming that test delivery, test administration, scanning, scoring, and reporting costs are all reduced, a reduction in state expenditures is anticipated.

The bill reduces administration of social studies assessments by about one-third beginning with FY 2014-15. In FY 2014-15, the CDE will administer a social studies assessments only to middle and elementary grades. In FY 2015-16, the CDE will administer the assessment in each level, including assessment of all grade 12 high school students; however, since the assessment will have already been administered to all students in at least one grade in elementary school and one grade in middle school, the CDE may begin a three year assessment schedule for those grades, thus reducing the amount of test administrations by about one-third in FY 2015-16. Finally, in FY 2016-17, having administered the assessment at all three levels, the CDE may begin a three year assessment schedule for all levels, thus perpetuating this reduction into subsequent years.

### **School District Impact**

For FY 2014-15, the bill reduces workload associated with administering the social studies assessment to a single grade in high school. Districts and schools will have less administrative duties to administer the test, thus reducing certain related costs at the local level.

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

Law