

Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note

**STATE
FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 15-0654	Date: February 25, 2015
Prime Sponsor(s): Rep. Mitsch Bush Sen. Hill; Todd	Bill Status: House Education
	Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

BILL TOPIC: STATE MONEYS RECEIVED BY LOCAL DIST JR COLLEGES

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: None.		

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

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the fiscal year appropriation of state funds for local district junior colleges must be equal to the amount appropriated in the preceding fiscal year, increased or decreased by the same percentage change from the total appropriation for local district junior colleges in the preceding fiscal year. Currently, Aims Community College (Aims) and Colorado Mountain College (CMC) are the only two local district junior colleges. This bill separates the two schools in the funding allocation, allowing for the percentage change to be calculated on each individual school's prior year appropriation, and not on the combined appropriation to both schools.

Additionally, the bill clarifies that:

- the amount of state funding for the schools is determined by the General Assembly and appropriated directly to Aims and CMC; and
- state funding may be used by CMC to operate baccalaureate degree programs.

The bill repeals language specifying how the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education (SBCCOE) distributes funding for local district junior colleges and area vocational schools.

State Expenditures

The bill does not change the amount of funding appropriated by the General Assembly for local district junior colleges or the system of higher education. The total appropriation of state funds and the allocation to individual schools remain an annual decision of the legislature.

When the allocation of state support is calculated based on the prior year total appropriation to local district junior colleges, growth in student FTE at one school may impact the allocation of state appropriations to the other school. For example, because CMC may offer certain baccalaureate degrees, and since allocations are now partially linked to degree production, growth in student FTE and bachelors degrees attained at CMC could change the allocation between the two schools. By separating the appropriation, the bill removes this dynamic.

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

Higher Education