



Most of the cost savings for the state from reducing the number of social studies assessments is a result of eliminating the need for hand scoring. That expenditure savings is estimated at \$4.50 per test. Assuming the CDE assesses only one-third of students in each of the required grades, test administration is reduced by about 40,000 students per grade, or by 120,000 administrations for all grades. Therefore, the cost savings is about \$540,000 (120,000 X \$4.50 = \$540,000)

This fiscal note assumes that any reductions in appropriations for the CDE will be adjusted in the annual budget setting process, depending on decisions made following the effective date of this bill.

### **School District Impact**

Statewide assessments at the local level create both direct and indirect costs for school districts. As part of the House Bill 14-1202 Standards and Assessment Task Force, the consulting firm of Augenblick, Palich, and Associates (APA) prepared a study of assessment use in Colorado and identified three categories of costs for school districts.<sup>1</sup> These costs include one-time expenses to ensure a school district has the capacity to administer assessments, such as the cost to purchase needed technology if it is not already owned by the school district; on-going opportunity costs as a result of student and staff time spent administering and taking assessments that could have otherwise been spent on instruction or other functions; and on going direct costs incurred to prepare for and administer assessments, including the direct cost to purchase testing materials, the cost of hiring additional test proctors and classroom substitutes during test days, and any material management costs.

In conducting their study, APA discovered that direct costs range dramatically between districts and represent different resource starting points and capacity capabilities. Though not a perfect correlation, APA found that smaller districts tend to have higher costs than larger districts.

In years when a given school is not part of the assessment schedule, workload and administrative costs related to the assessment are reduced.

### **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

Law

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<sup>1</sup> Study of Assessment Use in Colorado Districts and Schools. November 2014. Augenblick, Paliach and Associates. Retrieved from <http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdedepcom/finalapareport>