



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

SB16-005

FISCAL NOTE

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 16-0670
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Marble
Rep. Saine

Date: January 13, 2016
Bill Status: Senate Education
Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

BILL TOPIC: ELIMINATING STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS IN 9TH GRADE

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	(\$1,910,780)	(\$1,910,780)
General Fund		
State Education Fund	(\$1,910,780)	(\$1,910,780)
FTE Position Change		
Appropriation Required: (\$1,910,780) State Education Fund - Colorado Department of Education (FY2016-17)		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing		

Summary of Legislation

The bill prohibits the Colorado Department of Education from administering any statewide tests to students in ninth grade.

Background

Under current law no statewide tests may be given to students in twelfth grade. The department is required to administer statewide tests in English language arts and math in grades three through nine, and must administer a science test and a social studies test one time during highschool. The department only administers the social studies test in a representative sample of schools each year; however, all schools are tested in social studies at least once every three years. Under current rules, the department administers the high school social studies and high school science test in the eleventh grade. Therefore, this bill only eliminates English and math testing in ninth grade.

State Expenditures

The bill reduces state appropriations to the Colorado Department of Education by \$1.9 million in both FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18. State appropriations for statewide testing are made from the State Education Fund. Table 1 displays the number of tests reduced by the bill, the estimated cost per test, and the total reduction in state appropriations.

9th Grade Test Eliminated	Number of Tests	Cost per Test*	Total Reduction
English Language Arts	62,772	\$12.47	(\$782,767)
Mathematics	62,772	\$17.97	(\$1,128,013)
TOTALS	125,544	N/A	(\$1,910,780)

* FY 2015-16 prices. Pricing for the PARCC consortium has not yet been determined for FY 2016-17. Per test cost is an estimate only. This fiscal note will be revised when actual costs are identified.

School District Impact

Statewide testing at the local level creates 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 test use in Colorado and identified three categories of costs for school districts.¹ These costs include one-time expenses to ensure a school district has the capacity to administer tests, such as the cost to purchase needed technology if it is not already owned by the school district; ongoing opportunity costs as a result of student and staff time spent administering and taking tests that could have otherwise been spent on instruction or other functions; and ongoing direct costs incurred to prepare for and administer tests, 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 vary 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 a higher per-student direct cost than larger districts.

This bill reduces the total number of statewide tests administered by the state in school districts. Therefore, schedule, workload and administrative costs related to statewide testing are also reduced at the school and district level. Up front costs to create capacity are unchanged by reducing test administration.

Pursuant to Section 22-32-143, C.R.S., 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>

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

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

For FY 2016-17, this bill reduces state appropriations from the State Education Fund to the Colorado Department of Education by \$1,910,780.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

Law