



*Colorado Legislative Council Staff*  
**STATE and LOCAL  
 FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 06-0304  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Merrifield  
 Sen. Jones

**Date:** January 10, 2006  
**Bill Status:** House Education  
**Fiscal Analyst:** David Porter (303-866-4375)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING COLLECTION OF DATA ON CHILDREN FIVE YEARS OF AGE AND YOUNGER WHO HAVE BEEN DISENROLLED AS A RESULT OF CHALLENGING BEHAVIOR.

<b>Fiscal Impact Summary</b>	<b>FY 2006/2007</b>	<b>FY 2007/2008</b>
<b>State Revenues</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>		
General Fund	\$36,400	\$17,500
<b>FTE Position Change</b>	Contract Services	Contract Services
<b>Effective Date:</b> Upon signature of Governor		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2006/2007:</b>		
Department of Education: \$17,500 General Fund		
Department of Human Services: \$18,900 General Fund		
<b>Local Government Impact:</b>		
Increased workload for certain school district and county employees.		

**Summary of Legislation**

The Early Childhood and School Readiness Commission is tasked with overseeing the development of an early childhood system to ensure all children are ready for school. An early childhood system is one that addresses children's health; social emotional development and mental health; early care and education; family support; and parent education. This bill requires the commission to receive and evaluate data on children five-years of age and younger that have been disenrolled from child care programs due to "challenging behavior." The bill defines challenging behavior, specifies the sources of the data that must be collected, and identifies the measures to be collected. The Department of Human Services and Department of Education are responsible for creating mechanisms to collect and transmit the necessary information to the commission.

**State Expenditures**

Both the Department of Education and the Department of Human Services will require funding to revise their databases and data collection procedures to incorporate the requirements of this bill.

***Department of Education (\$17,500):*** A senior consultant that is equivalent to 0.3 FTE (\$13,500) is required to implement this program. The consultant will lead the effort to modify existing data collection and analysis tools to include information about the subset of children described in this bill. The consultant will also be responsible for coordinating with other agencies and training district staff to ensure that the requirements of the bill are met in a consistent manner. These services are performed on a contract basis. Travel expenses to train district personnel (\$4,000) are required. These costs begin in FY 2006-07 and continue into the future.

***Department of Human Services (\$18,900):*** The primary cost for the Department of Human Services is for revising the Child Care Automated Tracking System (CHATS) to collect the requested data. This systems change requires contract services to work on the development of new functionality within the CHATS database. The program has a one-time cost of \$18,900 in FY 2006-07.

### **Local Government Impact**

School districts would be responsible for the burden of the data collection. The Department of Education estimates that for the 810 classrooms serving children in the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP), data collection would require a minimum of two hours per classroom.

The Department of Human Services expects data collection to increase the workload for county personnel as they must enter more data into the CHATS system. Training in mental health issues may be required for caseworkers in their development of a child's individual education program. At this time, the fiscal note assumes that these activities can be met within existing appropriations. Current year funding for County Administration is \$60.8 million.

### **State Appropriations**

The Department of Human Services will require a General Fund appropriation of \$18,900 in FY 2006-07. The Department of Education will require a General Fund appropriation of \$17,500 in FY 2006-07.

### **Departments Contacted**

Education      Human Services

### **Omissions and Technical or Mechanical Defects**

It is possible that a subset of children with challenging behavior will not be counted under this bill. Children that are pre-screened out of the Colorado Preschool Program due to "an attachment disorder, a regulatory disorder, or a serious emotional disturbance" will not be counted as they have already been identified and are served in district special education preschool programs as required by federal law.