



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1094: PROPOSED GUIDANCE POLICIES DEVELOPED BY CDE

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Hamrick
Sen. Marchman

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Published for: House Education**Drafting number:** LLS 26-0302**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note**Date:** February 7, 2026**Fiscal note status:** This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill creates a superintendent's council in the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to consider and coordinate with school districts on CDE guidance policies. CDE must incorporate the council's recommendations on policies related to local control.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- State Revenue (Gifts, Grants, and Donations)
- State Expenditures
- School Districts

Appropriations. For FY 2026-27, the bill requires an appropriation of \$66,417 to the Colorado Department of Education.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$78,762	\$85,314
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.5 FTE	0.6 FTE

**Table 1A
State Expenditures**

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
General Fund	\$66,417	\$70,500
Cash Funds	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$12,345	\$14,814
Total Expenditures	\$78,762	\$85,314
Total FTE	0.5 FTE	0.6 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates the Colorado School District Superintendents Council (council) in the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to coordinate with school districts regarding guidance policies adopted by CDE.

CDE must send the council all proposed guidance policies, and the council must review and vote on the policies within 45 days of receiving them. The policies cannot go into effect until the council has voted on them. CDE must consider and incorporate the council's recommendations on policies related to local control.

The council may make legislative recommendations to the State Board of Education and General Assembly. It may also seek and expend gifts, grants, and donations, and make recommendations to the General Assembly for the funding needed to fulfil the council's duties.

The council is made up of ten superintendents appointed by a statewide entity that represents superintendents, and one representative of a statewide entity representing superintendents appointed by the Governor. The council may appoint non-voting members or consult with other individuals as it sees fit.

Assumptions

The bill does not define guidance policies. The fiscal note assumes that this term includes any CDE document that provides guidance to school districts, including but not limited to documents related to the implementation of state and federal laws and rules; financial accounting and funding procedures; data submittal procedures; and, processes or technical assistance for individual programs. If more information becomes available on the scope of guidance policies, costs may be different than estimated.

The bill specifies that the council must meet at least four times per year, and vote on a policy within 45 days of receiving them from CDE. The fiscal note assumes the council will meet nine times per year, based on the similar meeting schedule of the Education Data Advisory Council.

State Revenue

The bill potentially increases state revenue to the council in CDE from gifts, grants, or donations; however, no sources have been identified at this time. Gifts, grants, and donations are exempt from TABOR revenue limits.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in CDE by about \$79,000 in FY 2026-27 and about \$85,000 in FY 2027-28 and future years. These costs, paid from the General Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Department of Education

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
Personal Services	\$54,777	\$65,732
Operating Expenses	\$640	\$768
Capital Outlay Costs	\$7,000	\$0
Meeting Costs	\$4,000	\$4,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$12,345	\$14,814
Total Costs	\$78,762	\$85,314
Total FTE	0.5 FTE	0.6 FTE

Staff

Beginning in FY 2026-27, CDE requires 0.6 FTE Principal Consultant to support the council, based on the workload for similar advisory groups. The staff will coordinate meetings, materials, policy input, and council recommendations to the State Board and General Assembly, as well as maintain guidance policies and council feedback and revisions, and coordinate with all divisions in CDE that maintain guidance policies. First-year costs are prorated for a September start date and standard operating and capital outlay costs are included.

Meeting Costs

CDE requires \$4,000 per year for four full-day, in-person council meetings per year, including meeting space and travel costs for some of the council members to travel to the meeting. Costs

are based on meeting costs for similar stakeholder advisory group meetings. The council may submit funding requests to the General Assembly for future years; however, any funding amounts are at the discretion of the General Assembly.

Governor’s Office of Boards and Commissions

Workload will minimally increase for the Governor’s Office of Boards and Commissions to make the required appointment under the bill. This work can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Centrally Appropriated Costs

Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which may include employee insurance, supplemental employee retirement payments, indirect cost assessments, and other costs, are shown in Table 2 above.

School District

The bill increases workload for the school district superintendents who serve on the council, and for other school districts to coordinate with the council.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2026-27, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$66,417 to the Colorado Department of Education, and 0.5 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

Governor’s Office

Law

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).