



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**SB17-103**

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

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

**Drafting Number:** LLS 17-0848  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Sen. Merrifield  
Rep. Petterson

**Date:** August 4, 2017  
**Bill Status:** Signed into Law  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Anna Gerstle (303-866-4375)

**BILL TOPIC:** EARLY LEARNING STRATEGIES IN ED ACCOUNTABILITY

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
<b>State Revenue</b>		
<b>State Expenditures</b>	<b><u>\$6,000</u></b>	Workload increase.
General Fund	6,000	
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> \$6,000 - Department of Education (FY 2017-18).		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> Ongoing workload increase.		

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill adds early childhood education strategies and needs assessments to the supports and interventions provided by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to low performing schools and school districts.

**Technical assistance.** Under current law, CDE provides technical assistance and support, including strategies to address early childhood education, to school districts and public schools accredited under an improvement plan, priority improvement plan, or turnaround plan. The bill specifies that technical assistance may include research-based strategies addressing the quality and availability of early childhood education opportunities.

**Needs assessment.** Under current law, a district or school priority improvement plan or turnaround plan must assess and prioritize the needs of the district. The bill adds that for districts with a school serving kindergarten through third grades that is accredited under a priority improvement or turnaround plan, the plan must include an early childhood learning needs assessment and specifies the early childhood learning needs to be assessed.

For a turnaround plan for a school serving students in kindergarten through third grade, the bill specifies that strategies identified in the turnaround plan may include research-based strategies related to the quality and availability of early childhood education that address the deficiencies identified in the needs assessment. Strategies must not have been previously implemented, must be implemented in combination with at least one other research based strategy, and the cause of the school's failure to improve must not be related to lack of access to quality early learning opportunities.

## **Background**

The school accountability process results in accreditation by the State Board of Education when a district and individual schools within a district meet required laws and rules. Each category of accreditation requires the district to create a corresponding improvement plan. The five categories of accreditation and improvement plans are:

- Accredited with Distinction (met or exceeded state expectations);
- Accredited (met expectations; must implement a performance plan);
- Accredited with Improvement Plan (not met expectations; must implement an improvement plan);
- Accredited with Priority Improvement Plan (not met expectations; must implement a priority improvement plan); and
- Accredited with Turnaround Plan (not met expectations; must implement a turnaround plan).

Schools are also annually assigned one of the following plans, based on performance framework metrics: performance plan, improvement plan, priority improvement plan, or turnaround plan. Schools and districts may not remain accredited in the lowest two categories for longer than five years before the State Board of Education takes corrective action.

## **State Expenditures**

***In FY 2017-18 only, the bill increases General Fund expenditures for CDE by \$6,000*** to create tools and guidance to support schools and districts that must conduct an early childhood education needs assessment and identify strategies to address those needs. The fiscal note assumes five days of consultant work at \$1,200 per day. The bill also increases the workload for the Office of Early Childhood in CDE to provide technical assistance to schools and districts related to quality and availability of early childhood education; this workload increase can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

## **School District Impact**

The bill increases costs and workload for school districts with a school serving kindergarten through third grades and accredited under a priority improvement or turnaround plan to conduct a needs assessment related to early childhood education. Costs vary by district depending on the district plan and the types of plans required for each school within the district.

## **Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on June 6, 2017.

## **State Appropriations**

In FY 2017-18, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$6,000 to the Colorado Department of Education; however, the General Assembly passed the bill without an appropriation.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Education

Human Services

School Districts