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FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number:	LLS 19-0292	Date:	February 14, 2019
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Buckner; Wilson Sen. Todd	Bill Status:	House Education
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Bill Topic: ID & INTERVENTIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School District

The bill requires a dyslexia specialist be hired by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) and creates a dyslexia working group and a pilot program in the department. The bill increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: The bill requires an appropriation of \$166,509 to the CDE.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 19-1134**

		FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
Revenue			
Expenditures	General Fund	\$166,509	\$207,297
	Centrally Appropriated	\$15,124	\$16,634
Total		\$181,633	\$223,931
Total FTE		0.9 FTE	1.0 FTE
Transfers		-	-
TABOR Refund	General Fund	-	-

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires that the Commissioner of Education convene a 10-member work group who are required to analyze the relevant data and research related to dyslexia, and to evaluate the implementation and efficacy of other state legislation related to dyslexia screening and educator training. The work group must identify and recommend a statewide plan for supporting dyslexic students and training both existing and pre-service educators. The work group must submit a report of its recommendations to the commissioner no later than July 1, 2020, and by July 1 each year thereafter. No later than February 1, 2020, and each February 1 thereafter, the commissioner must submit the report with any legislative recommendations to the General Assembly. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) must employ a dyslexia specialist to assist the working group and to provide support to educators. The work group is repealed September 1, 2031.

Beginning with the 2020-21 school year this bill creates the Pilot program to Identify markers of Dyslexia and Enable Effective Interventions in the CDE. The program's purpose is to develop and pilot screening and diagnostic processes and intervention strategies for early identification and support for dyslexic students. The CDE will consult with the work group in designing the pilot program, and select up to five local education providers (LEPs) who volunteer to participate. The LEPs will work with the CDE to use the results obtained from early literacy assessments to identify markers of dyslexia and provide support to early grade readers who may exhibit these markers.

Following the 2022-23 school year, the CDE must evaluate the implementation of the pilot program and the effectiveness of the piloted strategies to identify and support dyslexic students. No later than December 31, 2023, the department must prepare a final report for the General Assembly. The pilot program is repealed July 1, 2024.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures by \$181,633 and 0.9 FTE in FY 2019-20, and by \$223,931 and 1.0 FTE in FY 2020-21. New expenses are displayed in Table 2 and described below.

Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 19-1134

	FY 2019-20	FY 2020-21
Colorado Department of Education		
Personal Services - Dyslexia Specialist	\$92,276	\$100,665
Operating & Capital Outlay	\$5,653	\$950
Work Group Travel & Expenses	\$53,580	\$21,432
Pilot Program Materials, Travel & Evaluation	\$15,000	\$84,250
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	\$15,124	\$16,634
Total Cost	\$181,633	\$223,931
Total FTE	0.9 FTE	1.0 FTE

* Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Dyslexia specialist. The bill requires that CDE employ a dyslexia specialist to assist the working group and provide support to educators, increasing state expenditures for personal services beginning with FY 2019-20. Personal services costs in FY 2019-20 are prorated to account for the General Fund pay date shift.

Working group. The bill requires that CDE convene a ten-member work group to study identification of and support for dyslexic students. The work group will meet up to ten times in FY 2019-20, and up to five times in FY 2020-21. State expenditures increase for travel and expenses for both work group participants and CDE staff. The work group must include a state or national literacy expert and a state or national dyslexia expert. The CDE will arrange out-of-state travel for at least one national expert to attend at least two meetings in FY 2019-20. Work group expenses also include venue rental and catering, and resources for substitute teachers, such that the two teacher members of the work group may attend meetings during the school year.

Pilot program. Implementing the pilot program in FY 2020-21 increases state expenditures for educator professional development materials and training, resources for substitute teachers, staff travel expenses, and evaluation. A professional evaluator will be selected in FY 2019-20, following a request for proposals (RFP) process, to allow for input in program design. This fiscal note assumes five participating school districts representing diverse geographic location and size, and up to 140 participating educators.

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 include employee insurance and supplemental employee retirement payments, are estimated to be \$15,124 in FY 2019-20 and \$16,634 in FY 2020-21.

School District

School districts will have additional workload and expenses to participate in the pilot program and the work group.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

For FY 2019-20, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$166,509 and 0.9 FTE to the Colorado Department of Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education