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HB 19-1187

REVISED FISCAL NOTE

(replaces fiscal note dated March 1, 2019)

Drafting Number: LLS 19-0724 Date: March 25, 2019
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Coleman Bill Status: House Appropriations
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Bill Topic: INCREASE STUDENT AID APPLICATION COMPLETION RATES

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure, State Transfer, TABOR Refund, School District, Statutory Public Entity

The bill provides funding to assist students and families with completing state and federal financial aid applications. The bill increases state expenditures and school district revenue from FY 2019-20 through FY 2021-22.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2019-20, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$250,000.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, as amended by the House Education Committee.

Table 1 State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 19-1187

Table with 4 columns: Category, FY 2019-20, FY 2020-21, FY 2021-22. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund), Transfers, and TABOR Refund.

Summary of Legislation

The bill requires that the General Assembly appropriate \$250,000 per year in FY 2019-20, FY 2020-21, and FY 2021-22 for the State Board of Education to distribute to local education providers that receive a school counselor corps grant. Local education providers must use the additional funding to :

- develop and distribute information regarding the process for and benefits of completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and state financial aid applications;
- training school counselors on best practices to support students and families with filling out the FAFSA and state financial aid applications, with an emphasis on supporting communities with historically low completion rates; and
- organizing opportunities for students and families to meet with stakeholders who assist in completing the FAFSA and state financial aid applications.

The bill requires that a comparison of the number of students who completed the FAFSA and state financial aid applications each year a grant is awarded be included in the annual report submitted to CDE by grant recipients. The bill is repealed July 1, 2023.

Background

The School Counselor Corps Grant Program was created in 2008 to increase the availability of school-based counseling and increase the graduation rate and percentage of students who continue into postsecondary education. Since the program's inception, 427 secondary schools, representing 101 districts, have participated. For FY 2018-19, the program was appropriated about \$10.0 million from the State Education Fund, and 2.0 FTE. CDE may use up to 3 percent of the appropriation for administrative expenses.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state General Fund expenditures in the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) by \$250,000 annually in FY 2019-20 through FY 2021-22. This funding will be distributed to grant recipients. The number of local education providers awarded a grant has ranged from 10 to 25 per year, with some education providers serving multiple sites.

CDE will incur additional workload to distribute the funding to local education providers that receive a school counselor corps grant, and to incorporate additional information into the annual grant program report. This workload can be accomplished within current appropriations. The fiscal note assumes that CDE will not be required to provide subject matter expertise to grantees related to student financial aid completion methods and process. Should that expertise be required, the costs will not exceed 3 percent of the appropriation (\$7,500), as is specified under current law for the school counselor corps grant program appropriation.

School District Impact

The bill increases revenue and workload to school districts that receive school counselor corps grants from FY 2019-20 through FY 2021-22. The specific distribution of the funding among grant recipients will be determined by CDE.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

In FY 2019-20, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$250,000 to the Colorado Department of Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education