



Legislative  
Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

**SB 19-129**

# FINAL FISCAL NOTE

**Drafting Number:** LLS 19-0778  
**Prime Sponsors:** Sen. Story  
Rep. Froelich

**Date:** July 22, 2019  
**Bill Status:** Signed into Law  
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**Bill Topic:** REGULATION OF ONLINE SCHOOLS

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

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

The bill requires the Colorado Department of Education to collect and report specific enrollment data from multi-district online schools, and modifies elements of multi-district online program authorization, certification, and accountability. The bill minimally increases workload on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note Status:** This fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

## Summary of Legislation

The bill requires that the Office of Blended and Online Learning in the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) collect and report information from online schools and the authorizers of online schools concerning students who withdraw from enrollment after the October student count day. The report must include:

- the date the student withdrew from enrollment;
- the student's grade level at the beginning of the school year and the grade level when the student transferred; and,
- whether the student enrolled in another school, a home-based educational program, or graduated from or completed high school.

The department must summarize and report this information to the State Board of Education and to the General Assembly.

Under current law, a school district, group of school districts, board of cooperative services, or the State Charter School Institute may authorize a multi-district online school after obtaining certification from the CDE. If an existing multi-district online school changes authorizers, this bill requires that the new authorizer obtain a new certification.

If an online school is on performance watch under the state public education accountability system, and the school changes authorizers in its original form, or as a "successor school," this bill requires that the online school remain on performance watch. The bill adds a definition of "successor school" to mean an online school that the CDE determines to be substantially similar to another online school that is currently operating or was recently closed or modified. If an online school is required to close because the school fails to meet accountability requirements, the school must reapply for a new certification before it can operate again.

### **State Expenditures**

The bill minimally increases workload for CDE staff to issue guidance documents to online schools, work with affected programs to ensure accurate and timely data collection, and audit transfer information for the final end of year report. The bill may also increase workload to process additional applications for certification of online school authorizers. This increased workload does not require additional appropriations.

The bill's data collection and reporting requirements can be accommodated within the CDE's existing processes. The current system contains the necessary fields for collecting the enrollment data. The department will be able to tally and submit the required report at the close of the annual reporting process, or January of the following school year.

### **School District**

The bill increases the data reporting workload of online schools to accurately track enrollment data and submit it to the CDE following the October count date.

### **Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect April 10, 2019.

### **State and Local Government Contacts**

Education