



Legislative Council Staff

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Final Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 21-0575	Date:	July 6, 2021
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Fields Rep. Bacon; Froelich	Bill Status:	Signed into Law
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Bill Topic: REVERSING COVID-RELATED LEARNING LOSS

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 the Colorado Department of Education to develop a resource bank to address learning loss and the prioritization of supplemental online learning recovery programming. The bill will increase state and BOCES workload beginning in the current FY 2020-21.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

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

Summary of Legislation

By the fall semester of the 2021-22 school year, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) must create a resource bank of educational products, strategies, and services to address learning loss, including services specifically designed to address learning loss experienced by students of color, low-income students, and students with disabilities. Local education providers (LEPs) may submit descriptions of strategies, services, and programs they have implemented to be included in the resource bank. CDE may provide technical assistance to school districts and charter schools in implementing strategies to address student learning loss.

Starting in the summer of 2021 and through the 2021-22 school year, the bill requires the BOCES that administer online supplemental and blended education to prioritize entering into partnerships with LEPs for the delivery of online courses. If practicable, BOCES and LEPS must, partner with nonprofit entities or community organizations supplemental online learning recovery courses.

LEPs are encouraged prioritize students with the highest need to receive supplemental programming. Both the BOCES and the LEPs must communicate the availability of these courses.

Finally, the bill encourages the CDE to use as much federal COVID-19 recovery money as possible to fund programs to address learning recovery. Starting December 1, 2021, and through December 1, 2024, the CDE must report the use of federal money to the General Assembly.

Background

Supplemental online programs offer one or more computer-based courses to K-12 students to augment an educational program provided by a school district, charter school, or BOCES. Supplemental online programs are not a full-time online school. Rather, these programs add to, or supplement, the course offerings of a local school.

Under current law, the Colorado River BOCES (formally part of Mountain BOCES) has the exclusive authority to contract with a supplemental online education provider, track performance, and report to the General Assembly. The principal vendor providing supplemental online programs is Colorado Digital Learning Solutions.

For the past several fiscal years, the General Assembly has annually appropriated \$1.2 million of federal mineral lease revenue to support supplemental online education.

State Expenditures

The CDE is currently developing an online toolkit for school districts to address learning loss due to COVID-19 pandemic. Workload will increase to align current work with the requirements of the bill; however, this work can be accomplished within existing appropriations.

School District Impact

Starting in FY 2021-22, workload to the Colorado River BOCES will increase to partner with nonprofit or community organizations to expand the use of supplementary online learning recovery courses. Because the bill requires the BOCES to prioritize LEPs, the fiscal note assumes that the bill does not change the overall state funding provided to the BOCES for supplemental online education courses.

In addition, workload to local school districts will increase to notify parents of this option and to prioritize to receive supplemental online learning recovery programming.

Effective Date

This bill was signed into law by the Governor and took effect on May 13, 2021.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

Information Technology

School Districts

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: leg.colorado.gov/fiscalnotes.