



**Legislative Council Staff**

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**Fiscal Note**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 24-0066

**Prime Sponsors:** Sen. Kolker

**Date:** January 29, 2024

**Bill Status:** Senate Education

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**Bill Topic:** **CLARIFY INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM INFORMATION**

<b>Summary of Fiscal Impact:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

The bill requires that the Colorado Department of Education create a training program for special education advocates and parents on federal and state laws related to individualized education programs. The bill increases state expenditures in FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26 only, and increases workload on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation Summary:** For FY 2024-25, the bill requires an appropriation of \$75,288 to the Colorado Department of Education.

**Fiscal Note Status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

**Table 1  
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 24-069**

		<b>Budget Year FY 2024-25</b>	<b>Out Year FY 2025-26</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		-	-
<b>Expenditures</b>	General Fund	\$75,288	\$79,522
	Centrally Appropriated	\$8,408	\$10,510
	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$83,696</b>	<b>\$90,032</b>
	<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>0.4 FTE</b>	<b>0.5 FTE</b>
<b>Transfers</b>		-	-
<b>Other Budget Impacts</b>	General Fund Reserve	\$11,293	\$11,928

## Summary of Legislation

The bill requires that the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) create a training program for special education advocates and parents that includes easy to understand explanations of federal and state laws and procedures related to individualized education programs. The training must be available by July 1, 2026, and must be developed for delivery both in person and online. It may include interpersonal and communication strategies and exercises.

CDE must collaborate with stakeholders to create the training, and publish online a list of advocates who have completed the training and any resources or materials that accompany the training.

## State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in CDE by about \$84,000 in FY 2024-25 and \$90,000 in FY 2025-26 only. In subsequent years, workload in the CDE will minimally increase but will not require additional appropriations. Costs are listed in Table 2 and discussed below.

**Table 2**  
**Expenditures Under SB 24-069**

	<b>FY 2024-25</b>	<b>FY 2025-26</b>
<b>Department of Education</b>		
Personal Services	\$43,106	\$53,882
Operating Expenses	\$512	\$640
Capital Outlay Costs	\$6,670	-
Contract Costs	\$25,000	\$25,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs <sup>1</sup>	\$8,408	\$10,510
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$83,696</b>	<b>\$90,032</b>
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>0.4 FTE</b>	<b>0.5 FTE</b>

<sup>1</sup> Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

**Colorado Department of Education.** CDE will have staff and contracting costs for two years to implement the bill, as follows.

- **Staff.** CDE requires 0.5 FTE in FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26 to develop the training, including collaborating with stakeholders, creating materials to accompany the training, and coordinating with a current vendor on subject matter content. First-year staff levels are prorated for a September start date. Beginning in FY 2026-27, workload to maintain the training will be absorbable without additional appropriations.

- **Contracting.** CDE currently contracts with a vendor to provide content expertise on laws and policies related to individualized education plans and special education. The department will expand the contract in FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26 only to support the development of the training. This cost is estimated at \$25,000 in each year.

**Colorado Department of Early Childhood.** The bill minimally increases workload for the Department of Early Childhood to update processes or materials for early childhood special education to align with the materials provided by CDE. No change in appropriations is required.

**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 shown in Table 2.

### **Other Budget Impacts**

**General Fund reserve.** Under current law, an amount equal to 15 percent of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve by the amounts shown in Table 1, decreasing the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

### **Effective Date**

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

### **State Appropriations**

For FY 2024-25, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$75,288 to the Colorado Department of Education, and 0.4 FTE.

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

Early Childhood                      Education

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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 the [General Assembly website](#).