



**Legislative Council Staff**

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

**Final Fiscal Note**

<b>Drafting Number:</b>	LLS 24-0440	<b>Date:</b>	July 30, 2024
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b>	Sen. Lundeen; Zenzinger Rep. McLachlan; Pugliese	<b>Bill Status:</b>	Signed into Law
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**Bill Topic: REMOTE TESTING & ONLINE EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> School District

The bill allows students in online schools to participate in statewide assessments remotely using a video proctored administration. The bill increases state expenditures beginning FY 2024-25.

**Appropriation Summary:** For FY 2024-25, the bill includes an appropriation of \$440,000 to the Colorado Department of Education.

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

**Table 1  
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 24-070**

		<b>Budget Year FY 2024-25</b>	<b>Out Year FY 2025-26</b>
<b>Revenue</b>		-	-
<b>Expenditures</b>	State Education Fund	\$440,000	\$453,200
	Federal Funds	\$352,000	\$485,300
	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$792,000</b>	<b>\$938,500</b>
<b>Transfers</b>		-	-
<b>Other Budget Impacts</b>		-	-

## Summary of Legislation

Currently, students in online schools must travel to a testing location to participate in state assessments. Beginning with the 2025-26 school year, this bill allows an online school or program to administer state assessments remotely to students in their regular setting of instruction. Online students must take the assessment at a specific time, attend a synchronous session with other online students, and be video monitored by an assessment proctor of the online school, among other testing requirements.

## Background

The Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS) are the state's common measurement of students' progress in English language arts, math and science. Students in grades 3 through 8 take the CMAS tests in math and English language arts. Students in 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades take the CMAS science assessments. Although schools must administer the tests, the cost of CMAS is a primarily a state expenditure, paid from the State Education Fund and federal funds.

The CDE is currently in the procurement process for the CMAS vendor, and is in the process of collecting cost estimates for including an at-home virtually proctored option for online students.

## State Expenditures

The bill is expected to increase state expenditures by \$792,000 in FY 2024-25, and by \$938,500 in FY 2025-26, paid from federal funds and the State Education Fund. Costs are displayed in Table 2 and described below.

**Table 2**  
**Expenditures Under SB 24-070**

	<b>FY 2024-25</b>	<b>FY 2025-26</b>
<b>Department of Education</b>		
Vendor online testing platform	\$440,000	\$453,200
Form development	\$77,000	\$340,000
Proctor training and manuals	\$10,000	\$20,300
Validation and student incentives	\$265,000	\$125,000
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$792,000</b>	<b>\$938,500</b>
Federal Funds	\$352,000	\$485,300
State Education Fund	\$440,000	\$453,200

**Colorado Department of Education.** The cost of the vendor contract for CMAS will increase for an online platform that allows virtually proctored at-home administration, including setup, testing, and hosting. Estimates in the fiscal note are based on a similar contract platform used by the state of Utah, with costs increasing in FY 2025-26 when the online platform becomes operational. Actual costs for the Colorado state contract may be available as CDE goes through the procurement process; this fiscal note will be updated if more information becomes available.

Additional testing forms must be developed and field tested with students during 2024-25 school year in order to validate online scores and align the virtual testing platform with existing school-based CMAS administration. New expenditures also include new online assessment item development, instruction manuals for training proctors and scorers, manuals for at-home students, and incentives for online students to increase participation in validation activities.

### **School District**

Online schools and programs will have workload to adjust to different proctor and scoring protocols to allow online students to participate in CMAS remotely. Testing administration are annual school and district costs to comply with the statewide assessment program.

### **Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor and it took effect on March 21, 2024.

### **State Appropriations**

For FY 2024-25, the final bill includes an appropriation of \$440,000 from the State Education Fund to the Colorado Department of Education.

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

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](#).