



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

SB 26-057: SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS DIRECTOR DISTRICT RESIDENTS

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Baisley
Rep. Marshall

Fiscal Analyst:

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Fiscal note status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill changes school board elections from an at-large format to member district format, except for small districts with fewer than 6,500 students and those that meet exceptions in current law.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas in FY 2026-27 only:

- Minimal State Workload
- Local Governments
- School Districts

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, local school board members are voted on at-large by the electors in the school district, with certain exceptions. The bill requires that local school board members be voted on by electors within member districts. This requirement does not apply to school districts with fewer than 6,500 students enrolled in the year of a school board election, or any of the five prior school years.

Background and Assumptions

Under current law, there are two exceptions from the at-large election format. Under the first exception, if the school district is conterminous with a city and county, five board members are elected from member districts, and two are elected at-large. Under the second exception, the school board election format may be changed if approved by school district voters. The fiscal note assumes that districts qualifying for one of these exceptions under current law will not be required to change their election format under the bill. It is expected that approximately 25 school districts will have their election formats changed as a result of the bill.

State Expenditures

The bill minimally increases workload for the Colorado Department of Education, Secretary of State's Office, and Department of Local Affairs to answer questions and update materials related to school board districts and elections. No change in appropriations is required.

Local Government and School District

The bill increases workload and costs for county clerks to implement the changes to school board elections. Costs include creating new member districts in the statewide voter registration system (SCORE) and handling review and printing of additional ballot versions. Cost will vary by county, depending on whether the school districts are subject to the bill's changes, and the current format of the school district election and ballots.

The bill also increase workload for school districts to update school board election materials, plans, and modify procedures, and coordinate with county clerks' offices on the election changes.

Effective Date

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

State and Local Government Contacts

County Clerks

Local Affairs

Education

Secretary Of State