



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1078: OFF-CAMPUS COURSES & CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT PROGRAMS

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Smith; Hamrick
Sen. Marchman; Kirkmeyer

Fiscal Analyst:

Anna Gerstle, 303-866-4375
anna.gerstle@coleg.gov

Published for: House Education

Drafting number: LLS 26-0429

Version: Initial Fiscal Note

Date: February 10, 2026

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

Summary Information

Overview. The bill allows off-campus courses to be included in concurrent enrollment if certain requirements are met.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- State Expenditures
- School Districts
- Institutions of Higher Education

Appropriations. In FY 2026-27, the bill requires an appropriation of \$66,056 to the Colorado Department of Education.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$80,178	\$85,374
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.6 FTE	0.7 FTE

Fund sources for these impacts are shown in the tables below.

**Table 1A
State Expenditures**

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
General Fund	\$66,056	\$68,899
Cash Funds	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$14,122	\$16,475
Total Expenditures	\$80,178	\$85,374
Total FTE	0.6 FTE	0.7 FTE

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, off-campus courses are excluded from concurrent enrollment programs unless they are part of the Teaching Recruitment Education and Preparation (TREP) program. The bill allows off-campus courses to be included in concurrent enrollment if they meet existing requirements in state law, and meet the requirements of an accrediting agency recognized under federal law.

Background and Assumptions

The fiscal note assumes that the bill allows both current on-campus concurrent enrollment courses, and courses offered through extended studies programs offered by four-year institutions of higher education to be eligible for concurrent enrollment.

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) conducts annual audits of student counts submitted by school districts for funding, including verifying whether course schedules and attendance meet state requirements. For students in concurrent enrollment, the audit includes whether the course qualifies, the associated credit hours, and verification of the cooperative agreements and tuition payments between school districts and institutions of higher education.

The fiscal note assumes that 20 school district audits that include students in concurrent enrollment will be conducted each year. Allowing off-campus programs, including extended studies, to be counted as part of concurrent enrollment will increase the complexity of the audits, increasing staff time by an assumed 15 additional hours per audit, for a total of 300 additional hours.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the CDE by \$80,000 in FY 2026-27, and by \$85,000 in FY 2027-28. These costs, paid from the General Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below. The bill also affects institutions of higher education, as discussed below.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Department of Education

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
Personal Services	\$58,288	\$68,003
Operating Expenses	\$768	\$896
Capital Outlay Costs	\$7,000	\$0
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$14,122	\$16,475
Total Costs	\$80,178	\$85,374
Total FTE	0.6 FTE	0.7 FTE

Colorado Department of Education

CDE requires 0.7 FTE beginning in FY 2026-27, split between the Audit and the Postsecondary Workforce Readiness divisions. The Audit division requires 0.2 FTE to handle more complex audits of student counts, including verifying if off-campus courses meet concurrent enrollment requirements as discussed in the Assumptions Section above, as well as to provide guidance for districts to submit student count and audit materials for the new courses.

In addition, CDE requires 0.5 FTE in the Postsecondary Workforce Readiness division to update guidance eligibility requirements and cooperative agreements for school districts and institutions of higher education, as well as handle questions from families, schools, and institutions. Costs in the first year are prorated for a September 1st start date.

Institutions of Higher Education

The bill increases costs for state institutions of higher education that choose to modify or expand concurrent enrollment course offerings to include off-campus courses. Any changes are at the discretion of the institutions and are assumed to be paid for by institutional revenue, including tuition paid by school districts on behalf of participating students.

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 may include employee insurance, supplemental employee retirement payments, indirect cost assessments, and other costs, are shown in Table 2 above.

School District

The bill may increase workload and costs for school districts that choose to offer additional off-campus concurrent enrollment courses, including negotiating any changes to current agreements with institutions, and paying negotiated tuition on behalf of students who choose to begin concurrent enrollment courses as a result of the bill. Any additional costs or workload is at the discretion of the school district.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

In FY 2026-27, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$66,056 to the Colorado Department of Education, and 0.6 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

Higher Education

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](#).