



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1353: STUDENT STATE ASSESSMENT IN SOCIAL STUDIES

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Brown; Taggart
Sen. Amabile; Bridges

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Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill which was recommended by the Joint Budget Committee as part of its FY 2026-27 budget package.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill eliminates statewide social studies assessments for elementary and middle school students and reduces an appropriation.

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

- State Expenditures
- School Districts

Appropriations. For FY 2026-27, the bill reduces appropriations to the Colorado Department of Education by \$302,835.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures (State Education Fund)	-\$302,835	Not estimated
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill eliminates the requirement that the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) administer a state assessment in social studies to elementary and middle school students, except that CDE must administer the social studies assessment to students in grade seven statewide. It also eliminates the requirement that the CDE administer the test in a representative sample of public schools each year.

The bill reduces the appropriation in the 2026-27 Long Bill from the State Education Fund for the statewide assessment program.

State Expenditures

Beginning in FY 2026-27, the bill reduces expenditures in the CDE by stopping the administration of social studies assessments to elementary and middle school students. For FY 2026-27, costs are reduced by \$302,835. The ongoing expenditure change to continue assessing social studies only in grade seven statewide has not been estimated. The CDE will make any necessary adjustments to the budget request for social studies tests during the annual budget process for FY 2027-28.

School District

The bill minimally decreases workload for school districts to no longer administer the social studies assessment to most elementary and middle school students.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature. However, Section 2 only takes effect if the Long Bill becomes law, with this section taking effect on the effective date of this bill or of the FY 2026-27 Long Bill, whichever is later.

State Appropriations

For FY 2026-27, the bill reduces appropriations from the State Education Fund to the Colorado Department of Education by \$302,835.

In addition, the bill includes technical language making this reduction in appropriations conditional on sufficient appropriations being available in the applicable line item in the FY 2026-27 Long Bill.

State and Local Government Contacts

Joint Budget Committee Staff