



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1352: REDUCING FREQUENCY OF READ ACT EVALUATIONS

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Brown; Taggart
Sen. Bridges; Kirkmeyer

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Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill, which is recommended by the Joint Budget Committee as part of the 2026 Long Bill package.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill changes a requirement for annual evaluations of the READ Act to biennial evaluations, and reduces an appropriation.

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

- State Expenditures

Appropriations. For FY 2026-27, the bill reduces appropriations to the Colorado Department of Education by \$750,000.

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)	-\$750,000	\$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, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is required to contract for a multi-year independent evaluation of the Colorado Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act (READ Act). Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, the independent evaluation must occur biennially. The bill requires that the department post an annual report on its website summarizing the data submitted annually by local education providers, and including any department input on proposed program changes.

State Expenditures

By making the READ Act program evaluation biennial, the bill reduces expenditures for a vendor contract in the CDE by \$750,000 in FY 2026-27, paid from the State Education Fund.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature, except that the change in appropriations takes effect only if the Long Bill is enacted into law.

State Appropriations

For FY 2026-27, the bill requires and includes a \$750,000 reduction in appropriations from the State Education Fund to the Colorado Department of Education.

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

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](#).