

Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

REENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 26-0880.01 Lindy Schaible x4215

HOUSE BILL 26-1352

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Brown and Taggart, Sirota, Story

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Bridges and Kirkmeyer, Amabile

House Committees
Appropriations

Senate Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING REDUCING THE FREQUENCY OF "COLORADO READING**
102 **TO ENSURE ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT" INDEPENDENT**
103 **EVALUATIONS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REDUCING AN**
104 **APPROPRIATION.**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)

Joint Budget Committee. The bill changes the requirement for an independent evaluation of the use of "Colorado Reading to Ensure Academic Development Act" (READ Act) money from an annual

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

HOUSE
3rd Reading Unamended
April 11, 2026

HOUSE
2nd Reading Unamended
April 8, 2026

requirement to a biennial requirement. The bill maintains the requirement that local education providers report READ Act student data to the Colorado department of education (department) every year. The bill adds a requirement that the department issue an annual report that summarizes data from the local education providers and includes any department input on proposed program changes.

The bill reduces the appropriation made in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of education from the state education fund for the early literacy program external evaluation.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1209, **amend**
3 (8)(a) and (8)(e) as follows:

4 **22-7-1209. State board - rules - department - duties -**
5 **independent evaluations.**

6 (8) (a) (I) ~~By October 1, 2019,~~ The department shall ~~issue a~~
7 ~~request for proposals to~~ contract with an entity to act as an independent
8 evaluator to provide independent evaluations of the use of per-pupil
9 intervention money and money received through the early literacy grant
10 program by local education providers and to conduct a multi-year
11 evaluation to determine whether the student outcomes achieved by local
12 education providers in implementing this part 12 meet the goals of this
13 part 12 as described in section 22-7-1202 (2) and (3)(a). BEGINNING IN
14 THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR, THE INDEPENDENT EVALUATIONS MUST
15 OCCUR BIENNIALY.

16 (II) LOCALEUCATION PROVIDERS SHALL CONTINUE TO ANNUALLY
17 SUBMIT TO THE DEPARTMENT THE INFORMATION REQUIRED BY SECTION
18 22-7-1208 (8)(a).

19 (III) IN ADDITION TO POSTING THE INFORMATION AS REQUIRED BY
20 SUBSECTION (9) OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ANNUALLY

1 POST A REPORT ON ITS WEBSITE THAT SUMMARIZES THE DATA FROM THE
2 LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDERS AND INCLUDES ANY DEPARTMENT INPUT ON
3 PROPOSED PROGRAM CHANGES.

4 (e) ~~The independent evaluator contracted pursuant to this~~
5 ~~subsection (8) shall complete the evaluation of the implementation of this~~
6 ~~part 12 as described in subsection (8)(c) of this section by July 1, 2021.~~
7 ~~The department shall include a report of the evaluation in the hearing~~
8 ~~before the joint education committee held pursuant to section 2-7-203 in~~
9 ~~November or December 2021.~~ BEGINNING IN THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR,
10 AND BIENNIALLY THEREAFTER, the independent evaluator shall ~~continue~~
11 ~~evaluations of~~ EVALUATE the growth in reading achieved by local
12 education providers' use of per-pupil intervention money and money
13 received through the early literacy grant program.

14 **SECTION 2. Appropriation - adjustments to 2026 long bill.**

15 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, to implement this
16 act, the cash funds appropriation from the state education fund created in
17 section 17 (4)(a) of article IX of the state constitution made in the annual
18 general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the
19 department of education for use by student learning for the early literacy
20 program external evaluation is decreased by \$750,000.

21 (2) Subsection (1) of this section does not require a reduction of
22 an appropriation in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27
23 state fiscal year if:

24 (a) The amount of the cash fund appropriation from the state
25 education fund made in the annual general appropriation act for the
26 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of education for use by student
27 learning for the early literacy program external evaluation is less than the

1 amount of the adjustment required in subsection (1) of this section; or
2 (b) The annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state
3 fiscal year does not include an appropriation from the state education
4 fund to the department of education for use by student learning for the
5 early literacy program external evaluation.

6 **SECTION 3. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;
7 except that section 2 of this act takes effect only if the annual general
8 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year becomes law, in which
9 case section 2 takes effect upon the effective date of this act or of the
10 annual general appropriation act for state fiscal year 2026-27, whichever
11 is later.

12 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
13 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
14 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
15 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
16 institutions.