



Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff

HB16-1131

FISCAL NOTE

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  State  Local  Statutory Public Entity  Conditional  No Fiscal Impact

**Drafting Number:** LLS 16-0090  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Carver

**Date:** February 2, 2016  
**Bill Status:** House Education  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

**BILL TOPIC:** PUBLIC ED STDS & ASSESSMENTS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	<u>See State Expenditures section.</u>	
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> None.		

**Summary of Legislation**

Currently, Colorado participates as a governing board member in a consortium of states engaged in creating and implementing a common set of tests for use across consortium members (the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College or Careers or PARCC). This bill repeals the requirement that the state participate in the consortium.

If requested by the State Board of Education (state board), the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is required to recommend a plan for the board to approve testing options for local education providers to administer for each subject and grade in which state tests are required. The plan must be consistent with the recently reauthorized federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The approved testing options must provide a valid measure of student achievement, and allow sufficient comparability of performance to ensure statewide accountability.

Under current law, the CDE considers competitive bids for a curriculum-based college entrance exam for eleventh grade students and a college achievement pre-test for tenth grade students. This bill repeals the requirement for a recurring bid process, and instead requires that the state board select these tests no later than July 1, 2021.

The bill authorizes the CDE to reduce the amount of statewide testing if the state board directs the department to participate in a federally approved pilot program.

## **State Expenditures**

The bill does not change expenditures for FY 2015-16 or FY 2016-17; however, should the state board direct the department to develop alternative plans, and depending on future recommendations made by the department, state expenditures may change in the future.

The bill also authorizes the department to reduce the total amount of statewide testing if directed by the state board to participate in a federally approved pilot program. If the state board directs the department to apply, and the state is approved to participate in a federal pilot program, changes in state expenditures for assessments and accountability can be anticipated; however, as the details of future pilot projects and the state's participation is unknown, the fiscal note makes no estimate for appropriation purposes.

**Assumptions.** This fiscal note makes the following assumptions:

- The bill makes participation in the PARCC consortium discretionary but not mandatory. This note assumes that Colorado will continue to be a consortium member and continue to administer PARCC developed tests in the state's accountability system.
- Planning for and presenting options to the state board about possible changes to the state's accountability system is current practice for the CDE. Making cost estimates of potential testing changes is also a component of the plans and recommendations made by the department. No additional appropriations are required until the state board requests and approves changes.
- Accountability planning includes discussions on ways to provide testing options for local education providers while ensuring that any changes to the system are in compliance with state and federal law.
- The bill authorizes, but does not ensure that Colorado will participate in pilot projects available under federal law. Participation in a federal pilot project may not impact the amount of statewide testing currently undertaken.

## **Effective Date**

The bill takes effect August 10, 2016, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 11, 2016, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Education      Higher Education      Law