



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**SB17-123**

**FINAL  
FISCAL NOTE**

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

<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 17-0794	<b>Date:</b> September 1, 2017
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Sen. Priola; Zenzinger Rep. Hamner; Wilson	<b>Bill Status:</b> Signed into Law
	<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

**BILL TOPIC:** SEAL OF BILITERACY FOR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Minimal workload increase. See State Expenditures section.	
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> None.		

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill authorizes a school district, Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), or institute charter high school to grant a diploma endorsement in biliteracy to a student who demonstrates proficiency in English and at least one foreign language. The bill establishes the requirements a graduating high school student must meet to obtain the biliteracy endorsement, including passing a world language advanced placement (AP) test with a score of three or higher, and/or passing the English language arts portion of an international baccalaureate test with a score of four or higher.

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) may identify summative tests in world languages comparable in rigor to AP tests, and local education providers (LEPs) may choose to use these tests in place of an AP test. Alternatively, an LEP may create its own assessment, or develop a required body of evidence students may use to demonstrate foreign language proficiency. If an LEP develops its own assessment, it must certify to the CDE that the measure is comparable in rigor to an AP test, or to a summative assessment administered at the completion of a four-year high school course of study in the world language.

If an AP assessment exists or the CDE has identified a comparable test for a world language, and the LEP creates and uses an alternative assessment, the CDE must first approve the local assessment. Any alternate assessment developed by an LEP must be made available to the CDE for sharing with other interested LEPs.

**State Expenditures**

The bill will increase workload for the CDE to review measures of world language proficiency certified by an LEP. This increase is anticipated to be minimal and does not require any change in the department's appropriations.

**School District Impact**

The bill increases the workload for any school district, BOCES, or institute charter high school that chooses to offer an endorsement in biliteracy to its students. Districts will need to identify suitable assessments to measure foreign language proficiency, certify those measures of proficiency to the CDE, administer the assessment to candidates for a biliteracy endorsement, and note assessment results on a students transcript and endorsed diploma.

**Effective Date**

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on March 3, 2017, and it became effective on August 9, 2017.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Education

Higher Education

Law