



Legislative  
Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

**FISCAL NOTE**

<b>Drafting Number:</b>	LLS 20B-0043	<b>Date:</b>	November 30, 2020
<b>Prime Sponsors:</b>	Rep. Young; Soper Sen. Donovan	<b>Bill Status:</b>	House SVMA
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**Bill Topic:** GRANTS TO IMPROVE INTERNET ACCESS IN P-12 EDUCATION

**Summary of Fiscal Impact:**

<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Districts
<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity

This bill creates a grant program in the Colorado Department of Education to distribute funding to local education providers to increase internet access for students and staff. It will increase state and local expenditures in FY 2020-21.

**Appropriation Summary:** In FY 2020-21, the bill includes an appropriation of \$20.0 million to the Colorado Department of Education.

**Fiscal Note Status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

**Table 1**  
**State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 20B-1001**

		FY 2020-21 <i>(current year)</i>	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
<b>Revenue</b>		-	-	-
<b>Expenditures</b>	General Fund	\$20.0 million	-	-
<b>Transfers</b>		-	-	-
<b>TABOR Refund</b>		-	-	-

## Summary of Legislation

This bill creates the Connecting Colorado Students Grant Program in the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to provide grants to local education providers for broadband services and other technology for increased internet access for students, educators, and staff who lack stable, reliable internet access for online learning.

The CDE will review applications in consultation with the Office of Information Technology (OIT), the Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), and broadband and education technology experts. The Commissioner of Education will award the grants. Criteria for grant applications, funding prioritization, and grant usage is outlined in the bill. Grants funded from FY 2020-21 appropriations must be distributed by February 1, 2021. By July 15, 2021, and every six months thereafter, as necessary, the CDE must submit a report on the grant program.

The bill also creates the continuously appropriated Connecting Colorado Students Grant Program Cash Fund and allows up to 2 percent of administrative costs to come out of annual appropriations to the fund.

In addition, the bill requires the CDE, in collaboration with OIT and broadband service providers, to develop and post online a list of free or low-cost broadband services and other internet access resources for students, educators, and staff by January 10, 2021. The list must be updated as necessary.

## State Expenditures

In the current FY 2020-21, the bill provides a one-time appropriation of \$20.0 million from the state General Fund to the newly created Connecting Colorado Students Grant Program Cash Fund. Costs will increase in the CDE and the OIT to implement the program, as shown in Table 2 and discussed below. This impact is currently one-time, but may continue if additional funding is provided to the program in future years.

**Table 2**  
**Expenditures Under HB 20B-1001**

	FY 2020-21 <i>(current year)</i>	FY 2021-22	FY 2022-23
<b>Department of Education</b>			
Administrative Costs	up to \$400,000	-	-
Grants	at least \$19,600,000	-	-
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$20,000,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

**Department of Education.** The CDE will require additional staffing and technology resources to create the grant program, review applications, distribute funds, and report; as well as to coordinate with other entities, as required by the bill. This will require work on behalf of CDE's Grants Fiscal Unit, Office of Competitive Grants, and Information Management Services Division. Administrative expenses are not expected to exceed the two percent allowed under the bill.

**Office of Information Technology.** The OIT will require approximately 20 hours of work to provide consultation for the application review and assist in completing the broadband providers list. No change in appropriations is required.

## School Districts

In the current FY 2020-21, the bill increases workload for any school district that applies for a grant, and increases revenue and expenditures for school districts that receive a grant and implement additional internet services. Similar to the state, this impact is currently one-time, but may continue in future years if additional funding is provided to the program.

## Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

## State Appropriations

The bill includes an appropriation of \$20,000,000 from the General Fund to the Connecting Colorado Students Grant Program Cash Fund in the Colorado Department of Education. The fund is continuously appropriated to CDE.

## State and Local Government Contacts

Education                      Information Technology                      Personnel                      Regulatory Agencies