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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 22-0568	Date:	February 2, 2022
Prime Sponsors:	Sen. Rankin; Bridges Rep. McCluskie	Bill Status:	Senate Education
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Bill Topic: **EVIDENCE-BASED TRAINING IN SCIENCE OF READING**

Summary of Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Government
	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School District

The bill requires that elementary school administrators and certain librarians be trained in scientifically and evidence-based reading instruction. The bill increases state and local expenditures beginning FY 2022-23.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2022-23, the bill requires an appropriation of \$251,139 to the Colorado Department of Education.

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

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 22-004

		Budget Year FY 2022-23	Out Year FY 2023-24
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	Cash Fund	\$251,139	\$88,165
	Centrally Appropriated	\$13,621	\$8,372
	Total Expenditures	\$264,760	\$96,537
	Total FTE	0.8 FTE	0.5 FTE
Transfers		-	-
Other Budget Impacts		-	-

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, local education providers (LEPs) that receive per-pupil intervention money or grants under the Early Literacy Grant Program (READ Act) must ensure that all early grade teachers successfully complete evidence-based training in the science of reading instruction. If requested, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) must provide the training at no cost. Beginning with the 2023-24 school year, this bill extends the training requirement to each principal in schools serving kindergarten through third grade, and any administrator with responsibility for early grade programs. Beginning in FY 2023-24, LEPs must submit evidence they are in compliance with the principal and administrator training requirement to receive per-pupil intervention money.

By January 2023, the board of trustees for any public library must adopt policies to support parents and children to improve reading and ensure that each librarian successfully completes evidence-based training in the science of reading instruction. Librarians have until September 1, 2024, to complete the training and pass the end of course test. If requested, the CDE must provide the training at no cost. Public libraries must also make evidence-based materials and activities available to improve reading.

Background

The Colorado READ Act currently requires all K-3 teachers to be trained in scientifically and evidence-based reading instruction by the 2022-23 school year. School districts are required to submit evidence that its teachers fulfilled the requirement to receive Early Literacy Grant or READ Act per-pupil intervention funds. The CDE has an annual vendor contract to develop the training content. The contract also includes an online delivery platform, allowing a self-paced learning experience for teachers. The platform tracks teachers' progress through the training and includes testing components. The completed module for teachers takes about 45 hours to complete.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the CDE by about \$264,760 in FY 2022-23, and by \$96,537 in FY 2023-24. Appropriations are from the Early Literacy Cash Fund and are ongoing. New costs are displayed in Table 2 and described below.

**Table 2
Expenditures Under SB 22-004**

Cost Components	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
Department of Education		
Personal Services	\$62,484	\$37,490
Operating Expenses	\$1,080	\$675
Capital Outlay Costs	\$6,200	-
Course Development	\$160,000	-
Platform Maintenance	-	\$50,000
READ Act Data Reporting	\$21,375	-
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$13,621	\$8,372
FTE – Personal Services	0.8 FTE	0.5 FTE
Total	\$264,760	\$96,537
Total FTE	0.8 FTE	0.5 FTE

¹ Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Personal services. Under current law, CDE devotes 6.5 FTE to manage the 23,000 teachers who are required to meet the current training requirement. The department will add 0.8 FTE (Senior Consultant) in FY 2022-23, which reduces to 0.5 FTE in FY 2023-24 and ongoing to manage the additional administrators and librarians. This work includes rulemaking to determine course criteria, managing the vendor contract for new course development, approving standards for successful completion and verification, and developing a system to track and report ongoing need and completions. Personal service costs are prorated in FY 2022-23 to account for the presumed September 1 effective date.

Online course development and platform. The existing READ Act training was created for delivery to early grade elementary teachers. This platform will be modified to create two additional trainings, one for early grade administrators, and one for children’s librarians, customized with content, knowledge and skills relevant to those populations. Based on the existing vendor contract, it is estimated that \$160,000 is required in FY 2022-23 to develop separate training courses for administrators and librarians. The annual contract maintenance cost for these online platforms is estimated at \$50,000 beginning in FY 2023-24.

Data collection. In order to collect the necessary information on training for principals and administrators, the current READ Act data collection system must be modified to include additional fields. A one-time cost of \$21,375 in FY 2022-23 is required.

Centrally appropriated costs. Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which include employee insurance and supplemental employee retirement payments, are shown in Table 2.

School Districts and Local Governments

The bill requires that administrators and librarians in public schools, and librarians in other public libraries complete evidence-based training in the science of reading and pass the end of course test. Assuming all these professionals avail themselves of the free course provided by CDE, local costs are mostly the paid time to obtain the additional professional development, verification of completion, and reporting to the CDE.

For example, there are over 3,500 school administrators and the average salary is about \$93,838. If 60 percent are elementary school administrators, 2,133 could require the new training at an average salary cost of \$45 an hour. The precise number and location of school district professionals who require additional training is unknown.

Municipalities and other library districts will also have similar wage costs to train all required persons. It is estimated that public libraries employ about 940 librarians, at an average rate of \$30 per hour.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2022-23, the bill requires an appropriation of \$251,139 from the Early Literacy Cash Fund to the Colorado Department of Education, and 0.8 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Counties

Education

Higher Education

Municipalities

School Districts