



Legislative Council Staff

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Revised Fiscal Note

(replaces fiscal note dated March 18, 2022)

Drafting Number: LLS 22-0642 Date: May 4, 2022
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Coram; Zenzinger Bill Status: House Education
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Bill Topic: COLORADO SAFE STUDENT PROTECTION PROGRAM

- Summary of Fiscal Impact:
[X] State Revenue [ ] TABOR Refund
[X] State Expenditure [ ] Local Government
[ ] State Transfer [X] School Districts

The bill creates the Safe Student Protection Program to provide grants to school districts and to contract with a program facilitator to improve student and school bus safety. The bill increases state expenditures through FY 2024-25.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2021-22, the bill includes an appropriation of \$3.5 million to the Department of Education.

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

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 22-085

Table with 4 columns: Category, Sub-category, Budget Year FY 2022-23, and Out Year FY 2023-24. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund, Centrally Appropriated, Total Expenditures, Total FTE), Transfers, and Other Budget Impacts (General Fund Reserve).

## **Summary of Legislation**

The bill creates the Colorado Safe Student Protection Program in the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to award grants and provide a program facilitator to increase student and school bus safety. The CDE must issue a report to the General Assembly about the program as part of its SMART Act hearing.

**Grant program.** The CDE must award grants to school districts to:

- provide parents with non-cost secure digital notification and information tools;
- equip school buses with hardware and software that monitor driver behavior and to enable communication with first responders; and
- fund bus safety training.

Before awarding grants, the State Board of Education must adopt rules that outline the application process; criteria for awarding grants; and grant distributions to rural, urban, and suburban school districts. The bill outlines other requirements school districts must follow when they submit an application, and the information they must report when they receive a grant. The CDE must award grants as soon as possible after the effective date of the bill.

**Program facilitator.** The CDE must select an organization to serve as a program facilitator. The program facilitator must:

- support school districts awarded grants;
- develop and maintain secure digital notification and information tools;
- recruit school bus drivers;
- conduct or facilitate federal transportation security awareness training;
- develop school bus transportation safety information;
- conduct a statewide safety awareness campaign; and
- seek additional funding sources for the program.

The program facilitator must have at least seven years of experience in student and school bus safety and in conducting fundraising campaigns. The program facilitator must submit a report to the CDE concerning the operation of the program.

**Funding.** The bill appropriates \$3.5 million to the CDE in FY 2022-23. The bill requires that 50 percent of the funds appropriated to the program to be awarded to the program facilitator for the duties listed above.

## **State Revenue**

The bill allows the CDE to seek and accept gifts, grants, and private donations. Starting in FY 2022-23, state revenue will increase if the CDE receives donations. No source or amount of private donations has been identified. Gifts, grants, and donations are not subject to TABOR.

**State Expenditures**

The bill increases state expenditures in the CDE by \$3.5 million starting in FY 2022-23 from the General Fund. Expenditures are shown in Table 2 and detailed below.

**Table 2  
Expenditures Under SB 22-085**

	FY 2022-23	FY 2023-24
<b>Department of Education</b>		
Personal Services	\$116,844	\$74,980
Operating Expenses	\$2,295	\$1,350
Capital Outlay Costs	\$12,400	-
RFP Purchasing	\$17,850	-
Program Facilitator	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000
Grants	\$1,600,611	\$1,673,670
Centrally Appropriated Costs <sup>1</sup>	\$25,511	\$16,744
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$3,525,511</b>	<b>\$3,516,744</b>
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>1.5 FTE</b>	<b>1.0 FTE</b>

<sup>1</sup> Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

**Staffing costs.** The CDE will require 1.5 FTE in FY 2022-23 and 1.0 FTE in FY 2023-24 to administer the program. This includes 0.8 FTE to select, oversee, and support the program facilitator and 0.9 FTE to develop and oversee the grant program. Work includes developing rules, creating applications, providing technical assistance, reviewing applications, providing support, and compiling a report. Staffing costs in outyear are reduced to 0.5 FTE to oversee the program facilitator and 0.5 FTE to oversee the grant program. Costs include personal services, standard operating, and capital outlay costs shown in Table 1. Costs in FY 2022-23 are prorated for the General Fund paydate shift.

**RFP purchase services.** In FY 2022-23 only, costs in the CDE will increase by \$17,850 to contract with a purchasing agent to issue a request for proposal (RFP). The fiscal note estimates 350 hours of work at \$51 per hour.

**Program facilitator.** Expenditures in the CDE will increase by \$1.8 million per year starting in FY 2022-23 to provide funds to the program facilitator.

**Grant funding.** Starting in FY 2022-23, expenditures in the CDE will increase to provide grants to school districts. The fiscal note estimates that there will be \$1.6 million in FY 2022-23 and \$1.7 million in FY 2023-24 for grants.

**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.

## **Other Budget Impacts**

**General Fund reserve.** Under current law, an amount equal to 13.4 percent in the current FY 2021-22 and 15 percent beginning in FY 2022-23 of General Fund appropriations must be set aside in the General Fund statutory reserve. Based on this fiscal note, the bill is expected to increase the amount of General Fund held in reserve as shown in Table, which will decrease the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

## **School District**

Starting in FY 2022-23, workload in school districts will increase to submit applications for grant funding. To the extent districts receive grant funding, revenue to the districts will increase and workload will increase to report the required information outlined in the bill.

## **Effective Date**

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

## **State Appropriations**

For FY 2022-23, the bill includes a General Fund appropriation of \$3,500,000 to the Department of Education, and 1.5 FTE.

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

Education                      School Districts