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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 23-0850 Date: March 14, 2023
Prime Sponsors: Rep. McLachlan; Pugliese Sen. Marchman; Lundeen Bill Status: House Education
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Bill Topic: MATH IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE

- Summary of Fiscal Impact:
- State Revenue
- State Expenditure
- State Transfer
- TABOR Refund
- School District
- Statutory Public Entity

The bill requires educator training in math education, establishes a grant program to provide free enrichment and academic supports in math, and encourages schools to adopt strategies for improvement in math education. The bill increases state expenditures beginning FY 2023-24.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2023-24, the bill requires an appropriation of \$25.6 million to the Colorado Department of Education.

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

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 23-1231

Table with 4 columns: Category, Budget Year FY 2023-24, Out Year FY 2024-25, Out Year FY 2025-26. 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 makes changes related to math education, including establishing educator training, technical assistance, strategies for improvement, and a grant program to support math education.

Educator training. By January 2024, the bill requires that the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) make available free, optional trainings for K-12 educators in math education using a train-the-trainer model. The training must include interventions and strategies to improve student proficiency and assist students who are below grade level or struggling in mathematics.

The department must create and maintain a list of evidence-based curricula and assessment options for math, and provide interventions for improving math achievement, including options that may be available to parents remotely. If requested, CDE must provide technical assistance to rural and small rural districts and schools, including interventions to help students struggling in math.

Local education providers. The bill requires that local education providers (LEPs) identify strategies to assist students who are below grade level in math and set targets for increasing the student achievement in math as part of the LEP's annual improvement plan. The bill also encourages LEPs to adopt procedures to support students to improve academic achievement in math, which may include specified intervention strategies, making additional resources available to parents, and implementing a train-the-trainer method that prepares educators to train others in best practices in math education.

Grant program. The bill creates the Colorado Academic Accelerator Grant Program in the CDE to create community learning centers that provide free academic enrichment and support activities to help students in science, technology, engineering, and math. Eligible grantees may include at least one LEPs, community-based organizations, Indian tribes, or a public or private entity.

The CDE must administer the grant program based on rules adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE). The bill establishes prioritization criteria for applicants and allowable uses for the funds. By July 1, 2024, the CDE must contract with a third party evaluator to review and report on the impact the grant program. The report must be submitted to the General Assembly by October 1 each year.

Funding. For FY 2023-24, the bill requires that the General Assembly appropriate \$25 million to the CDE for the grant program, with continuous spending authority through FY 2026-27. The department may use up to five percent for monitoring and evaluation programs, and providing training and technical assistance.

Ninth Grade Success Program. The bill changes the prioritization criteria for awarding grants from the Ninth Grade Success Grant Program to include applicants with consistently low ranking performance or that propose math-focused intervention strategies.

Early childhood education. The bill adds early numeracy to the continuing professional development required of licensed preschool teachers, and requires the Department of Early Childhood to include early numeracy in the department's resource bank of preschool curricula.

Higher education. The bill requires that the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) require educator preparation programs at institutions of higher education to train teacher candidates in mathematics education, including interventions for students who are below grade level, who have disabilities, or who are English language learners.

State Expenditures

For FY 2023-24, the bill increases state General Fund expenditures in CDE by \$25.7 million, including the \$25 million appropriation required for the Math Accelerator Grant Program that will be spent over several years. Expenditures for the first three fiscal years are shown in Table 2 and detailed below. The bill also increases workload for the Department of Early Childhood and the Department of Higher Education.

Table 2
CDE Expenditures Under HB 23-1231

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26
Educator Training and Improvement Planning			
Personal Services	\$286,245	\$312,267	\$312,267
Operating Expenses	\$4,725	\$4,725	\$4,725
Capital Outlay Costs	\$26,680	-	-
Math Education Training	\$167,850	\$150,000	\$150,000
Math Curricula and Assessment Review	\$99,880	-	-
Technical Assistance	\$9,150	\$3,900	-
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$62,088	\$67,833	\$67,833
FTE – Personal Services	3.2 FTE	3.5 FTE	3.5 FTE
Training Programs Subtotal	\$656,618	\$538,725	\$534,825
Math Accelerator Grant Program			
Personal Services	\$228,434	\$213,514	\$213,514
Operating Expenses	\$3,510	\$3,240	\$3,240
Capital Outlay Costs	\$20,010	-	-
Tech Assistance and Staff Travel	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Professional Evaluator	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000
Community Learning Center Grants	\$5,938,046	\$5,973,246	\$5,973,246
Centrally Appropriated Costs ¹	\$50,058	\$46,456	\$46,456
FTE – Personal Services	2.6 FTE	2.4 FTE	2.4 FTE
Grant Program Subtotal	\$6,300,058	\$6,296,456	\$6,296,456
Total	\$6,956,676	\$6,835,181	\$6,831,281
Total FTE	5.8 FTE	5.9 FTE	5.9 FTE

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

Colorado Department of Education. The CDE will have increased expenditures for training, curricula and assessment evaluation, grant program administration, among other tasks.

Personal services. The CDE will add a total of 5.9 FTE. Of that amount, 3.5 FTE will be in the Teaching and Learning Unit to manage a statewide stakeholder engagement process for the curricula and assessment review, manage a request for proposals process and oversee third party contracts for math education training, deliver training and technical assistance in math education, and manage modifications to the improvement planning process. CDE will also add 2.4 FTE across several units to develop, implement, and manage the Math Accelerator Grant Program, including a program manager, program assistant, and administrative and accounting staff. Personal services cost includes standard operating and capital outlay costs. FTE and costs have been prorated in FY 2023-24 for the General Fund pay date shift, and also account for staff time associated with establishing the grant program.

Math education training. CDE will procure web-based and in-person train-the-trainer programs for schools and districts that request it. Assuming that 75 schools or districts request the training at a per-educator cost of \$200, total expenses are estimated at \$150,000.

Curricula and assessment review. The bill requires that CDE consult with stakeholders to create and publish evidence based curricula and assessments for math education. Cost estimates are based on the department's experience with outreach and stakeholder engagement necessary to implement the READ Act, and includes convening stakeholders, staff and stakeholder travel and lodging, venue rental, and substitute teachers.

Professional evaluation. The bill requires that CDE engage a contract evaluator for the grant program, estimated at \$40,000 annually.

Community learning center grants. Grants to LEPs, community-based organizations, and consortia is the largest cost component of the grant program. Assuming an initial appropriation of \$25 million, and accounting for administrative expenses to create and implement the grant program, about \$6.0 million is available annually for grants to create community learning centers. The actual amount of grant awards and the fiscal year of expenditures must be determined by the department.

Department of Early Childhood. The bill increases workload for the Department of Early Childhood to incorporate early numeracy into the rules for early childhood professional development.

Department of Higher Education. The bill increases workload for the Department of Higher Education to incorporate math training into education preparation program requirements.

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 15 percent 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 by the amounts shown in Table 1, decreasing the amount of General Fund available for other purposes.

School District

School district workload increases to provide additional training opportunities to educators, engage as stakeholders in development of math curricula and assessment lists, and to modify elements of school and district improvement planning. LEPs that create a community learning center will have grant assistance from CDE available to implement additional math interventions and supports for students.

Effective Date

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

State Appropriations

For FY 2023-24, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$25,594,530 to the Colorado Department of Education, and 5.8 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

Early Childhood Education

Higher Education