



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 25-1061: COMMUNITY SCHOOLYARDS GRANT PROGRAM

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Taggart; Bacon
Sen. Amabile; Kirkmeyer

Fiscal Analyst:

John Armstrong, 303-866-6289
john.armstrong@coleg.gov

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Summary Information

Overview. The bill creates the Community Schoolyards Grant Program and associated cash fund within the Department of Local Affairs to fund the design and construction of community schoolyards in communities socially or economically affected by minerals and mineral fuels activity.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas from FY 2025-26 through FY 2028-29:

- State Revenue
- State Transfers
- State Expenditures
- Local Government
- School Districts

Appropriations. For FY 2025-26, the bill requires spending authority up to \$4,000,000 from the Community Schoolyards Grant Fund Program, and 1.6 FTE.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28	Out Year FY 2028-29
State Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$3,630,369	\$170,054	\$170,054	\$170,054
Transferred Funds	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	1.6 FTE	2.0 FTE	2.0 FTE	2.0 FTE

¹ Fund sources for these impacts are shown in the tables below.

**Table 1A
State Expenditures**

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28	Out Year FY 2028-29
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Cash Funds	\$3,600,784	\$133,072	\$133,072	\$133,072
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$29,585	\$36,982	\$36,982	\$36,982
Total Expenditures	\$3,630,369	\$170,054	\$170,054	\$170,054
Total FTE	1.6 FTE	2.0 FTE	2.0 FTE	2.0 FTE

**Table 1B
State Transfers**

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28	Out Year FY 2028-29
Local Government Severance Tax Fund	-\$4,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Community Schoolyards Grant Program Fund	\$4,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Net Transfer	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates the Community Schoolyards Grant Program in the Division of Local Government (DLG) in the Department of Local Affairs (DOLA). The grants are for local education providers, boards of cooperative education services, and tribal organizations to create park-like environments at schools that provide hands-on programming to students, enhance well-being of students and community members, and address inequities in underserved communities, particularly those affected by minerals and mineral fuels subject to severance tax.

Grant recipients are awarded up to \$150,000 for planning and design of a community schoolyard and up to \$850,000 for the construction of these schoolyards. Recipients of construction funds do not need to have received a planning and design grant if they provide appropriate documents in their application.

The bill outlines the selection criteria that the DLG must follow when evaluating grant applications and selecting recipients, and specifies the required information grant recipients must report. The DLG may consult with other relevant state agencies, and must develop a timeline for both the planning and design phase and construction phase of the grant by January 15, 2026. By January 15, 2028, the DLG must report to the legislature on grants awarded.

The bill creates the Community Schoolyards Grant Program Fund to support the program. On September 1, 2025, the bill requires a transfer of \$4.0 million from the Local Government Severance Tax Fund to this newly created cash fund. The fund may accept gifts, grants, and donations, and is subject to annual appropriation by the General Assembly.

On October 1, 2028, any unspent money in the schoolyards cash fund is reverted back to the Local Government Severance Tax Fund. The grant program is repealed January 1, 2030.

Assumptions

The fiscal note assumes that the \$4.0 million transferred to the Community Schoolyards Grant Program Fund will be spent over four years.

State Revenue

The bill may increase state revenue to the Community Schoolyards Grant Program Fund from gifts, grants, and donations; however, no sources have been identified as of writing. Gifts, grants, and donations are exempt from TABOR revenue limits.

State Transfers

As shown in Table 1B, the bill transfers \$4.0 million from the Local Government Severance Tax Fund to the Community Schoolyards Grant Program Fund on September 1, 2025. The transfer must come from the portion of the Local Government Severance Tax Fund that is distributed to local governments impacted by mineral fuels and severance taxes.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in DOLA by \$4.0 million from FY 2025-26 through FY 2028-29. These costs, paid from the Community Schoolyards Grant Program Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below. The bill also minimally impacts workload in other state agencies.

**Table 2
State Expenditures
Department of Local Affairs**

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28	Out Year FY 2028-29
Personal Services	\$104,410	\$130,512	\$130,512	\$130,512
Operating Expenses	\$2,048	\$2,560	\$2,560	\$2,560
Capital Outlay Costs	\$13,340	\$0	\$0	\$0
Grants to Community Organizations ¹	\$3,480,986	\$0	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$29,585	\$36,982	\$36,982	\$36,982
Total Costs	\$3,630,369	\$170,054	\$170,054	\$170,054
Total FTE	1.6 FTE	2.0 FTE	2.0 FTE	2.0 FTE

¹ Grants are shown in FY 2025-26, but are assumed to be awarded and spent over four years.

Department of Local Affairs

Staff

DOLA requires 2.0 FTE to administer the new grant program, which includes 1.0 FTE Community and Economic Development Position and 1.0 FTE Program Assistant. These staff will coordinate with local community organizations, school districts, and state agencies to promote the grant, develop criteria for evaluating grant applications, select awardees, provide technical assistance, distribute funds and complete required reporting for the program. Costs are prorated to assume a September 2025 start date and include standard operating expenses and capital outlay costs.

Grants

After accounting for staffing costs over the four-year lifespan of the grant program, approximately \$3.5 million is expected to be available to distribute as grants for planning and construction of community schoolyards.

Other Agency Impacts

The State Board of the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund, the Outdoor Equity Board in the Department of Natural Resources, the Environmental Justice Advisory Board in the Department of Public Health and Environment, and the Public School Capital Construction Assistance Board in the Colorado Department of Education will have increased workloads to assist in reviewing grant applications and providing technical assistance to consult with DOLA regarding the grant program. This workload impact can be accomplished within the existing appropriations of these agencies.

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 may include employee insurance, supplemental employee retirement payments, leased space, and indirect cost assessments, are shown in the expenditure table above.

Local Government

The bill transfers \$4.0 million from the Local Government Severance Tax Fund that currently funds the Energy/Mineral Impact Assistance Fund grant program (EIAF). The EIAF funds grants to political subdivisions that are socially or economically impacted by the development, processing, or energy conversion of minerals and mineral fuels. By transferring this amount and reallocating it to another purpose, local governments in energy-impacted communities will see a shift in the projects available for grant funds.

School District

School districts that choose to apply for grants will have increased workload to submit applications materials, plan and design the schoolyard, and oversee construction of the facilities upon being awarded a grant.

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 2025-26, the bill requires cash fund spending authority up to \$4,000,000 to the Department of Local Affairs from the Community Schoolyards Grant Program Fund, and 1.6 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education	Personnel
Legislative Council Staff	Public Health and Environment
Local Affairs	Revenue
Natural Resources	Treasury

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).