



# Fiscal Note

## Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

### SB 25-123: CURRICULUM ON GENOCIDE AGAINST NATIVE AMERICANS

**Prime Sponsors:**

Sen. Gonzales J.  
Rep. Camacho

**Fiscal Analyst:**

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**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note

**Date:** February 11, 2025

**Fiscal note status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

### Summary Information

**Overview.** The bill expands curriculum related to Holocaust and genocide studies taught in public schools to include genocide against Native Americans.

**Types of impacts.** The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- State Expenditures
- School Districts

**Appropriations.** For FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation of \$20,000 to the Colorado Department of Education.

**Table 1  
State Fiscal Impacts**

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures (General Fund)	\$20,000	\$8,160
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

## Summary of Legislation

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Under current law, the State Board of Education (SBE) adopts standards related to Holocaust and genocide studies, which must be incorporated by public schools and districts into courses required for graduation. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) maintains a resource bank that schools and districts can use to incorporate these standards.

This bill expands the standards to include the genocide against Native Americans, the Sand Creek Massacre, and Native American residential and boarding schools. No later than January 1, 2026, the SBE must adopt standards for the expanded curriculum.

The bill also requires that the CDE update and revise its existing resource bank with materials related to these topics no later than July 1, 2027. The revised materials must be developed in consultation with Native Americans affected by genocide, including the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes.

## Background

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CDE's Office of Standards and Instructional Support meets to assist the board in updating K-12 education standards on a six-year cycle. The next review and update of social studies standards—the content area where education on genocide is typically updated—is scheduled to occur in 2028. As part of the normal timeline, the CDE conducts research and prepares a benchmarking report to be considered by the board when they meet to revise the standards.

## State Expenditures

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The bill increases state expenditures in the CDE by \$20,000 in FY 2025-26, and by \$8,160 in FY 2026-27, paid from the General Fund.

The bill will require the Office of Standards and Instructional Support to meet outside of their normal six-year cycle to adopt standards by January 1, 2026. Standards adoption involves per-diem reimbursement and meeting expenses for a standards review committee. Additionally, CDE writes a benchmarking report for each standards review process. By meeting in 2026, outside of the normal six-year window, CDE will incur \$5,000 in per-diem travel, meeting expenses, and \$15,000 to prepare the benchmarking report.

Costs in FY 2026-27 are for developing additional materials for the resource bank in collaboration with the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Indian tribes. This effort assumes a six-person committee will convene to identify and recommend additional educational resources, and will require expenditures for per-diem travel and meetings.

## **School District**

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Beginning in 2028, school districts will adjust their social studies curriculum to implement the topics required by the bill. Workload and costs will vary based on current curricula and course offerings, and may include content creation, modification, and professional development.

## **Technical Note**

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School districts are required to implement the revised standards if the SBE adopts the revisions by July 1, 2026; however, the bill requires that the SBE adopt standards by January 1, 2026.

## **Effective Date**

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

## **State and Local Government Contacts**

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Education

School Districts