



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

BILL 4: CREATE YOUTH HEALTH LITERACY OVERSIGHT PANEL

Prime Sponsors:

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Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the bill draft requested by the Representative Hugh McKean Colorado Youth Advisory Council Review Committee.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill creates the Youth Health Literacy Oversight Panel to identify youth health literacy deficits in the state and make recommendations.

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 \$244,589 to the Department of Public Health and Environment.

**Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts**

Type of Impact¹	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$262,971	\$218,217	\$114,217
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.9 FTE	0.6 FTE	0.6 FTE

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

**Table 1A
State Expenditures**

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
General Fund	\$244,589	\$206,047	\$102,047
Cash Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$18,382	\$12,170	\$12,170
Total Expenditures	\$262,971	\$218,217	\$114,217
Total FTE	0.9 FTE	0.6 FTE	0.6 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill creates the Youth Health Literacy Oversight Panel in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) to identify youth health literacy deficits and make recommendations to the General Assembly, state agencies, and school district.

By August 31, 2025, the Director of CDPHE must appoint a panel of stakeholders, who shall meet between eight and twelve times per year. Specifically, the panel is responsible for:

- examining elementary and secondary education standards adopted by the State Board of Education, aligning these standards with health literacy standards, and recommending revisions to improve the standards;
- developing a youth health literacy learning platform including culturally relevant educational materials developed for students in grades six through twelve; and
- collaborating with school-based health centers and school districts to develop, revise, and publish youth health literacy educational materials for students in schools.

By December 31, 2026, and each year thereafter, the panel must submit a report to the General Assembly with a description of the work performed in the preceding year, youth health literacy trends and data, and statements from various stakeholders regarding youth health literacy progress and needs. The Director must hire a consultant to perform the research and coordination required to compose the annual report.

Background

School-based health centers (SBHC) are medical clinics in schools that offer medical, mental health, dental, and behavioral health care to students. The Prevention Services Division in the CDPHE administers the SBHC Grant Program to establish new centers, expand health services in existing centers, enroll students in public health insurance programs, and provide support to SBHCs. The CDPHE does not have regulatory oversight of SBHCs that participate in the grant program, but requires various deliverables, monitoring, data collection, strategic initiatives, and other benchmarks in order to receive funding. There are an estimated 72 SBHCs in the state, 59 of which participate in the grant program.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the CDPHE by about \$263,000 in FY 2025-26, \$218,000 in FY 2026-27, and \$114,000 in FY 2027-28 and future years. These costs, paid from the General Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Department of Public Health and Environment

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
Personal Services	\$76,767	\$50,279	\$50,279
Operating Expenses	\$1,152	\$768	\$768
Capital Outlay Costs	\$6,670	\$0	\$0
Contractor Fees	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$50,000
Translation Services	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$1,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$18,382	\$12,170	\$12,170
Total Costs	\$262,971	\$218,217	\$114,217
Total FTE	0.9 FTE	0.6 FTE	0.6 FTE

Staff

In FY 2025-26, the CDPHE will require 0.2 FTE Program Manager II and 0.8 FTE Public Health & Community Outreach Specialist IV to manage the administrative contract, facilitate meetings, coordinate with state agencies and SBHCs, oversee the budget, collect data for analysis, and assist in the completion of panel responsibilities. Starting in FY 2026-27 and on an ongoing basis, the department will only require 0.6 FTE to support the panel's annual efforts. Staff costs and FTE are prorated in the first year based on the bill's effective date.

Contractor Fees

For FY 2025-26 and FY 2026-27, the CDPHE requires an estimated \$150,000 to hire one or more contractors to perform several duties required of the panel, including the development of a youth literacy learning platform, evaluation and submission of literacy standards to the State Board of Education, and collaboration with SBHCs to create educational materials. A contractor must also conduct research for the panel's annual report. Once the systems are developed, the contract will drop to \$50,000 annually for maintenance and updates. Actual costs will be determined through the contracting process.

Translation Services

The Office of Health Equity in the CDPHE requires \$10,000 in FY 2025-26 to translate youth health literacy educational materials for accessibility and cultural-relevance, as required under the bill. Costs will decrease in subsequent years as fewer materials are published. Translation services are estimated at a rate of \$0.20 per word.

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(s) above.

School Districts

Starting in FY 2025-26, workload will minimally increase for school districts and charter schools to collaborate with the panel and publish youth health literacy educational materials for each SBHC in the state.

Technical Note

The bill requires the Executive Director of the CDPHE to make initial appointments to the panel by August 31, 2025. However, the bill includes a petition clause and would therefore take effect in early August 2025, assuming the bill is signed into law and no referendum petition is filed. This effective date does not allow the CDPHE sufficient time to establish an application process, appoint panel members, hire contractors, or train existing staff on the panel's responsibilities.

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 a General Fund appropriation of \$244,589 to the Department of Public Health & Environment, and 0.9 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

Human Services

Information Technology

Personnel

Public Health and Environment

School Districts