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FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 19-0196
Prime Sponsors:

Date: October 1, 2018
Bill Status: Early Childhood and School Readiness Legislative Commission Bill Request
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Bill Topic: TEACHER TRAINING TO ADDRESS LITERACY CHALLENGES

- Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue, State Expenditure, State Transfer, TABOR Refund, Local Government, Statutory Public Entity

The bill requires that the Colorado Department of Education provide technical assistance and training in the identification and remediation of dyslexia in early grade learners, and that teacher preparation programs train educators to identify dyslexia in early grade students. The bill increases state expenditures on an ongoing basis.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2019-20, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$116,032 to the Colorado Department of Education.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the bill draft requested by the Early Childhood and School16684 Readiness Legislative Commission.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under Bill 4

Table with 4 columns: Category, Sub-category, FY 2019-20, FY 2020-21. Rows include Revenue (General Fund, Cash Funds, Total), Expenditures (General Fund, Centrally Appropriated, Total, Total FTE), Transfers, and TABOR Refund (General Fund).

## Summary of Legislation

This bill requires that the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) provide technical assistance and training to schools and school districts to address literacy challenges in early grade readers, including dyslexia. The State Board of Education is required to update teacher licensure standards to require that an initial teacher licensee in early childhood education demonstrate the ability to address students' literacy needs using proper assessments and instructional skills, including awareness, identification, and remediation for dyslexia in both general and special education students.

The bill requires that traditional and alternative teacher preparation programs prepare teacher candidates in the awareness, identification, and remediation of dyslexia. The CDE is required to collaborate with state institutions of higher education to develop minimum standards for awareness of dyslexia in teacher preparation programs.

## State Expenditures

The bill increases expenses both for the CDE, and for teacher preparation programs at institutions of higher education. The bill increases state General Fund expenditures for the CDE by at least \$131,181 and 1.0 FTE beginning in FY 2019-20. CDE expenses are displayed in Table 2 and described below.

**Table 2**  
**Expenditures Under Bill 4**

	<b>FY 2019-20</b>	<b>FY 2020-21</b>
<b>Colorado Department of Education</b>		
Personal Services	\$80,379	\$80,379
Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay Costs	\$5,653	\$950
Training Material and Travel	\$30,000	\$30,000
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	\$15,149	\$16,684
FTE – Personal Services	1.0 FTE	1.0 FTE
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$131,181</b>	<b>\$128,013</b>
<b>Total FTE</b>	<b>1.0 FTE</b>	<b>1.0 FTE</b>

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

**Colorado Department of Education.** Although the CDE currently has FTE to provide support for implementation of the Colorado READ act, there is no dedicated staff available to provide technical assistance and training to schools and school districts in the identification and remediation of dyslexia. Based on the specialized knowledge and skills necessary, the department must hire one additional FTE to provide these services to the field. New expenses also include software and other training material purchases, as well as travel and per diem costs.

**Institutions of higher education teacher preparation programs.** The bill increases workload and expenditures, including a likely increase in FTE, for institutions of higher education and alternative teacher preparation programs. Although some schools employ the necessary expertise to properly train educators in the identification and treatment of dyslexia, others do not. In the case of alternative preparation programs, these additional expenses for certification are borne primarily by the teacher candidate.

**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 estimated to be \$15,149 in FY 2019-20 and \$16,684 in FY 2020-21.

### **Effective Date**

The fiscal note assumes the bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature. A different effective date could change the fiscal impact identified above.

### **State Appropriations**

For FY 2019-20, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$116,032 to the Colorado Department of Education, and 1.0 FTE

### **State and Local Government Contacts**

Education            Higher Education

