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MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Michael Merrifield

FROM: Julie Pelegrin

DATE: January 17, 2018

SUBJECT: Summary of introduced version of Senate Bill 18-008 concerning measures to reward public education entities that provide student access to arts education programs

The introduced version of Senate Bill 18-008, concerning measures to reward public education entities that provide student access to arts education programs, creates a new performance indicator for measuring the performance of public schools, school districts, and the state charter school institute. Under existing law, the department of education measures performance based on student achievement, student academic growth, success in closing student achievement and growth gaps, and student attainment of postsecondary and workforce readiness.

Under S.B.18-008, starting with the 2018-19 school year, the department will give additional credit or points to public schools, school districts, and the state charter school institute based on whether they provide courses in dance, drama and theater, music, and visual arts.

The department will determine the number of points based on rules adopted by the state board of education. Each school district, for the public schools of the district including charter schools, and the state charter school institute, for institute charter schools, will report to the department the courses or programs provided in dance, drama and theater, music, and visual arts at each grade level.

A similar bill was introduced last year—S.B.17-107. In that bill, the state board of education, in adopting rules for awarding points based on access to arts courses and

programs, was required to consider whether a school district was located in a rural area and the concentration of students in the school district who were eligible for free or reduced-price meals. S.B.18-008 does not include these provisions.

For further information, please contact Julie Pelegrin at (303)866-2700 or Julie.pelegrin@state.co.us.