

SENATE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AMENDMENT

Committee on Education.

SB26-068 be amended as follows:

1 Amend printed bill, strike everything below the enacting clause and  
2 substitute:

3 **"SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general  
4 assembly finds and declares that:

5 (a) The Colorado Measures of Academic Success assessments  
6 place an undue burden on students and educators across the state;

7 (b) According to the department of education, each student in  
8 grades 3 through 8 spends up to eleven hours each year completing these  
9 statewide assessments;

10 (c) The amount of time required to administer statewide  
11 assessments does not include additional instructional time lost to test  
12 preparation, educator training, make-up testing, or modified school  
13 schedules, which disrupt multiple weeks of academic instruction for  
14 students and staff;

15 (d) Statewide assessments are administered to satisfy federal  
16 requirements. Federal law permits flexibility in the state's assessments to  
17 meet those requirements.

18 (e) Colorado administers more statewide testing than is required  
19 under federal law;

20 (f) Statewide assessments are summative in nature and intended  
21 to produce comparable data for accountability, but the delayed return of  
22 results limits the ability of educators to use that data to inform instruction  
23 for the tested students;

24 (g) In addition to statewide assessments, students in Colorado  
25 complete multiple other locally administered assessments;

26 (h) Locally administered assessments typically return results  
27 quicker and provide educators with timely data that can be used to  
28 support instruction and student mastery of the assessed subjects;

29 (i) Reducing statewide assessments would return meaningful  
30 instructional time to students and educators and allow greater reliance on  
31 timely, actionable assessment data already collected by local education  
32 providers;

33 (j) Furthermore, reducing the length of statewide assessments  
34 provides a cost savings to the state, which spends approximately \$20  
35 million annually to develop and administer statewide assessments; and

36 (k) It is necessary to convene a working group to develop  
37 recommendations to reduce the amount of time required for statewide  
38 assessments used to satisfy federal requirements.

39 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add 22-7-1006.2** as  
40 follows:

41 **22-7-1006.2. State assessments modifications - working group**

1 **- report - definitions - repeal.**

2 (1) AS USED IN THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE CONTEXT OTHERWISE  
3 REQUIRES:

4 (a) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
5 CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-1-115.

6 (b) "RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT" MEANS A SCHOOL DISTRICT IN  
7 COLORADO THAT THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES IS RURAL BASED ON THE  
8 GEOGRAPHIC SIZE OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND THE DISTANCE OF THE  
9 SCHOOL DISTRICT FROM THE NEAREST LARGE URBANIZED AREA.

10 (c) "SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT" MEANS A RURAL SCHOOL  
11 DISTRICT THAT ENROLLS FEWER THAN ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED  
12 STUDENTS IN KINDERGARTEN THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE.

13 (d) "WORKING GROUP" MEANS THE STATE ASSESSMENTS  
14 MODIFICATIONS WORKING GROUP CREATED AND EXISTING PURSUANT TO  
15 SUBSECTION (2) OF THIS SECTION.

16 (2) (a) THERE IS CREATED THE STATE ASSESSMENTS  
17 MODIFICATIONS WORKING GROUP.

18 (b) THE WORKING GROUP IS:

19 (I) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE CHAIR OF THE  
20 SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE:

21 (A) TWO INDIVIDUALS, EACH OF WHOM IS EITHER A TEACHER  
22 EMPLOYED BY OR AN EMPLOYEE OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPOINTED WITH  
23 THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS  
24 EDUCATORS;

25 (B) A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR, APPOINTED WITH  
26 THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS RURAL  
27 SCHOOLS;

28 (C) A SUPERINTENDENT, EMPLOYED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT THAT  
29 IS NOT A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OR SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT,  
30 APPOINTED WITH THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT  
31 REPRESENTS SCHOOL EXECUTIVES;

32 (D) A DIRECTOR OF A LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION, APPOINTED  
33 WITH THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS  
34 SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARDS OF EDUCATION; AND

35 (E) A CHARTER SCHOOL TEACHER, APPOINTED WITH THE ADVICE  
36 OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT ADVOCATES FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS;  
37 AND

38 (II) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE CHAIR OF THE  
39 HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEE:

40 (A) TWO INDIVIDUALS, EACH OF WHOM IS EITHER A TEACHER  
41 EMPLOYED BY OR AN EMPLOYEE OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPOINTED WITH  
42 THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS  
43 EDUCATORS;

1 (B) A SMALL RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR,  
2 APPOINTED WITH THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT  
3 REPRESENTS RURAL SCHOOLS;

4 (C) A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR WHO IS EMPLOYED BY A SCHOOL  
5 DISTRICT THAT IS NOT A RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OR SMALL RURAL  
6 SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPOINTED WITH THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE  
7 ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS SCHOOL EXECUTIVES;

8 (D) A DIRECTOR OF A LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION, APPOINTED  
9 WITH THE ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT REPRESENTS  
10 SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARDS OF EDUCATION; AND

11 (E) A CHARTER SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR, APPOINTED WITH THE  
12 ADVICE OF A STATEWIDE ASSOCIATION THAT ADVOCATES FOR CHARTER  
13 SCHOOLS.

14 (c) THE APPOINTING AUTHORITIES SHALL MAKE THEIR  
15 APPOINTMENTS TO THE WORKING GROUP ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2026.

16 (d) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL APPOINT AN EMPLOYEE OF THE  
17 DEPARTMENT TO SERVE AS A CONSULTANT TO THE WORKING GROUP IN  
18 DEVELOPING THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND BEST PRACTICES REQUIRED TO  
19 BE MADE PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION.

20 (3) THE WORKING GROUP SHALL HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING NO  
21 LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2026. AT THE FIRST MEETING, THE WORKING  
22 GROUP SHALL SELECT FROM AMONG ITS MEMBERS A PERSON TO SERVE AS  
23 CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP. THE WORKING GROUP SHALL MEET AT THE  
24 CALL OF THE CHAIR AS OFTEN AS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE ITS DUTIES.  
25 THE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP MAY PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS  
26 ELECTRONICALLY.

27 (4) THE WORKING GROUP SHALL INVESTIGATE OPTIONS AVAILABLE  
28 TO THE STATE FOR, AND MAKE FINDINGS RELATED TO, REDUCING THE TIME  
29 DEDICATED TO ADMINISTERING STATE ASSESSMENTS IN ENGLISH  
30 LANGUAGE ARTS, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, AND SOCIAL STUDIES IN  
31 GRADES THREE THROUGH EIGHT, ADMINISTERED PURSUANT TO SECTION  
32 22-7-1006.3 (1), SO THAT:

33 (a) STATE ASSESSMENTS ARE ADMINISTERED TO THE MINIMUM  
34 EXTENT REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH STATE AND FEDERAL LAW, INCLUDING  
35 THE FEDERAL "EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT", 20 U.S.C. SEC. 6301 ET  
36 SEQ., AND ITS IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS; AND

37 (b) THE TIME DEDICATED TO STATE ASSESSMENTS IN GRADES  
38 THREE THROUGH EIGHT ALIGNS WITH THE TIME SPENT ON STATE  
39 ASSESSMENTS IN HIGH SCHOOL, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE.

40 (5) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2026, THE WORKING GROUP  
41 SHALL SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE EDUCATION COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE  
42 OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE, OR ANY SUCCESSOR COMMITTEES,  
43 AND TO THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION CONCERNING ITS FINDINGS

1 CONDUCTED PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION, AND MAKE  
2 RECOMMENDATIONS AND BEST PRACTICES CONCERNING THE WORKING  
3 GROUP'S FINDINGS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (4) OF THIS SECTION.

4 (6) THIS SECTION IS REPEALED, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2027.

5 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1013, **amend**  
6 (6) as follows:

7 **22-7-1013. Local education provider - preschool through**  
8 **elementary and secondary education standards - adoption - academic**  
9 **acceleration - definition.**

10 (6) Each local education provider shall adopt and implement a  
11 written policy by which the local education provider will decide whether  
12 the students enrolled by the local education provider will use pencil and  
13 paper to complete any portion of a state assessment administered pursuant  
14 to section 22-7-1006.3 (1)(a) that the students would otherwise complete  
15 using a computer. The policy must ensure that the local education  
16 provider makes the decision in consultation with parents and, if the local  
17 education provider is a school district or board of cooperative services,  
18 the public schools that the local education provider operates. The local  
19 education provider may decide that the students in one or more of the  
20 public schools, or in one or more of the classrooms of the public schools,  
21 operated by the local education provider will use pencil and paper to  
22 complete the computerized portions of a state assessment. Each year  
23 before the start of fall semester classes, the local education provider shall  
24 distribute copies of the policy to the parents of students enrolled in the  
25 local education provider and post a copy of the policy on the local  
26 education provider's website. THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER SHALL  
27 BEAR THE COST OF ADMINISTERING ANY PORTION OF A STATE ASSESSMENT  
28 DESCRIBED IN SECTION 22-7-1006.3 (1)(a) THAT IS CONDUCTED BY PENCIL  
29 AND PAPER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL EDUCATION PROVIDER'S  
30 POLICY ADOPTED PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION (6) THAT THE STUDENTS  
31 WOULD OTHERWISE COMPLETE USING A COMPUTER.

32 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
33 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
34 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
35 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
36 institutions."

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