

**Second Regular Session  
Seventy-fifth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO**

**REVISED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted  
on Second Reading in the Second House*

LLS NO. 26-0881.01 Ken Fowler x2372

**HOUSE BILL 26-1353**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

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**House Committees**  
Appropriations

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Appropriations

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101      **CONCERNING STATE-ADMINISTERED SOCIAL STUDIES ASSESSMENTS,**  
102                    **AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, REDUCING AN**  
103                    **APPROPRIATION.**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov/>.)*

**Joint Budget Committee.** The bill eliminates the requirement for the department of education (department) to administer a state assessment in social studies to elementary school students and specifies that the department is only required to administer a state assessment in social studies to students enrolled in seventh grade in a public school.

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.  
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.*

SENATE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
April 15, 2026

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
April 11, 2026

HOUSE  
2nd Reading Unamended  
April 8, 2026

The bill also eliminates the requirement that the department administer a state assessment in social studies in a representative sample of public schools each year.

The bill reduces the appropriation made in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of education from the state education fund for the statewide assessment program.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 22-7-1006.3, **amend**  
3 (1) introductory portion and (1)(a)(III) as follows:

4 **22-7-1006.3. State assessments - administration - rules -**  
5 **definitions.**

6 (1) (a) ~~Beginning in the 2015-16 school year,~~ The department of  
7 education, in collaboration with local education providers, shall  
8 administer the state assessments in the instructional areas of English  
9 language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies, as adopted by the  
10 state board pursuant to section 22-7-1006, as follows:

11 (III) The department shall administer a state assessment in social  
12 studies to students enrolled in ~~public elementary and middle schools~~  
13 ~~throughout the state. The department shall select the specific grades in~~  
14 ~~which to administer the state social studies assessment, ensuring that~~  
15 ~~students take the state social studies assessment once in elementary~~  
16 ~~school and once in middle school. The department shall administer the~~  
17 ~~social studies assessment required by this subsection (1)(a)(III) in a~~  
18 ~~representative sample of public schools each school year, ensuring that it~~  
19 ~~administers the social studies assessment in each public school at least~~  
20 ~~once every three years. A school district, for one or more of the schools~~  
21 ~~of the school district that are not included in the representative sample, or~~  
22 ~~a charter school that is not included in the representative sample, may~~

1 ~~request that the department administer the assessment in the district~~  
2 ~~school or charter school. The department shall administer the social~~  
3 ~~studies assessment in the requested school in the school year following~~  
4 ~~the school year in which it receives the request~~ SEVENTH GRADE IN PUBLIC  
5 SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

6 **SECTION 2. Appropriation - adjustments to 2026 long bill.**

7 (1) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, to implement this  
8 act, the cash funds appropriation from the state education fund created in  
9 section 17 (4)(a) of article IX of the state constitution made in the annual  
10 general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year to the  
11 department of education for the statewide assessment program is  
12 decreased by \$302,835.

13 (2) Subsection (1) of this section does not require a reduction of  
14 an appropriation in the annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27  
15 state fiscal year if:

16 (a) The amount of the cash funds appropriation from the state  
17 education fund made in the annual general appropriation act for the  
18 2026-27 state fiscal year to the department of education for the statewide  
19 assessment program is less than the amount of the adjustment required in  
20 subsection (1) of this section; or

21 (b) The annual general appropriation act for the 2026-27 state  
22 fiscal year does not include a cash funds appropriation from the state  
23 education fund to the department of education for the statewide  
24 assessment program.

25 **SECTION 3. Effective date.** This act takes effect upon passage;  
26 except that section 2 of this act takes effect only if the annual general  
27 appropriation act for the 2026-27 state fiscal year becomes law, in which

1 case section 2 takes effect upon the effective date of this act or of the  
2 annual general appropriation act for state fiscal year 2026-27, whichever  
3 is later.

4 **SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,  
5 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
6 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for  
7 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state  
8 institutions.