



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

SB16-005

**FINAL
FISCAL NOTE**

FISCAL IMPACT: State Local Statutory Public Entity Conditional No Fiscal Impact

Drafting Number: LLS 16-0670
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Marble
Rep. Saine

Date: June 13, 2016
Bill Status: Lost in Senate
Fiscal Analyst: Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

BILL TOPIC: ELIMINATING STATEWIDE ASSESSMENTS IN 9TH GRADE

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2016-2017	FY 2017-2018
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Potential decrease. See State Expenditures Section.	
Appropriation Required: None.		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing		

NOTE: This bill was not enacted into law; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

Summary of Legislation

The bill permits a local education provider (LEP) to exempt the LEP's ninth grade students from the administration of any statewide tests. If a rural LEP chooses to exempt its ninth grade students from the testing requirement, the rural LEP is further authorized to hire unlicensed teachers.

Background

Under current law no statewide tests may be given to students in twelfth grade. The department is required to administer statewide tests in English language arts and math in grades three through nine, and must administer a science test and a social studies test one time during highschool. The department only administers the social studies test in a representative sample of schools each year; however, all schools are tested in social studies at least once every three years. Under current rules, the department administers the high school social studies and high school science test in the eleventh grade. Therefore, this bill only impacts English and math testing in ninth grade.

State Expenditures

The bill potentially reduces state appropriations to the Colorado Department of Education. The bill permits an LEP to exempt ninth grade students from statewide testing. For the current school year, the combined cost to administer both the English language arts and the

mathematics assessment in ninth grade is about \$30.50 per test administered. The combined cost for the assessments in the next school year has not yet been determined. Should an LEP exempt its ninth grade students from these tests, state appropriations can be reduced by at least \$30.50 for each student exempted. Since the number of LEPs that might choose to exempt ninth grade students, the actual cost of the combined tests, and the number of exempted students is unknown, the estimate of this savings cannot be calculated.

School District Impact

A LEP that chooses to eliminate ninth grade testing will reduce the administrative workload required to administer those tests to students. A rural LEP that chooses not to administer ninth grade assessments may hire non-licensed teachers, potentially impacting the LEP's human resources expenditures.

Under current law, school districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) may submit a separate estimate of fiscal impacts within seven days of a bill's introduction. Estimates submitted by districts or BOCES for this bill can be found on the Legislative Council website at this address: <http://1.usa.gov/23AxLIT>

Effective Date

The bill was lost on second reading in the Senate on April 25, 2016.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education Law