



**Colorado  
Legislative  
Council  
Staff**

**SB16-005**

**REVISED  
FISCAL NOTE**

(replaces fiscal note dated January 13, 2016)

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

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

**Date:** April 12, 2016  
**Bill Status:** Senate Appropriations  
**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.	
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		
<b>Future Year Impacts:</b> Ongoing		

**Summary of Legislation**

The bill, *as amended by the Senate Education Committee*, 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 takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

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

Education

Law