



**Colorado
Legislative
Council
Staff**

SB17-068

FISCAL NOTE

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

Drafting Number: LLS 17-0457
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Todd
Rep. Singer

Date: February 14, 2017
Bill Status: Senate Education
Fiscal Analyst: Anna Gerstle (303-866-4375)

BILL TOPIC: SCHOOL COUNSELORS EARLY SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2017-2018	FY 2018-2019
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Workload increase. See State Expenditures section.	
Appropriation Required: None.		
Future Year Impacts: Ongoing workload increase. See State Expenditures section.		

Summary of Legislation

The bill expands eligibility for the behavioral health care professional grant program and the school counselor corps grant program, which are administered by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE).

Under current law, public schools that include grades seven through twelve may apply for the behavioral health care professional grant program. The bill expands the program to include elementary, middle, junior, and high schools, and specifies that certified psychologists, social workers, and counselors can be supported by the program

Under current law, public middle, junior, or high schools may apply for the school counselor corps grant program administered by the CDE. The bill allows elementary schools to also apply to the program.

Background

Behavioral health care professional grant program. The behavioral health care professional grant program, also known as the school health professional grant program, was created in 2014 to enhance the presence of school health professionals in secondary schools. Since 2015, 134 schools in 32 districts have received a grant. For FY 2016-17, the program is appropriated approximately \$2.3 million from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund and 1.0 FTE.

School counselor corps grant program. The school counselor corps grant program was created in 2008 to increase the availability of effective school-based counseling and increase the graduation rate and percentage of students who continue into postsecondary education. Since the program's inception, 233 secondary schools, representing 75 districts, have participated in the program. For FY 2016-17, the program is appropriated \$10 million from the State Education Fund and 2.0 FTE.

State Expenditures

The bill increases the workload for CDE beginning in FY 2017-18, but does not change the overall state expenditures for the two programs. Specific impacts are discussed below.

Colorado Department of Education. The bill increases the workload for CDE to update grant materials and processes, including the application, scoring rubric, evaluation criteria, training materials, and reporting requirements, as well as to process and review additional applications. The increase is expected to be accomplished within existing appropriations.

Grant programs. The bill does not change the overall state expenditures for the grant programs; however, expanding the eligibility to include elementary schools will result in a larger applicant pool for the same amount of available funds. In FY 2016-17, nearly \$21 million in requests were received for \$10 million in available funds for the counselor corps program, and \$5 million in requests were received for approximately \$2 million in available funds for the behavioral health care professional program.

School District Impact

The bill increases the workload for elementary schools that apply for the grant programs, and increases the revenue for elementary schools that are awarded grants. For middle and high schools that currently apply for grants, the programs will become more competitive as a result of the bill and likelihood of increased revenue from a grant award will decrease.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 9, 2017, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 10, 2017, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Higher Education

School Districts