



Legislative
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FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 18-0177
Prime Sponsors: Rep. Foote

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Bill Status: House Education
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Bill Topic: K-12 ACCREDITATION WEIGHTED FACTORS

- Summary of Fiscal Impact:**
- State Revenue
 - State Expenditure
 - State Transfer
 - TABOR Refund
 - Local Government
 - Statutory Public Entity

The bill adds a new performance indicator to the state accreditation system for school districts. The bill increases state expenditures beginning with FY 2018-19.

Appropriation Summary: For FY 2018-19, the bill requires an appropriation to the Colorado Department of Education of \$240,128.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under HB 18-1019

		FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
Revenue		-	-
Expenditures	General Fund	\$240,128	\$101,390
	Centrally Appropriated	\$15,322	\$16,854
	Total	\$255,450	\$118,244
	Total FTE	0.9 FTE	1.0 FTE
Transfers		-	-

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the State Board of Education adopts rules establishing objective, measurable criteria that the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) must apply in determining the accreditation category for school districts and the Charter School Institute (CSI). The department also determines a performance plan for individual public schools. In addition to other evaluative criteria, current law requires that the department place greatest emphasis on four performance indicators: student longitudinal academic growth, student achievement on statewide assessments, post secondary and workforce readiness, and progress toward closing achievement gaps.

This bill requires that the state board adopt additional rules for determining the accreditation categories of school districts and the CSI, and determining the assignment of performance plans for public schools. The additional rules must:

- give weighted credit for rigorous course work requirements for high school graduation;
- assign greater value to the adoption of graduation requirements in English, math, natural and physical science, and social studies that meet or exceed the minimum suggested admission requirements for state institutions of higher education adopted by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE); and
- ensure that accreditation categories are assigned fairly and equitably across districts of similar size.

State Expenditures

For FY 2018-19, the bill increase state General Fund expenditures by \$255,450 and 0.9 FTE. For FY 2019-20, state expenditures increase by \$118,244 and 1.0 FTE. New expenditures are detailed in Table 2 and described below. Personal services are prorated to account for the General Fund day shift.

**Table 2
Expenditures Under HB 18-1019**

	FY 2018-19	FY 2019-20
Department of Education		
Personal Services	\$92,070	\$100,440
Operating Expenses and Capital Outlay Costs	\$5,558	\$950
Information Technology	\$142,500	-
Centrally Appropriated Costs*	\$15,322	\$16,854
FTE – Personal Services	0.9	1.0
Total Cost	\$255,450	\$118,244
Total FTE	0.9 FTE	1.0 FTE

* Centrally appropriated costs are not included in the bill's appropriation.

Personal services. The CDE must assign additional performance points to school districts that require rigorous graduation requirements. The department will need to review and evaluate the rigor of the current graduation requirements for the 178 districts statewide, and for schools authorized by the CSI. Although the department has adopted graduation guidelines for districts, there is no current standard to evaluate the rigor of graduation course work. New personnel in the Office of Postsecondary Readiness is required to work with the state board to develop evaluative criteria, determine levels of course work rigor, oversee the district data collection process, communicate with school districts, and provide other guidance and technical assistance. In addition, staff will work closely with the Accountability and Data Analysis Unit to modify school and district performance frameworks used to assign accreditation categories.

Information technology. The offices of Information Management Services and Accountability and Data Analysis will have one-time costs to incorporate a new performance indicator into the state accountability system, and to revise accountability frameworks to ensure that accreditation categories are assigned fairly and equitably across school districts of similar size. These costs include rebuilding the aggregated accountability tables, district performance framework calculations and all subsequent reporting structures. Total information technology upgrades are estimated to require 1,140 hours at contracted vendor rate of \$125/hour.

School District

The bill creates a new way for school districts to demonstrate quality performance and attain higher accreditation ratings. Although the bill does not specifically require that school districts increase the rigor of their high school graduation course requirements, any district that makes an effort to do so will have new workload and expenditures. Since the relative rigor of graduation course work must still be established in rule by the State Board of Education. Cost increases have not been estimated.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect August 8, 2018, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 9, 2018, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2018-19, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$240,128 to the Colorado Department of Education, and 0.9 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education