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FINAL FISCAL NOTE

Drafting Number: LLS 18-0615
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Merrifield

Date: June 14, 2018
Bill Status: Postponed Indefinitely
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Bill Topic: REWARD ACCESS TO ARTS EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

The bill adds access to arts education as a performance indicator in the state's public school accountability system. The bill increases state expenditures in the Colorado Department of Education in FY 2018-19 only.

Appropriation Summary: The bill contains a no appropriation clause; however, the fiscal note concludes that for FY 2018-19 only, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$42,500 to the Colorado Department of Education.

Fiscal Note Status: This fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. This bill was not enacted into law; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts Under SB 18-008

Table with 3 columns: Category, FY 2018-19, FY 2019-20. Rows include Revenue, Expenditures (General Fund, Total), and Transfers.

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) determines the level of educational attainment of each public school, each school district, the Colorado Charter School Institute, and the state as a whole based on four performance indicators:

- student academic growth;
- student achievement on statewide assessments;
- progress made in closing growth and achievement gaps, and
- postsecondary and workforce readiness.

These indicators form the basis of the state's public school accountability and accreditation system. Beginning with the 2017-18 academic year, this adds access to courses or educational programs in the arts as a performance indicator. The bill requires that the State Board of Education adopt rules for awarding performance credit to schools and districts for arts offerings.

Schools and districts are required to report to the CDE the courses or programs they provide in the arts, and make assurances to the department that those courses meet or exceed applicable academic standards.

State Expenditures

For FY 2018-19 only, the bill increases state expenditures by \$42,500 in the CDE to modify accountability tables used to produce accreditation scores. The necessary information technology (IT) modification is estimated to require 340 hours of programming and testing, at a rate of \$125 per hour. These modifications will not require new systems or functionality for the information management system.

The CDE will also have increased workload to assist the State Board of Education to adopt rules for the new performance indicator, and to match district assurances of art education programs with the state's content standards. This workload does not require additional appropriations.

School District Impact

The bill may increase workload for some school districts and charter schools who choose to increase or improve their educational programs in music, visual arts, dance, and theater.

A 2014 survey of arts education in Colorado estimates that 96.7 percent of Colorado public schools offer formal arts education to their students.¹ The report estimates that in 2014 about 28,000 students attend Colorado public school where no formal arts education is offered. In 2016-17, public school enrollment is about 800,000 students. Assuming that the number of students attending schools without formal arts education has remained stable, about 3.5 percent of students in Colorado public schools have limited or no options for arts education. For these schools and districts, workload and expenditures will increase to develop art education programs and to demonstrate positive achievements toward the bill's new metric for evaluating educational attainment.

1. Colorado Visual and Performing Arts Education Survey Statistical Report: *A comprehensive survey of arts education in Colorado schools.* (May, 2015). Retrieved from: http://www.coloradocreativeindustries.org/sites/default/files/media/ccj_arts_ed_study_report_final.pdf

Effective Date

The bill was postponed indefinitely by the Senate Education Committee on January 25, 2018.

State Appropriations

Although the bill contains a no appropriation clause, this fiscal analysis concludes that the bill requires an appropriation. For FY 2018-19, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$42,500 to the Colorado Department of Education.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education