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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number: LLS 22-0483 Date: February 21, 2022
Prime Sponsors: Sen. Zenzinger; Coram Bill Status: Senate Education
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Bill Topic: TRANSITION BACK TO STANDARD K-12 ACCOUNTABILITY

Summary of Fiscal Impact: State Revenue TABOR Refund
 State Expenditure Local Government
 State Transfer School District

The bill makes adjustments to the school accountability system, and allows grants from the School Transformation Grant Program to be awarded to additional schools in FY 2022-23 for up to three budget years. The bill modifies how current grant funding may be spent for three upcoming years.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

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

Summary of Legislation

The bill makes the following adjustments to the school accountability system:

- In the annual report on the attainment level of public schools and districts for 2021-22, the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) must include data concerning the percentage of students who contributed to the state longitudinal academic growth indicator.
- When determining the level of attainment on performance indicators for public schools and districts, CDE must use the statewide targets required for the 2018-19 school year.
- For schools and districts under performance watch, the bill requires CDE to count the accreditation rating for 2023-24 as if it were consecutive with the 2019-20 school year for the purpose of calculating consecutive years on performance watch. A change in an accreditation rating in 2022-23 may be factored into the consecutive years calculation.
- The State Board of Education (SBE) may consider a school or district's accreditation rating for the 2022-23 school year in determining whether to continue previously required or direct new state interventions.

- The bill allows the SBE to award school transformation grants in FY 2022-23 for up to three budget years to school districts, the Charter School Institute, or charter schools that are implementing an improvement plan.

State Expenditures

The bill's modifications to school accountability in FY 2022-23 do not increase workload in the department or require additional appropriations.

The bill allows grants through the School Transformation Grant Program to be awarded to additional public schools and districts with improvement plans for up to three budget years. Under current law, grants for turnaround activities from the program are reserved for schools and districts who are accredited with either a priority improvement or turnaround plan. This bill expands eligibility in FY 2022-23 only to allow grants to public schools and districts who are accredited with an improvement plan. Additional applicants for grant funds may limit the amount available from the program. If the CDE determines that additional grant funding is necessary, the department may seek increases through the annual budget process.

School District

Some additional schools and districts may be eligible to receive assistance from the School Transformation Grant Program, increasing revenue and workload for those districts.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education School Districts