



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

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HB 25-1167: ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION CAMPUSES

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Valdez; Martinez

Sen. Kipp

Fiscal Analyst:

Anna Gerstle, 303-866-4375

anna.gerstle@coleg.gov

Bill Outcome: Signed into Law

Drafting number: LLS 25-0440

Version: Final Fiscal Note

Date: June 11, 2025

Fiscal note status: The final fiscal note reflects the enacted bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill requires that the Colorado Department of Education post certain data about alternative education campuses, and makes other changes to state law related to alternative education campuses.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- State Expenditures
- School Districts

Appropriations. For FY 2025-26, the bill requires and includes an appropriation of \$9,613 to the Colorado Department of Education.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact ¹	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$11,749	\$11,749
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.1 FTE	0.1 FTE

¹ Fund sources for these impacts are shown in the tables below

Table 1A
State Expenditures

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
General Fund	\$9,613	\$9,613
Cash Funds	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$2,136	\$2,136
Total Expenditures	\$11,749	\$11,749
Total FTE	0.1 FTE	0.1 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill makes several changes to state law related to alternative education campuses (AECs). Specifically, the bill:

- requires the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to annually prepare and post a report on the enrollment trends, student demographics, and student mobility at AECs beginning in September 2025;
- requires CDE to prioritize an AEC if they satisfy state grant requirements; and
- allows AECs to serve certain high-risk students through age 21, including students who are pregnant, are parents, or will be eligible for a diploma at the end of the school year.

Under current law, at least 90 percent of the students in each AEC must be on an individualized education plan or otherwise qualify as high risk. The bill allows an AEC with less than 250 students to maintain its designation as an AEC if its student population drops below the 90 percent threshold by no more than three students, before meeting the 90 percent threshold again in the next year.

Background

Alternative education campuses are public schools that have a specialized mission serving special needs or high-risk students and utilize non-traditional methods of instruction. At least 90 percent of the students in each AEC must be on an individualized education plan or otherwise qualify as high risk. AECs are designated as such by the State Board of Education and CDE annually reviews the performance of each AEC using unique accountability frameworks.

In the current 2024-25 school year, there are 93 school designated as an AEC, including district schools, state Charter School Institute (CSI) schools, and programs operated by boards of cooperative educational services (BOCES).

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in CDE by \$11,749 per year beginning in FY 2025-26. These costs, paid from the General Fund, are summarized in Table 2 and discussed below. The bill also minimally affects the state share of school finance.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Department of Education

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
Personal Services	\$9,613	\$9,613
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$2,136	\$2,136
Total Costs	\$11,749	\$11,749
Total FTE	0.1 FTE	0.1 FTE

Department of Education

CDE requires 0.1 FTE Senior Consultant to research and evaluate AEC enrollment and mobility and write the required report. The fiscal note assumes that 200 hours of work per year are required to compile and analyze school level data related to enrollment trends, demographics, and student movement between schools, and to prepare the report.

School Finance

To the extent that increasing the age of students that can be served by an AEC increases pupil enrollment, the bill will increase the state share of total program. Any increase in the state share is expected to be minimal; no change in appropriations is required. The state share is paid from the General Fund, State Education Fund, and State Public School Fund.

Centrally Appropriated Costs

Pursuant to a Joint Budget Committee policy, certain costs associated with this bill are addressed through the annual budget process and centrally appropriated in the Long Bill or supplemental appropriations bills, rather than in this bill. These costs, which may include employee insurance, supplemental employee retirement payments, leased space, and indirect cost assessments, are shown in the expenditure table above.

School District

For districts that have an AEC, the bill may increase expenditures to serve additional students through age 21; however, it would also increase state share funding through the school finance formula. Additionally, should the bill result in more AECs receiving state grant funds, revenue and expenditures to those districts and schools will increase.

Effective Date

The bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 24, 2025, and takes effect on August 6, 2025, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State Appropriations

For FY 2025-26, the bill requires and includes a General Fund appropriation of \$9,613 to the Colorado Department of Education, and 0.1 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).