



Fiscal Note
Legislative Council Staff
Nonpartisan Services for Colorado’s Legislature

SB 25-123: CURRICULUM ON GENOCIDE AGAINST NATIVE AMERICANS

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Gonzales J.
Rep. Camacho

Fiscal Analyst:

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Bill Outcome: Postponed Indefinitely
Drafting number: LLS 25-0458

Version: Final Fiscal Note
Date: June 10, 2025

Fiscal note status: The final fiscal note reflects the introduced bill. This bill was postponed indefinitely by the Senate Education Committee on April 28, 2025; therefore, the impacts identified in this analysis do not take effect..

Summary Information

Overview. The bill expanded curriculum related to Holocaust and genocide studies taught in public schools to include genocide against Native Americans.

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

- State Expenditures
- School Districts

Appropriations. For FY 2025-26, the bill required an appropriation of \$20,000 to the Colorado Department of Education.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures (General Fund)	\$20,000	\$8,160
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, the State Board of Education (SBE) adopts standards related to Holocaust and genocide studies, which must be incorporated by public schools and districts into courses required for graduation. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) maintains a resource bank that schools and districts can use to incorporate these standards.

This bill expands the standards to include the genocide against Native Americans, the Sand Creek Massacre, and Native American residential and boarding schools. No later than January 1, 2026, the SBE must adopt standards for the expanded curriculum.

The bill also requires that the CDE update and revise its existing resource bank with materials related to these topics no later than July 1, 2027. The revised materials must be developed in consultation with Native Americans affected by genocide, including the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes.

Background

CDE's Office of Standards and Instructional Support meets to assist the board in updating K-12 education standards on a six-year cycle. The next review and update of social studies standards—the content area where education on genocide is typically updated—is scheduled to occur in 2028. As part of the normal timeline, the CDE conducts research and prepares a benchmarking report to be considered by the board when they meet to revise the standards.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in the CDE by \$20,000 in FY 2025-26, and by \$8,160 in FY 2026-27, paid from the General Fund.

The bill will require the Office of Standards and Instructional Support to meet outside of their normal six-year cycle to adopt standards by January 1, 2026. Standards adoption involves per-diem reimbursement and meeting expenses for a standards review committee. Additionally, CDE writes a benchmarking report for each standards review process. By meeting in 2026, outside of the normal six-year window, CDE will incur \$5,000 in per-diem travel, meeting expenses, and \$15,000 to prepare the benchmarking report.

Costs in FY 2026-27 are for developing additional materials for the resource bank in collaboration with the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute Indian tribes. This effort assumes a six-person committee will convene to identify and recommend additional educational resources, and will require expenditures for per-diem travel and meetings.

School District

Beginning in 2028, school districts will adjust their social studies curriculum to implement the topics required by the bill. Workload and costs will vary based on current curricula and course offerings, and may include content creation, modification, and professional development.

Technical Note

School districts are required to implement the revised standards if the SBE adopts the revisions by July 1, 2026; however, the bill requires that the SBE adopt standards by January 1, 2026.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect 90 days following adjournment of the General Assembly sine die, assuming no referendum petition is filed.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

School Districts