



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

SB 25-153: PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCIAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Prime Sponsors:

Sen. Kolker
Rep. Garcia

Fiscal Analyst:

Anna Gerstle, 303-866-4375
anna.gerstle@coleg.gov

Published for: Senate Education
Drafting number: LLS 25-0627

Version: Initial Fiscal Note
Date: February 13, 2025

Fiscal note status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill modifies the financial information that local education providers must post online and requires that school districts post online certain financial information at the school level.

Types of impacts. The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis, beginning in FY 2025-26:

- State Expenditures
- School Districts

Appropriations. For FY 2025-26, the bill requires an appropriation of \$28,838 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	\$35,247	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.3 FTE	0.0 FTE

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

Table 1B
State Expenditures

Fund Source	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
General Fund	\$28,838	\$0
Cash Funds	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0
Centrally Appropriated	\$6,409	\$0
Total Expenditures	\$35,247	\$0
Total FTE	0.3 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

Under current law, each school district, charter school, board of cooperative services, and the state Charter School Institute (local education providers, or LEPs) must post certain financial information online.

Beginning July 1, 2027, the bill requires that school districts also post that financial information for each individual school within the district, and adds the following to the required postings for all LEPs and schools:

- an itemization of each revenue source, the amount received, and the revenue's intended purpose; and
- actual expenditures for marketing, lobbyists, contractors, or education management providers, except that rural school districts with fewer than 1,000 students are exempt from posting this information at the school level.

All posted data must be in a downloadable, accessible and sortable format. These reporting requirements do not apply to early childhood programs.

Background and Assumptions

The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) maintains a Financial Policies and Procedures Handbook and Chart of Accounts that must be used by local education providers to track financial information. The Financial Policies and Procedures (FPP) Advisory Committee maintains the handbook and supports districts in following financial procedures and requirements.

Under current law, school district and charter school financial information that must be posted online is also submitted to CDE. However, the fiscal note assumes that the bill does not require school level financial information to be reported to CDE, and that the updated handbook and

Chart of Accounts will be sufficient to ensure consistency in the information posted. However, should the bill require school-level reporting to CDE, costs will be about \$27,000 higher than estimated, in order to modify the data reporting system.

State Expenditures

The bill increases state expenditures in CDE by about \$35,000 in FY 2025-26 only, paid from the General Fund. Costs are shown in Table 2 below.

Staff

CDE requires 0.3 FTE to support the FPP Advisory Committee in updating the FPP handbook and Chart of Accounts to reflect the bill's reporting requirements, develop training on the changes, and provide technical assistance to school districts and charter schools. The reporting requirement does not begin until July 1, 2027; however, because the data posted on that date will be FY 2025-26 financial information, CDE will incur the workload in FY 2025-26 so that districts can track revenue and expenditures as they occur.

Table 2
State Expenditures
Department of Education

Cost Component	Budget Year FY 2025-26	Out Year FY 2026-27
Personal Services	\$28,838	\$0
Centrally Appropriated Costs	\$6,409	\$0
Total Costs	\$35,247	\$0
Total FTE	0.3 FTE	0.0 FTE

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(s) above.

School District

The bill increases workload and costs for school districts to track and post the required financial information at a school level, and to compile the newly required data. Workload and costs may include website development and staff time, depending on the school district's current systems.

Effective Date

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

Appropriation

In FY 2025-26, the bill requires a General Fund appropriation of \$28,838 to the Colorado Department of Education, and 0.3 FTE.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education

School Districts

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](#).