

  
 Colorado *Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note*  
**LOCAL**

**REVISED CONDITIONAL FISCAL IMPACT**

(replaces fiscal note dated March 19, 2010)

<b>Drafting Number:</b> LLS 10-0479	<b>Date:</b> April 5, 2010
<b>Prime Sponsor(s):</b> Rep. Merrifield	<b>Bill Status:</b> Senate Second Reading
Sen. Spence; Steadman	<b>Fiscal Analyst:</b> Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

**TITLE:** CONCERNING IMPROVED WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN ARTS EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2010-2011	FY 2011-2012
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
<b>Effective Date:</b> Upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.		
<b>Appropriation Summary for FY 2010-2011:</b> None required.		
<b>School District Impact:</b> See School District Impact section.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill, *as amended by the Senate Education Committee*, encourages all public schools to provide courses in performing and visual arts. Courses may include traditional arts classes, on-line study, internships, externships, mentor experiences, or independent study. Schools are encouraged to use innovative ways to deliver arts education, such as technology and software, and forming partnerships with other schools, districts, or community colleges. Schools must include arts education in students' individual career and academic plans.

Under current law, the State Board of Education must adopt comprehensive guidelines for high school graduation requirements by December 15, 2009. The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) must work with the state board to ensure the guidelines align with admission standards on or after August 1, 2012. Under this bill, the date for completion of the guidelines is extended until December 15, 2011, and the CCHE must align the guidelines with admission standards on or after August 1, 2013.

The Office of Dropout Prevention and Student Re-engagement in the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) is encouraged to collaborate with both for-profit and nonprofit community arts organizations. The office may also assess arts education practices at high needs schools. The bill specifies that arts education qualifies as a service for which a public school may seek grant assistance under the Student Re-engagement Grant Program. The bill also clarifies that state support for programs in post secondary career and technical education may include programs in arts education.

### **Background**

In a study conducted by the CDE and the Colorado Council on the Arts, self-reporting results from school principals indicate that 93 percent of elementary schools, 86 percent of middle schools, and 83 percent of high schools offer some form of arts education opportunities.

### **School District Impact**

In school districts that offer arts courses, or that have an arts graduation requirement, the fiscal impact of this bill will be minimal. For schools and districts that do not currently offer any arts courses, there will be costs to add these educational opportunities if the district chooses to do so. Since the legislation is permissive instead of mandatory, additional expenses are conditional, contingent on which schools and districts choose to add arts education where none previously existed.

### **Departments Contacted**

Education