



Fiscal Note

Legislative Council Staff

Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature

HB 26-1299: REDUCE REGULATORY BURDEN ON EDUCATION PROVIDERS

Prime Sponsors:

Rep. Garcia Sander; Lukens
Sen. Pelton B.

Fiscal Analyst:

Josh Abram, 303-866-3561
josh.abram@coleg.gov

Published for: House Education**Drafting number:** LLS 26-0667**Version:** Initial Fiscal Note**Date:** March 3, 2026**Fiscal note status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary Information

Overview. The bill modifies the regulatory requirements for schools and school districts.**Types of impacts.** The bill is projected to affect the following areas on an ongoing basis:

- Minimal State Workload
- School Districts

Appropriations. No appropriation is required.

Table 1
State Fiscal Impacts

Type of Impact	Budget Year FY 2026-27	Out Year FY 2027-28
State Revenue	\$0	\$0
State Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Transferred Funds	\$0	\$0
Change in TABOR Refunds	\$0	\$0
Change in State FTE	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE

Summary of Legislation

The bill makes multiple changes to education laws as described below.

List of Missing Children

Under current law, the Colorado Bureau of Investigations (CBI) in the Department of Public Safety distributes a list of missing children to each school district. This bill requires instead that the CBI provide the list to the Colorado Department of Education (CDE). CDE must compare CBI's list with CDE's list of enrolled students, and inform CBI if its list includes a missing student or if it has information on the last known school of enrollment of a missing student.

Pencil and Paper Test Policy

The bill repeals the requirement that local education providers (LEPs) adopt a policy on how to determine whether pencil and paper may be used to complete any portion of state assessments that students would otherwise have to complete using a computer.

Accreditation Annual Review

The bill allows a charter school network or collaborative with up to 1,200 students and authorized by a single authorizer to submit a single improvement plan to satisfy the school plan requirements for all of participant schools.

Performance Evaluations

The bill clarifies that a school or district that has received a waiver from the requirement to complete a final performance rating for licensed personnel is not required to report licensed personnel evaluations to CDE.

Data Reporting

The bill prohibits the CDE from representing voluntary data collection requests as mandatory to a public school or school district. CDE must not condition any benefit to a public school or school district on the completion of a voluntary data collection request.

State Expenditures

The bill minimally increases workload for the CDE to receive information on missing children from the CBI and compare this list with enrollment data. The process is expected to occur twice annually and include up to 500 student names. The effort to compare the list from CBI with the department's comprehensive enrollment list is absorbable within current resources, and no additional appropriation is required.

School District

Public schools and districts will have a slight reduction in workload from eliminating the requirement that local education providers maintain a policy for the administration of statewide assessments using paper and pencil. Some charter school networks will also have a reduced workload from filing fewer unified improvement plans with the CDE.

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

Public Safety