

**LOCAL**  
**REVISED FISCAL IMPACT**

(replaces fiscal note dated February 11, 2014)

**Drafting Number:** LLS 14-0502  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Wilson

**Date:** March 17, 2014  
**Bill Status:** House Appropriations  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

**SHORT TITLE:** FLEXIBILITY FOR RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

Fiscal Impact Summary*	FY 2014-2015	FY 2015-2016
State Revenue		
State Expenditures		
FTE Position Change		
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None		

\* This summary shows changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year.

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill, **as amended by the House Education Committee**, modifies certain accountability requirements for small and rural school districts. A small and rural school district is defined as a district that the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) determines is rural based on the geographic size of the district, the distance from the nearest large, urbanized area, and that enrolls fewer than one thousand students. The flexibility provided by the bill includes the following provisions:

- Under current law, districts accredited by the state in the top two accreditation categories must submit a performance plan to the CDE annually; this bill allows small and rural districts that are accredited or accredited with distinction to submit performance plans biennially. An individual school in a small and rural district is given similar flexibility so long as the school is required by the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt a performance plan.
- Under current law, a district enrolling one thousand students or less may submit a single plan to satisfy both the district and school performance plan requirements. This bill allows a small rural school district that exercises the flexibility to submit district performance plans biennially to submit a single district and school plan on the same schedule.
- The bill authorizes a small rural school district to purchase the services of a literacy specialist from a Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) in order to provide educator professional development in literacy education.
- A BOCES may apply for a grant from the Early Literacy Grant Program to provide instructional support in literacy to small rural school districts that are members of that BOCES.

**School District Impact**

Districts that take advantage of the opportunity to report less frequently will adjust workload accordingly. A small workload savings is assumed for districts who receive this flexibility from reporting requirements; however, no estimate of this change is available.

Under current law, school districts and Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) may submit estimates of fiscal impacts within seven days of a bill's introduction. As of the date of this fiscal note, no summaries of fiscal impacts were submitted by districts or BOCES for this bill. If summaries of fiscal impacts are submitted by districts or BOCES in the future, they will be noted in subsequent revisions to the fiscal note and posted at this address: <http://www.colorado.gov/lcs>

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Education