

**STATE  
FISCAL IMPACT**

**Drafting Number:** LLS 15-0632  
**Prime Sponsor(s):** Rep. Ransom

**Date:** January 14, 2015  
**Bill Status:** House Education  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Josh Abram (303-866-3561)

**BILL TOPIC:** AGES FOR COMPULSORY EDUCATION

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2015-2016	FY 2016-2017
State Revenue		
State Expenditures	Potential cost reduction	
FTE Position Change		
<b>Appropriation Required:</b> None.		

**Summary of Legislation**

This bill changes the ages for compulsory education. Under current law, all children between the ages of six and seventeen years must attend school. Under this bill, children between the ages of seven and sixteen years must attend school.

**State Expenditures**

**Judicial Branch.** By reducing the age for compulsory school attendance from 17 to 16, an expenditure savings may be realized with the elimination of a small percentage of truancy cases brought before the courts under the School Attendance Law of 1963. In FY 2013-14, the courts heard 1,944 truancy cases statewide. According to the weighted caseload averages used by the judicial branch, a judge presiding over juvenile matters can hear 2,196 cases annually. To realize a 0.5 judicial officer FTE savings, the courts would need to hear approximately 1,000 fewer truancy cases per year; however, the actual case reduction is anticipated to be considerably lower than that amount.

**School Finance.** Although the bill changes the ages for compulsory education, children may still be enrolled in public school beginning at age 5 years (if that child is 5 years old as of October 1). This fiscal note assumes that the bill will not impact enrollment in elementary and secondary schools, and therefore does not change the cost of School Finance.

**Effective Date**

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

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Corrections      Education      Higher Education      Judicial