

**Colorado Department of Education
Public School Finance Unit**

Summary 12-1345

Introduced April 5, 2012

Amendments made in House Education Committee – April 9

The bill passed House Appropriations Committee with amendments – April 10

The bill passed 2nd reading in the House with amendments – April 23

The bill passed 3rd reading in the House – April 24

The bill passed the Senate Education Committee with amendments – May 3

The bill passed the Senate with amendments and House concurred – May 9

CONCERNING THE FINANCING OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(By summarizing the language in the bill, this does not alter the statutory language nor should it be considered legal advice in any way. For detailed language, please see the applicable section within the bill.)

ISSUE—FINANCE FORMULA

Section 1

Calculates statewide base per pupil funding to add for inflation of 3.7%

Base per pupil funding – 2011-12	\$5,634.77
Add 3.7% inflation	\$208.49
Base per pupil funding – 2012-13	\$5,843.26

Proposes Total Program Funding is not less than \$5,286,898,382. The proposed amount will keep the Statewide Average Per Pupil Funding the same as 2011-12. The Statewide Average Per Pupil Funding is \$6,474.24 for 2011-12 and the bill as introduced keeps this average the same for 2012-13.

The total program funding amount for 2012-13 prior to the application of the negative factor is estimated to be \$6,302,403,884 and takes into account inflation, growth in pupil counts, at-risk counts, assessed valuation and specific ownership changes.

The negative factor percentage of 16.11% results in a difference of (\$1,015,505,502).

Total program funding before negative factor	\$6,302,403,884
Less negative factor	(1,015,505,502)
Proposed total program	\$5,286,898,382
Negative Factor Percentage	16.11%

Adds an appropriation of \$57 million to keep the Statewide Average Per Pupil Funding the same as 2011-12 at \$6,474.24.

Section 2

The bill provides an additional \$1.0 million for charter school capital construction taking the amount to a total of \$6.0 million.

Section 3 & 4

Allows the Mountain BOCES more flexibility in entering into contracted services for supplemental on-line education courses.

Section 5

Provides \$1.3 million to assist local districts with the implementation of the state's "educational priorities." The educational priorities will be determined every three years by the commissioner of education, with input from BOCES and rural schools, **and the Rural Council** and will likely include implementation of the new academic standards and Senate Bill 10-191. The funds will be distributed to local BOCES, which must submit a plan to the State Board of Education detailing how the funds will be used. The bill also allows for the appropriation of funds to be used by CDE to hire a rural school liaison **and funds Department support of the Rural Council.**

Section 6

The definition of "children with disabilities" is clarified to include persons 3 through 8 years old who have been determined to be children experiencing developmental delays as defined in the code of federal regulations.

Insert and Renumber Section 7

Adds an Early Literacy Assessment Tool – request for proposals, software, ~~hardware, training, distribution~~. This assessment tool is intended to provide teachers a real-time tool to assess K – 3 students on reading skills. ~~The tool would include software, mobile devices to use with the software, and training for all districts to use for K-3 students.~~ Purchasing and training in the use of the tool would be completed for use in the 2013-14 school year. The fiscal note is not complete at this time.

Adds language that the Department may phase in the assessment tool depending on available appropriations and the bill includes criteria for the preference of selected districts.

Insert and Renumber Section 8, 9 & 10

The amendment provides at-risk supplemental aid for qualifying school districts (greater than 40% at-risk and has exclusive chartering authority) and any of their charter schools which were chartered before July 1, 2004. A calculation is performed and compares the at-risk percentage between the district and charter. Supplemental aid is provided to the district or charter school with the greater at-risk percentage. Additionally, the supplemental aid is available for any charter schools in non-qualifying districts that have a greater percentage of at-risk than their chartering district. Charter School Institute

schools which have a lower at-risk percentage than their accounting district also receive a partial amount of supplemental aid.

~~This supplemental aid will be funded if pupil count audit recoveries exceed \$3.0 million in 2012-13. Funding will be provided up to \$3.8 million from amounts recovered and received by the Department during the applicable budget year.~~

Sections 11 – 20 Added – Accuplacer Tests

Lifts language from SB12-047 and inserts it into the HB12-1345. It adds provisions for the Accuplacer Test for high school students.

Summary from fiscal note dated March 19, 2012 for SB12-047: The bill permits a school district, a charter school, or the Charter School Institute (CSI) to administer basic skills placement tests to each student in grades 9 through 12. The tests are the same placement tests in reading, writing, and mathematics used by community colleges to place first-year freshman students.

The tests may be administered as often as deemed necessary; however, the state will only reimburse the cost to administer each of the test units once for each student in grades 9 through 12. The amended bill appropriates \$1.0 million from the State Education Fund to reimburse the local cost to administer the tests.

If a district, a charter school, or the CSI administers the tests, the student's score on the placement tests must be included in his or her individual career and academic plan (ICAP). The scores must be analyzed to determine the student's level of postsecondary and workforce readiness. Students unable to demonstrate postsecondary and workforce readiness must receive additional services in order to bring the student up to a satisfactory level of readiness.

Sections 21 – 46 – Added – School Discipline

Lifts language from SB12-046 regarding school discipline and the zero-tolerance policies and amends legal grounds for suspension or expulsion of a student to increase the discretion of school administrators and school boards. There are many components to this section regarding school discipline. No funding available through these provisions for districts.

Renumbered sections:

Adds an appropriation of \$480,000 for the School Counselor Corp program. When added to the amount appropriated in the Long Bill, the total available is \$5.0 million.

Adds appropriations clauses.