

MEMORANDUM



JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE

TO Members of the Joint Budget Committee
FROM Craig Harper, JBC Staff (303-866-3481)
DATE May 11, 2020
SUBJECT JBC Staff Comeback – Comprehensive Quality P.E. Instruction Pilot Program

This item appeared in the summary table of the April 23, 2020, Staff Budget Balancing packet for the Department of Education. However, staff inadvertently omitted the narrative discussion and specific recommendation.

→ REMOVE CONTINUATION OF COMPREHENSIVE QUALITY P.E. INSTRUCTION PILOT

JBC ACTION AS OF 3/16/20: The Committee approved a continuation appropriation of \$1.1 million cash funds from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund to support an additional cohort of grantees under the Health and Wellness through Comprehensive Quality Physical Education Instruction Pilot Program.

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends reversing that decision and eliminating the “new” funding for the program for FY 2020-21 (a reduction of \$1.1 million cash funds from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund for FY 2020-21). The recommendation would leave that amount in the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund to assist with budget balancing.

ANALYSIS:

Additional Background:

Senate Bill 19-246 (School Finance) created the Health and Wellness through Comprehensive Quality Physical Education Instruction Pilot Program to provide three-year grants to eligible schools or school districts to implement a program of comprehensive physical education instruction. Grants under the pilot may cover FY 2020-21 through FY 2022-23. Grantees may use the funds to address resource needs creating barriers to implementing a comprehensive program. The bill requires grantees to ensure that supported physical education programs include specific components.

Senate Bill 19-246 included an appropriation of \$1,100,000 cash funds from the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund and 0.7 FTE to support the program. Section 22-99-105, C.R.S., makes those funds available to the Department through FY 2023-24. It is staff’s understanding that the original appropriation was intended to be one-time in nature and to support the program for the duration of the pilot. However, the Department did request a continuation appropriation of \$1.1 million in “new” funding for FY 2020-21.

Based on the Committee’s discussion during figure setting, staff understands that the intent of providing the additional funding was to expand the program and support an additional cohort of grantees. However, given the change in the revenue outlook since figure setting, staff recommends reversing that decision and eliminating the FY 2020-21 appropriation for the program. The recommendation would leave \$1.1 million available in the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund to assist with budget balancing.