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Legislative Alert: March 28, 2016



‘Civics’ bill duplicates curriculum and is an unfunded mandate

Colorado school districts are facing another year of budget cuts, but state legislators are concentrating on other things.

Like adding another test for high school seniors.

[Senate Bill 16-148](#) would require every student to pass a civics test before graduating from high school. No doubt we all agree that a thorough understanding of our government and how it works is a good thing – and that is why it is already a requirement for graduation from high school in Colorado.

In addition to infringing on and duplicating current curriculum, the proposed test is yet another unfunded mandate. The test in SB 148 would cost districts \$5 to \$10 per student to implement and administer. The test, by the way, is not aligned to current Colorado academic standards.

The negative factor currently stands at more than \$830 million. Local boards have done remarkable work in balancing budgets while continuing to provide great educational outcomes for kids, but we are fast approaching a crippling funding crisis. Paying back the debt owed to Colorado's schoolchildren should be the General Assembly's primary goal.

No one better understands the impact these cuts have had on Colorado students than you, the nearly 1,000 members of CASB. We urge you to contact your representatives and senators and ask them to vote NO on SB 148. Please [click to send an email](#) to members of the Colorado House and Senate Education committees.

– Matt Cook and Jane Urschel

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