

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 3/7/2008

LRB Number	07-3811/1	Introduction Number	SB-466	Estimate Type	Original
Description Grants for world languages instruction in elementary schools and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The bill directs the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to award grants to school districts to add instruction in world languages, other than English, in grades one to six. Under the bill, a school board may apply for a six-year grant to pay for a portion of the compensation of up to two teachers and to phase in world languages instruction in grades one to six.

The bill directs DPI to establish criteria for awarding a grant and requires teachers from participating schools to attend professional development workshops to be offered by DPI twice each year. A component of the professional development program will be methods for integrating the world language into the curricula of other classes taught concurrently with the world language.

State Fiscal Effect: Under the bill, grantee districts are eligible to receive grant payments over the 6-year life of the grant with the annual grant award for teacher staff being equal to \$30,000 in years 1 & 2; \$60,000 in years 3 & 4; and \$30,000 in years 5 & 6. In order to have sufficient funds available in the appropriation to double the district grants (from \$30,000 to \$60,000) in years 3 & 4 under the bill, the department assumes that it may only spend up to half the amount appropriated in the bill in years 1 & 2. For example, the first year of the program could include 8 sites. \$240,000 is needed to assign a teacher to each of 8 sites (\$30,000 x 8 sites). An additional \$10,000 would be granted to assist sites toward meeting the professional development requirements of this bill (\$1,250 x 8 sites = \$10,000).

Local Fiscal Effect: Eligible districts would receive grant funds under the bill. Program expenses that are not covered by the state grant would be paid by the local school districts in which sites are located. These costs would likely vary district by district. The department has no data that would suggest the extent to which districts may have to supplement grant funds to meet their financial obligations associated with the program. Therefore, any additional cost to districts is indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications