

Fiscal Estimate Narratives
WTCS 11/4/2009

LRB Number 09-3755/1	Introduction Number AB-0536	Estimate Type Original
Description Authorizing the Department of Public Instruction, the University of Wisconsin System, the Technical College System, and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities to study each other's education programs, requiring a written agreement concerning such studies, and requiring the establishment of a longitudinal data system of student data		

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

SB 371 would require the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS) to work with other education sectors to establish a longitudinal data system that links education program data from preschool through postsecondary education. The bill would significantly expand the capacity of Wisconsin's education systems to evaluate and study education programs across sectors.

Because WTCS already operates a comprehensive data system, SB 371 would require the development and delivery of a technical "connectivity" solution that creates linkages between WTCS data systems and those of other education sectors, including the Department of Public Instruction, the University of Wisconsin System, and the Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

The development and delivery of a connectivity solution would be accomplished in a number of phases, each of which requires a series of technical tasks, including: analysis of system requirements, technical description of desired software features, computer programming, testing, issue resolution, documentation, and training. It is estimated that development and delivery of a connectivity solution will be a two-year project with an annual cost of at least \$600,000 for information technology (IT) staffing only. Additional costs would include equipment upgrades to enable timely data transmissions, technology consulting services, and project administration.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

The annual costs of the project required under SB 371 will be closely related to the speed at which this unique, complex project is completed and the extent to which unanticipated issues arise. It is assumed that long-range costs would include standard system and equipment upgrades. It is also assumed that development and ongoing maintenance of the connectivity solution would involve indeterminate costs for local technical college districts, which collect and report WTCS college and student data.