

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 3/23/2010

LRB Number	09-4455/1	Introduction Number	SB-593	Estimate Type	Original
Description Student achievement guarantee in education program contracts					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill changes the requirement that a school board maintain the reduced class size achieved during the last school year of the original SAGE contract as a condition for receiving payments under an existing SAGE contract, and permits a school board operating under an existing SAGE contract to do each of the following: 1.) satisfy the class size requirement by reducing the class size to no more than 18 pupils; and 2.) combine two classes with two classroom teachers to achieve a total class size of 30 pupils.

The bill also authorizes a school board, in the 2010-11 school year, to enter into a new, renewable, five-year SAGE contract with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to reduce class size to 18 pupils in grades kindergarten to three in one or more schools in the school district if, in the previous school year, at least one school in the school district had an enrollment of at least 50 per cent low income and all of the following are satisfied: 1.) in the previous school year, the school had an enrollment that was at least 30 per cent low income; 2.) the school is not receiving a grant from DPI for a preschool through grade five program; 3.) the school is not already a beneficiary of a SAGE contract. The school board may combine two classes with two classroom teachers to achieve a total class size of 30 pupils.

Finally, under the bill, DPI may not waive any requirement of the SAGE program in any SAGE contract entered into or renewed after the effective date of the bill.

State Fiscal Effect:

None - the bill does not affect the SAGE aid appropriation. However, the number of districts that may choose to enter into new SAGE contracts for schools as authorized in the bill is indeterminate, as is the number of students who would become eligible for SAGE aid. This could affect the distribution of SAGE aid, but the effect is indeterminate. In addition, without waivers, it is assumed that employee hours currently spent on waivers will be shifted to enhanced monitoring of SAGE class sizes.

Local Fiscal Effect:

School districts may not realize savings from classes with a ratio of two teachers per 30 pupils since this amounts to one teacher per 15 students, the current class size ratio. School districts may realize savings in SAGE schools/classes that have a ratio of one teacher for every 18 pupils instead of one teacher for every 15 pupils. The dollar amount of these savings is indeterminate.

In addition, the number of districts that may choose to enter into new SAGE contracts for schools as authorized in the bill is indeterminate, as is the number of students who would become eligible for SAGE aid. The possible fiscal effect on districts is indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications