

Fiscal Estimate - 2015 Session

Original
 Updated
 Corrected
 Supplemental

LRB Number **15-1312/1** Introduction Number **SB-032**

Description
 Achievement gap reduction contracts requiring participating schools to implement strategies for improving academic performance of low-income pupils in reading and mathematics, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation

Fiscal Effect

State:

- No State Fiscal Effect
- Indeterminate
 - Increase Existing Appropriations
 - Decrease Existing Appropriations
 - Create New Appropriations
 - Increase Existing Revenues
 - Decrease Existing Revenues
 - Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget
 - Yes No
 - Decrease Costs

Local:

- No Local Government Costs
 - Indeterminate
 - 1. Increase Costs 3. Increase Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory
 - 2. Decrease Costs 4. Decrease Revenue
 - Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory
5. Types of Local Government Units Affected
- Towns Village Cities
 - Counties Others
 - School Districts WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected **Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations**
 GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEGS

Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
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Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 2/27/2015

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Description Achievement gap reduction contracts requiring participating schools to implement strategies for improving academic performance of low-income pupils in reading and mathematics, granting rule-making authority, and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Summary: SB 32 creates a program entitled "Achievement Gap Reduction" (AGR) under a new section of the statutes. The AGR program incorporates many of the existing aspects of the Student Achievement Guarantee in Education (SAGE) Program. However, the bill prevents the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) from entering into any new SAGE contracts or renewing any existing SAGE contracts.

The new AGR program differs from the existing SAGE program in the following key aspects:

The AGR program allows a school to meet its obligations under the contract by using one of three strategies, or a combination of these strategies: (a) one-to-one tutoring provided by a licensed teacher; (b) instructional coaching for teachers provided by a licensed teacher; or (c) maintaining 18:1 or 30:2 classroom ratios and providing professional development on small group instruction. Unlike SAGE, the AGR program does not require all participating grades to meet the 18:1 or 30:2 classroom ratios in order to receive funding.

- The AGR program requires a participating school to create performance goals, including reduction of the achievement gap between low-income students in that school and students in the same grade and subject statewide.
- The AGR program requires school board review of implementation and progress toward achieving performance objectives in each participating school every semester.
- The AGR program is funded by a sum sufficient appropriation at the per-pupil level currently received by SAGE participants (\$2,027)
- Under AB 32, schools not currently in SAGE would not be able to participate in the ARG programs.

A related bill (SB 31) has been introduced which would allow DPI to provide a one-year extension on existing SAGE contracts set to expire at the end of the current 2014 school year. That bill also prevents DPI from renewing 5-year SAGE contracts expiring at the end of the 2014-15 school year or any school year thereafter. The intent of that legislation is to provide a one year transition period to allow for legislative passage and DPI implementation of the AGR program.

Local Fiscal Impact:

Indeterminate. It is unknown whether schools that are currently participating in the SAGE program would continue under the AGR. There is potential for loss of revenue (State aid) if a school does not renew, but it is not possible to estimate the amount at this time.

State Fiscal Impact:

While the bill doesn't increase the state's aid appropriation, the change in the appropriation from a sum certain to sum sufficient could result in total state expenditures increasing, depending on the number of low-income pupils for whom the schools could be reimbursed.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

Given that 353 of the 423 school SAGE contracts expire at the end of this school year, the following issues

are of concern:

The window to process these contract renewals begins in March 2015 so there may be timing issues depending on the date this legislation is enacted. Should this legislation be enacted (SB 31 & SB 32) it is unclear how 5-year SAGE contracts renewed before the bill's effective date would be treated under the new law.

SB 32 includes additional reporting requirements for both DPI and schools which may increase administrative costs. Some of those reporting requirements are not clearly defined and may require additional clarification.

Schools district that currently have no schools participating in the SAGE program would be unable to participate in the ARG program in the future, thereby excluding the possibility of other schools with low-income students from participating and benefiting from the new program.

At the conclusion of the one-year extension provided under proposed SB 31, there will remain a small number of schools still operating under 5-year SAGE contracts, set to expire after the 2017-18 school year. As such there would be both SAGE and AGR schools operating at the same time under different rules which may cause confusion.