



## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

WTCS 5/29/2007

LRB Number	<b>07-2395/1</b>	Introduction Number	<b>AB-0327</b>	Estimate Type	<b>Original</b>
<b>Description</b> School district youth options programs and making an appropriation					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

AB 327 eliminates Youth Options as a mandatory program in which pupils enrolled in eleventh or twelfth grade may attend a public or private institution of higher education, including a technical college, for one or more courses. Under current law, the school board of the school district in which the pupil is enrolled is responsible for paying the cost of tuition, fees and books if the pupil is taking college courses for high school credit and the school board determines that comparable courses are not available from the school district.

AB 327 authorizes school districts to establish their own Youth Options program. School districts that create Youth Options programs must specify who may participate, the higher education institutions participants may attend, the courses participants may take, application procedures, and transportation arrangements. AB 327 continues to require that school districts pay tuition, course fees, books and other necessary materials for each course taken for high school credit at higher education institutions.

The number of high school students who attended the WTCS under the Youth Options program in the past five years were:

2001-02: 3,082  
2002-03: 3,315  
2003-04: 3,157  
2004-05: 3,025  
2005-06: 2,896

Between 63 and 70% of students annually attending the WTCS under the Youth Options program enrolled for 5 or fewer credits.

The WTCS does not anticipate that eliminating the mandatory nature of the Youth Options program will significantly affect WTCS colleges. School districts that choose to establish their own Youth Options programs are likely to continue relying on WTCS colleges as educational providers. In districts that do not choose to continue the program, high school students might continue to enroll in WTCS courses.

If there is a significant decline in enrollment of Youth Options student in the WTCS, it could potentially reduce local revenues if WTCS colleges were left with empty slots for which colleges were not able to enroll other students. If WTCS colleges were able to reduce the number of sections offered because of declining Youth Options enrollment, there would be some cost savings. Additional cost savings also might result from eliminating the need for WTCS colleges to administer the program, which includes ensuring that courses in which Youth Options students enroll meet high school graduation requirements, processing applications from Youth Options students, and billing school districts and processing payments received from school districts for Youth Options students.

### Long-Range Fiscal Implications