

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 3/5/2008

LRB Number	07-3558/1	Introduction Number	SB-557	Estimate Type	Original
Description State special education aid for the salaries of certain pupil services personnel and granting rule-authority					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Currently, the salaries of school nurses, school social workers, school psychologists, and school counselors employed for a special education program are among the costs that are eligible to be reimbursed by the state through special education aid. If the amount appropriated for such aid is insufficient to fully reimburse the costs, the amount paid is prorated.

This bill directs the Department of Public Instruction to determine the average percentage of work time that each of the personnel categories specified above spends providing services to children with disabilities, and provides that that percentage of the salaries of personnel in that category is the cost eligible for reimbursement from the state.

State Fiscal Effect: There will be no overall fiscal effect on DPI. SB 557 will not change the amount of special education categorical aid. It could simply change the distribution of the aid to school districts.

Local Fiscal Effect: SB 557 could have an effect on school districts. Since districts are currently reporting the percent of time that each professional is working with students with disabilities, once specific percentages for each profession are in administrative rules, districts could gain or lose special education categorical aid. For example, if a district has been reporting their school psychologist as working 100% time with students with disabilities and SB 557 leads to the development of administrative rules setting the average time for a school psychologist at 65%, that district could lose aid. On the other hand, if another district is reporting their school psychologist at 25% time working with students with disabilities and the rules set the average time at 65%, that district could gain aid.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications