



## Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 11/25/2009

LRB Number	09-3404/2	Introduction Number	AB-0584	Estimate Type	Original
<b>Description</b> Screening pupils for phonemic awareness and rapid naming					

### Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

AB 584 directs DPI to develop or adopt a screening device to identify pupils in grades kindergarten to five who are at risk of reading failure. Beginning in the 2011–12 school year, unless a pupil's parent objects, annually each school board operating elementary grades must use the screening device to screen each pupil enrolled in the school district in grades kindergarten to two and each pupil enrolled in grades three to five who scored in the lowest 40 percent of all pupils in the state on the statewide standardized examinations. Results of the screen must be provided to the parent of each pupil screened within 90 days of the commencement of fall classes each year.

#### State:

There is a potentially large one-time fiscal effect on the DPI to implement AB 584. The bill requires the department to develop or adopt a screening device that will help identify pupils that are at risk for reading failure. Because the department does not currently have such a screening in place, it will be necessary to research products that are currently available which the department could adopt. If a relevant product is not available, the department will have to develop a new screening. DPI could not accomplish this development within its current staff and funding levels.

Since this screening would be a requirement in state law (vs federal law), GPR funding would be most appropriate to support the initiative. The specific costs associated with the development of this screening are indeterminate.

#### Local:

AB 584 would result in an indeterminate amount of costs to local school districts. The type of screening device that is adopted or developed by DPI will have an effect on the costs to school districts. Costs may be lower if the screening can be taken by pupils on their own all at the same time rather than if the screening is an oral reading test and each pupil needs a one-on-one evaluation where a greater staff time commitment will be necessary.

Following the screening, parents must be notified of the results within 90 days. Creating and mailing letters to discuss the results as well as reporting the results from this new screening from the district to DPI will take staff time and money at each school district.

Costs to school districts will be ongoing because AB 584 requires annual testing of pupils in grades kindergarten to two. The specific amount of annual costs will fluctuate as the number of pupils in those grades fluctuate and the number of pupils requiring screening in grades three to five fluctuates (the bill requires districts to only screen pupils in grades three to five if they scored in the lowest 40 percent of all pupils in the state on the statewide standardized exams).

### Long-Range Fiscal Implications