

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 5/15/2015

LRB Number	15-2202/2	Introduction Number	SB-146	Estimate Type	Original
Description Community school start-up grants and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to create a community school start-up grant program, under which DPI awards competitive grants to school boards to plan and implement community schools. The bill defines a community school as a public school other than a charter school that focuses on improving student learning, strengthening families, and developing healthier communities, working with community partners to provide additional services to the surrounding community and providing wrap-around support services to pupils and their families. Under this bill, the term "charter School" includes both school district charter schools under S.118.40 and independent (2r) charter schools under s.118.40(2r)(b).

The bill requires that under the community school start-up grant program, DPI must allocate portions of the program funding to establishing community schools in rural school districts, to establishing community schools in high-poverty school districts, and to transforming low-performing schools into community schools.

The bill also requires an applicant for a community school start-up grant to demonstrate that it has secured matching funds for the grant and to identify a school resource coordinator who will coordinate school programming. An applicant for a community school start-up grant must also describe the types of programming the school will provide to improve student learning, strengthen families, and develop a healthier community. A community school start-up grant is for five years and may be renewed for additional five-year terms.

SB 146 creates a new GPR appropriation of \$15 million annually beginning in FY16 to DPI to develop and implement a program to provide competitive start-up grants for the purpose of planning and implementing community schools. A grant is for five years and may be renewed for additional five year terms. Under the bill, DPI could distribute up to \$15,000,000 annually in grants, and unencumbered funds would lapse to the general fund at the end of each fiscal year.

When developing the grant program, the department is required to do all of the following:

- (a) Allocate a portion of the amount appropriated for planning and implementing community schools in rural school districts.
- (b) Allocate a portion of the amount appropriated for planning and implementing community schools in school districts in high-poverty school districts in which at least 50 percent of the district's enrollment is eligible for a free or reduced-price lunch in the federal school lunch program.
- (c) Allocate a portion of the amount appropriated for transforming low-performing schools into community schools. Under this bill, a "low-performing school" is a public school that was in the lowest 5 percent of all public schools in the state in the previous school year or that was placed in the lowest performance category in the most recent school and school district accountability report.
- (d) Establish a maximum grant award for each community school.
- (e) Require an applicant for a grant to demonstrate that it has secured matching funds.
- (f) Require that an applicant for a grant identify a school resource coordinator.

Under this bill, a "community school" means a public school other than a charter school that focuses on all of the following:

1. Improving pupil learning through an engaging, culturally relevant, and challenging curriculum and high-quality teaching.
2. Strengthening families and developing healthier communities by integrating academics, health and

social services, intergenerational programming, youth and community development, and community engagement

3. Working with community partners to provide additional support and opportunities to the community surrounding the public school.

4. Providing wrap-around support services to pupils and their families, including nonemergency medical, dental, nursing, and optometric services and individualized social, emotional, and behavioral services.

5. Finally, the bill requires a recipient of a community school start-up grant to provide an annual report to DPI.

Local: Indeterminate

The costs to school districts to develop and write grant applications and to submit annual reports to the Department will likely vary among school districts and is indeterminate. In addition, grant applicants are required to designate a staff position to serve as the program's school resource coordinator. It is unknown how many grant recipients would add those responsibilities to an existing school staff person or would need to reallocate funding to create a new position

State:

Department costs are indeterminate. It is unknown how many school boards will apply for the grants and how many of those applications will succeed in securing the required matching funds. The costs for developing and implementing this grant program will require reallocation of department staff and resources, assuming no additional position authority is provided. Staff and resources will be required to review all applications, determine eligibility, confirm matching funds have been secured and make awards to qualified applicants. Depending on the volume of grant applications, the department might be able to absorb the costs of administering this grant program.

Increases state expenditures (GPR) by \$15 million annually to fund the grants

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

The bill increases the state's base appropriation going forward by \$15,000,000.