

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 1/16/2024

LRB Number	23-5423/1	Introduction Number	AB-0937	Estimate Type	Original
Description incorporating cursive writing into the state model English language arts standards and requiring cursive writing in elementary grades					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires the state superintendent of public instruction to incorporate cursive writing into the model academic standards for English language arts. The bill also requires all school boards, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a parental choice program to include cursive writing in its respective curriculum for the elementary grades. Specifically, each elementary school curriculum must include the objective that pupils be able to write legibly in cursive by the end of fifth grade.

The department has identified potential costs associated with requiring instruction in cursive in schools:

Handwriting without Tears (producer of widely used workbooks for students and teacher's guides) offers disposable (used for one year) cursive materials for \$10 per child.

McGraw Hill offers a cursive writing program that is \$159.51 for a "teacher presentation book".

CursiveLogic offers workbooks (\$34.95 for a Level 1 workbook) and professional learning webinars for educators (\$25.00 per participant).

The prices noted for these vendors' products do not reflect any volume-discount pricing that the vendor makes available to customers. For example, the vendor CursiveLogic provides a discounts of 25%, 40%, and 45%, depending on the number of items purchased. Other vendors may also offer volume discounts, but the department does not have that information.

The department does not have information as to the number of public school districts, ICS, or private schools that currently teach cursive writing in elementary schools, and thus would not incur any additional costs as a result of the bill. Therefore, it is not possible to reasonably project likely costs for those school districts, ICS, and private schools that do not currently incorporate cursive writing into their curriculum.

Local: Indeterminate. Potential for increased costs.

State: None. The department would notify school districts, ICS, and private choice schools of the change in state law and make department staff available for questions from districts.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications