

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 2/2/2024

LRB Number	23-5637/1	Introduction Number	SB-0969	Estimate Type	Original
Description prohibiting grade promotion on the basis of absences from school					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

State Impact: Indeterminate

The bill requires each school board, governing body of a private school participating in a parental choice program, and the operator of an independent charter school (ICS), by July 1, 2025, to adopt a written policy for grade promotion that requires that a pupil not have missed more than the equivalent of 30 full days of school in order to be eligible to be promoted to the next grade. The department may be expected to provide guidance with respect to the changes to policies or procedures that would be required in this bill. The changes as a result of this requirement would be minimal and could be absorbed within existing department resources.

If a student was not promoted to the next grade as a result of missing more than 30 equivalent full days of school (as the bill requires), the school district's pupil counts could be affected in future years - e.g., the student is educated in the school/district for more than the typical 13-14 years (5 year old kindergarten through Grade 12 or 4 year old kindergarten through Grade 12). This effect would be magnified for a student that is retained more than one year (assuming the student then goes on to complete school through the twelfth grade). The impact would be felt in future years, as student who otherwise would have exited high school remain enrolled in school. As a result, pupil counts for a school or district could be impact, which would effect a school districts revenue raising capacity and funding received from various state aid programs. This could also be the case for students enrolled in a private school participating in a parental choice program or an independent charter school. The state would make payments to the private schools and ICS for the retained student until they graduates or is no longer enrolled in the school.

That said, the bill's impact on a school district's revenue authority and state aid, and on the state payments to private choice program schools and ICS, cannot be projected, as it would depend on individual student behavior. Therefore, the fiscal impact to the state as a result of the bill is indeterminate.

Local Impact: Indeterminate

Any changes to school district/school policies or procedures as a result of the bill would have to be absorbed within existing resources, as the bill provides no funding to school district, private choice schools, or ICS to offset any additional costs. Depending on the number of students retained as a result of the bill, and the distribution of retained students across grade bands, schools may need to realign their resources to ensure adequate staffing patterns throughout the school/district. Those changes may come at a cost, but cannot be predicted. Therefore, the local fiscal impact as a result of the bill is indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications