

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE

[First Reprint]

SENATE, No. 2268

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 6, 2022

SUMMARY

- Synopsis:**
- Requires Commissioner of Education to prepare learning loss report and report on public school operations during COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Type of Impact:**
- Potential expenditure increase for the State in FY 2023 and FY 2024; potential local school district expenditure increase in FY 2023
- Agencies Affected:**
- Department of Education; Local School Districts

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	FY 2023	FY 2024
Potential State Cost Increase	Indeterminate	Indeterminate
Potential Local Cost Increase	Indeterminate	---

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) determines that this bill may lead to an indeterminate, marginal increase in State expenditures to the Department of Education (DOE) in FY 2023 and FY 2024 related to the development of the learning loss report and the report on public school operations during the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- The OLS believes that the DOE already possesses the staff, technical infrastructure, and data systems necessary to allow it to collect the data and information required to be submitted by school districts under the bill.
- The OLS anticipates that local school districts may incur one-time marginal costs in FY 2023 related to the collection of data that is not already collected and submitted by school districts pursuant to existing requirements and efforts.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill requires the Department of Education to prepare two reports on the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on public schooling. The first report, to be prepared and

submitted by May 31, 2023, will be a learning loss report that identifies and quantifies the impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on student academic outcomes. The bill requires school districts to submit to the department data on student academic outcomes within 30 days of the bill's effective date. The second report, to be prepared and submitted by September 30, 2023, will be a report on the continuation of school services during the same period. The bill requires school districts to submit data and information for this report within 90 days of the bill's effective date.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS determines that this bill may lead to an indeterminate, marginal increase in State expenditures to the DOE in FY 2023 and FY 2024 related to the development of the learning loss report and the report on public school operations during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The DOE may also incur marginal costs to develop and distribute technical guidance to school districts in their submittal of the data and information required under the bill. The OLS believes that the DOE already possesses the staff, technical infrastructure, and data systems necessary to allow it to collect the data and information required to be submitted by school districts under the bill. Local school districts may incur one-time marginal costs in FY 2023 to collect any data and information required under the bill that is not already being collected under existing requirements or efforts.

The OLS notes that certain data and information required under the bill may already be collected by school districts and submitted to the DOE through existing reporting requirements and efforts. For example, the DOE currently collects from school districts a variety of data on student academic outcomes through the School Performance Report, which is the successor to the School Report Card and required under current law. Related to the content of this bill, the School Performance Reports for the 2019-2020 school year and the 2020-2021 school year include a "Special Topic" narrative field on instruction and learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The OLS also finds that the DOE currently collects from school districts much of the information required under the bill for the development of a report on the continuation of school services during the public health emergency. In addition to data that may already be collected for the School Performance Report and through other means, answers from the DOE to budget questions presented as part of the FY 2021 budget process indicated that it planned to undertake efforts to collect data specific to school district operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. The OLS further notes that the DOE is required under the FY 2022 Appropriations Act to conduct impact analyses on the effectiveness of federal education stimulus funds on "closing academic learning gaps, accelerating student learning, closing the digital divide, and improving the social and emotional wellbeing of the students." The DOE contracted with Rutgers University's Policy Lab to complete this work. It is possible that the data used for this report overlaps with the requirements of this bill.

Section: Education

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This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).