



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 256** SLS 22RS 422
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 4, 2022	8:52 AM	Author: BARROW
Dept./Agy.: Education		
Subject: Assessments of Student Prior to Suspension		Analyst: Garrett Ordner

SCHOOLS EG SEE FISC NOTE LF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Requires certain assessments of a student prior to suspension from school. (gov sig)

Proposed law requires public school principals, prior to suspending a student for a period of greater than three days, to ensure the student is assessed by an instrument designed to determine whether he or she has experienced trauma. The results of this assessment shall be considered in determining whether the student's behavior may be addressed through alternative means other than suspension. Effective upon governor's signature.

EXPENDITURES	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

The proposed legislation may result in additional costs for school districts; however, these costs are indeterminable. There are several Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) assessment tools available at no cost. However, districts may experience increased workload for staff training to administer the assessments, as well as developing alternatives to suspension.

Although districts would be allowed to use any instrument to assess students for trauma, the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Module is provided by the Center for Diseases Control and Prevention at no cost; however, it is unclear if this assessment, which is intended for adults, is appropriate for administration to students. Other freely available screeners include the Pediatric ACEs and Related Life Events Screener (PEARLS) created by the Center for Youth Wellness and the University of California - San Francisco School of Medicine.

To the extent students considered for suspension are not currently evaluated for trauma, districts may experience increased costs associated with staff training, as well as increased workload to administer. The legislation does not specify school personnel authorized to administer the assessment, but would likely involve staff with mental health experience such as school counselors, psychologists, or social workers.

According to Department of Education data, 46,113 students (6.2% of total enrollment) were disciplined through out-of-school suspension in the 2019-20 school year; however, the LFO has not received data on the number of students suspended for a period greater than three days. Due to variations in out-of-school suspension rates among districts, the need for additional staff will vary, as not all districts will be able to absorb this workload adjustment and may require additional staff. Experts recommend that staff receive training prior to administering an ACE assessment. Act 353 of the 2021 R.S. requires one hour of ACE training for faculty and staff each year; however, more training may be necessary to administer an assessment.

Districts may also need to reformulate disciplinary policies and develop trauma-informed treatment plans for students identified with ACEs. There may be additional costs to the extent new policies prompt alternative behavioral interventions.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate Dual Referral Rules
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}

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