



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 336** SLS 24RS 543
 Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 29, 2024	9:15 AM	Author: PRESSLY
Dept./Agy.: EDUCATION		
Subject: Dyslexia Screening		Analyst: Julie Silva

STUDENTS EN INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Provides for dyslexia screening and subsequent testing and core assessment. (8/1/24)

Changes existing requirements concerning dyslexia screening. Under present law, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) is directed to select a dyslexia screener meeting specific requirements and is to provide the screener, at no cost, to each public school. Classroom teachers are to administer the screener in the second half of kindergarten, or to any student, in any grade, when requested by a teacher, parent, or guardian. Proposed legislation adds the requirement that if a screening indicates a student is at risk for dyslexia, the parent or guardian may request subsequent dyslexia testing and a core assessment, which must include tests of language, an academic performance review, and an interview with the parent or guardian. Requires LDOE to select vendors for subsequent testing and core assessments and to make payments to such vendors based on a schedule developed by the department and approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. Permits a parent or guardian may employ or contract with a professional outside of one provided at their child's school and requires LDOE to reimburse these costs, if the professional is on LDOE's approved vendors list. **Subject to appropriation of funds by the legislature.**

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

An increase in state governmental expenditures is anticipated as a result of proposed legislation. The primary expenditure will result from the provision that upon a dyslexia screening resulting in a determination that a student is at risk for dyslexia, the student's parent or guardian may request subsequent dyslexia testing and a core assessment, which must include tests of language, an academic performance review, and an interview with the parent or guardian. LDOE is to contract with one or more vendors qualified to perform this additional testing and core assessments. These vendors are to be paid by the department based upon a schedule they develop that is approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). Proposed legislation additionally permits a parent or guardian to employ or contract with a professional other than those available to them at their child's school and requires LDOE to reimburse parents only for services provided by professionals on the department's approved vendors list. Reimbursement amounts are not to exceed the amount approved in the LDOE/BESE payment schedule.

SB 440 of the 2024 RS, currently under consideration by the legislature, creates the Dyslexia Fund as a special fund within the state treasury and requires that, subject to appropriation, monies from the fund may only be used on costs associated with testing and screening students for dyslexia. **Based on testimony provided in the House Education Committee hearing held on 5/14/24, in the event the Dyslexia Fund is created and monies are appropriated to it by the legislature, the fund is the anticipated source of funding for the testing and screening requirements of proposed legislation.** Additional information on the potential cost to provide core assessment testing is provided on page two of this fiscal note.

LDOE reports that in order for the department to meet the requirements of proposed legislation it will need two (2) authorized T.O. positions for a total of \$253,993 in FY 25. An Education Program Consultant 4 (\$84,989 salary, \$38,245 related benefits, and \$15,088 operating expenses) would be hired as the department expert on dyslexia and would oversee the continued implementation of the dyslexia screener, build and provide guidance for the core assessment, and facilitate communication with the core assessment providers identified statewide. An Education Program Consultant 2 (\$69,368 salary, \$31,215 related benefits, and \$15,088 operating expenses) is needed to manage the identification of core assessment providers and their payment schedules. This position would also be charged with creating and managing the parent or legal guardian reimbursement process. **The LFO cannot corroborate the increased workload predicted by the department. To the extent the workload is less than anticipated, it may be absorbable using existing employees and within the department's existing budget.**


CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

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}


Patrice Thomas
 Deputy Fiscal Officer



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one:

The total cost to provide a core assessment is not able to be estimated with any level of certainty as the number of students referred under the current screening program for these assessments is not collected. The following information is provided for illustrative purposes using available information and data. LDOE identified several vendors able to provide required core assessments as outlined in proposed legislation, ranging in cost from \$400 to \$5,000 per assessment. The average cost of a single core assessment across all identified vendors totaled \$1,814. Dyslexia data is self-reported by school districts through an ad-hoc collection of students with a 504 Plan or in an Individualized Education Program (IEP). In the February 2024 Dyslexia Report, school districts reported approximately 3,600 students who were identified as dyslexic through 504 and IEP plans. This number does not account for students who were flagged to take the core assessment, but were not identified as dyslexic as a result. Assuming there were instances of this, the number of assessments given is expected to be higher than the estimate provided. Additionally, LDOE reports some schools and school systems currently employ pupil appraisal employees who meet the requirements of proposed legislation and are qualified to conduct core assessments. To the extent this option is available in a school or system, the need to contract with additional vendors, and therefore, additional costs associated with the core assessment, would be lowered or eliminated.

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