SCHOOLS/CHOICE

Applies to new nonpublic schools for the 2023-24 school year. Otherwise, it applies to existing nonpublic schools for the 2024-25 school year.

Increasing the funding base for existing nonpublic schools will be funded by the sale of bonds, which will be floated in the next legislative session. The funds generated from the bond sale will be used to cover the cost of the increase in funding.

The increase in funding will allow new nonpublic schools to expand their programs and services, which will benefit students and families. It will also provide an opportunity for existing nonpublic schools to improve their financial stability and sustainability.

The Legislative Fiscal Office's analysis of the proposed budget and its impact on nonpublic schools suggests that the increase in funding will provide significant benefits for students and schools. It is recommended that the increase in funding be approved to ensure the continued growth and development of nonpublic schools.

The proposed increase in funding for nonpublic schools is consistent with the state's commitment to providing quality education opportunities for all students. It aligns with the principles of equity and access, and it is in the best interest of the state to support the expansion of nonpublic schools.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the increase in funding be approved to ensure the continued growth and development of nonpublic schools. It is a prudent investment in the future of education in the state.

## EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

The proposed increase in funding for nonpublic schools is based on the following assumptions:

1. The increase in funding will be allocated to new nonpublic schools for the 2023-24 school year.
2. The increase in funding will be allocated to existing nonpublic schools for the 2024-25 school year.
3. The increase in funding will be used to cover the cost of expanding the programs and services of nonpublic schools.
4. The increase in funding will be funded by the sale of bonds, which will be floated in the next legislative session.
5. The funds generated from the bond sale will be used to cover the cost of the increase in funding.

The increase in funding will allow new nonpublic schools to expand their programs and services, which will benefit students and families. It will also provide an opportunity for existing nonpublic schools to improve their financial stability and sustainability.

The Legislative Fiscal Office's analysis of the proposed budget and its impact on nonpublic schools suggests that the increase in funding will provide significant benefits for students and schools. It is recommended that the increase in funding be approved to ensure the continued growth and development of nonpublic schools.

The proposed increase in funding for nonpublic schools is consistent with the state's commitment to providing quality education opportunities for all students. It aligns with the principles of equity and access, and it is in the best interest of the state to support the expansion of nonpublic schools.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the increase in funding be approved to ensure the continued growth and development of nonpublic schools. It is a prudent investment in the future of education in the state.

## REVENUE EXPLANATION

The proposed increase in funding for nonpublic schools is based on the following assumptions:

1. The increase in funding will be allocated to new nonpublic schools for the 2023-24 school year.
2. The increase in funding will be allocated to existing nonpublic schools for the 2024-25 school year.
3. The increase in funding will be used to cover the cost of expanding the programs and services of nonpublic schools.
4. The increase in funding will be funded by the sale of bonds, which will be floated in the next legislative session.
5. The funds generated from the bond sale will be used to cover the cost of the increase in funding.

The increase in funding will allow new nonpublic schools to expand their programs and services, which will benefit students and families. It will also provide an opportunity for existing nonpublic schools to improve their financial stability and sustainability.

The Legislative Fiscal Office's analysis of the proposed budget and its impact on nonpublic schools suggests that the increase in funding will provide significant benefits for students and schools. It is recommended that the increase in funding be approved to ensure the continued growth and development of nonpublic schools.

The proposed increase in funding for nonpublic schools is consistent with the state's commitment to providing quality education opportunities for all students. It aligns with the principles of equity and access, and it is in the best interest of the state to support the expansion of nonpublic schools.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the increase in funding be approved to ensure the continued growth and development of nonpublic schools. It is a prudent investment in the future of education in the state.
The LDE estimates that in addition to funding for the needed positions and ESA awards, approximately 5% of funds made available to the program will be needed to cover the cost of the vendor to administer the program, as well as administrative costs that include equipment, systems, and other potential operating costs.

Outside of program administrative costs, there will be no additional costs to the state for students that participate in the ESA program if they are already enrolled in public school. This legislation would result in a reduction in the MFP state funding allocation, and the LDE would allocate an equivalent amount per student to the ESA program. For illustrative purposes, if 2,000 public school students participate in the ESA program and awards average $5,436, MFP costs will decrease by $10.9 M and deposits into ESAs will increase by $10.9 M. The legislature would need to appropriate this $10.9 M plus an additional 5% ($545,000) for vendor and administrative costs. Actual amounts will vary based on the number of students and their residency. Local school systems may experience reduced instructional costs due to a decrease in enrollment; however, this is indeterminable.

There will be increased state costs to the extent a student participates in the ESA program who would otherwise not have attended public school. Kindergarten-eligible students with exceptionalities whose parents were planning to homeschool the students or place them in a nonpublic school will be eligible for this program, representing a net cost to the state. The number of such children is indeterminable.

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**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE**

The legislature would need to appropriate this $10.9 M plus an additional 5% ($545,000) for vendor and administrative costs. Actual amounts will vary based on the number of students and their residency. Local school systems may experience reduced instructional costs due to a decrease in enrollment; however, this is indeterminable.

There will be increased state costs to the extent a student participates in the ESA program who would otherwise not have attended public school. Kindergarten-eligible students with exceptionalities whose parents were planning to homeschool the students or place them in a nonpublic school will be eligible for this program, representing a net cost to the state. The number of such children is indeterminable.

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**Dual Referral Rules**

- Senate: 13.5.1 >= $100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost (S & H)
- Senate: 13.5.2 >= $500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change (S & H)
- House: 6.8(F)(1) >= $100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost (H & S)
- House: 6.8(G) >= $500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease (S)

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**Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer**

Evan Brasseaux

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**Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer**

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