



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 911** HLS 22RS 1727
 Bill Text Version: **ENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 28, 2022	3:35 PM	Author: HUGHES
Dept./Agy.: Education		
Subject: Early Literacy		Analyst: Garrett Ordner

EDUCATION EG INCREASE LF EX See Note Page 1 of 1
 Provides relative to early literacy

Proposed legislation increases the number of required annual literacy screeners for K-3 students from one to three. Requires parental notification when students are identified as reading below grade level. Requires an individual reading improvement plan for each student identified as reading below grade level. Adds summer learning opportunities to existing law listing potential literacy interventions and supports for students identified as reading below grade level. Requires school districts to utilize literacy coaches for on-site teacher training. Provides for reporting requirements.

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	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

There will be significant costs to local school districts to provide literacy coaches for onsite teacher training. The Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) reports that the total cost of providing a literacy coach in every school is \$25.8 M per year. This cost includes \$9.6 M in federal funds which have been allocated to the literacy coach program in FY 23 and FY 24, and \$7.6 M in federal funds allocated to the literacy coach program in FY 25. The LDE is currently developing the required screener pursuant to Act 438 of the 2021 R.S. and plans to provide the screener three times per year. School districts may incur additional costs to provide competitive benefits packages to literacy coaches. There will be additional costs to the extent that public school districts elect to offer summer learning opportunities to students identified as reading below grade level; however, these costs are indeterminable.

In December 2021, the LDE presented a report to the legislature pursuant to HCR 11 of the 2021 R.S. concerning the cost of a literacy coach program. The LDE estimates a cost of \$25.4 M per year for 400 literacy coaches at \$60,000 per coach as well as 16 literacy specialists at \$70,000 per specialist to provide support to the literacy coaches by coordinating strategy and professional development. These costs do not include related benefits. In addition, the LDE estimates a cost of \$360,000 per year to provide professional development for literacy coaches.

The LDE reports that federal funding has been allocated for its literacy coach program in the amount of \$2 M from the Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) in FY 23 and FY 24, and \$7.6 M from the Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) grant in FY 23, FY 24, and FY 25. These funding sources are currently being used to operate a pilot program which provides literacy coaches to schools which serve students in grades K-2 and are designated as Comprehensive Intervention Required (CIR) or Urgent Intervention Required - Academics (UIR-A). All currently allocated federal funding for the program will end in FY 25.

After accounting for the allocated federal funding, expanding literacy coaches to all schools will require additional funding in the amount of \$16.2 M in FY 23 and FY 24, \$18.2 M in FY 25, and \$25.8 M in subsequent years. Without additional state funding, these costs will be the responsibility of the local school districts.

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}

Evan Brasseaux

Evan Brasseaux
Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer