



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE**  
**Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **SB 205** SLS 23RS 347  
 Bill Text Version: **RE-REENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action: **w/ HSE COMM AMD**  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.:

<b>Date:</b> May 17, 2023 8:43 AM	<b>Author:</b> CORTEZ
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Higher Education/Statewide	
<b>Subject:</b> Data Sharing - LA FIRST	<b>Analyst:</b> Chris Henry

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY RR1 INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Creates the Louisiana Foundational Integrated Research System for Transformation (LA FIRST). (gov sig)

Proposed law creates Louisiana’s Foundational Integrated Research System for Transformation (LA FIRST) to be developed and maintained by the Board of Regents at the Kathleen Blanco Public Policy Center at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL). Requires the Board of Regents and each postsecondary management board, Louisiana Workforce Commission, Department of Children and Family Services, Department of Corrections, Office of Juvenile Justice, Louisiana Department of Health, and Department of Education and local school districts to enter into data sharing agreements with the Blanco Policy Center. Requires LA FIRST to publish annual reports on K-12 to college or career transition, employment outcomes, and causes and consequences of criminal and delinquent acts. Proposed law shall only be implemented if an appropriation of funds by the Legislature is made for its purpose.

Data sharing agreements must be executed by December 1, 2023.

<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>						
<b>REVENUES</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2025-26</b>	<b>2026-27</b>	<b>2027-28</b>	<b>5 -YEAR TOTAL</b>
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

There will be increased costs to implement the LA FIRST initiative at certain agencies below. For purposes of this fiscal note, the LFO assumes these will be funded with SGF.

The Blanco Policy Center at ULL anticipates a need for sixteen (16) additional positions to initiate the LA FIRST program including a Data Center Program Manager (\$100,000 Salary, \$45,600 Related Benefits), Administrative Staff (\$60,000 Salary, \$27,360 Related Benefits), 2 IT Support Staff (\$80,000 Salary, \$36,480 Related Benefits), and 12 Research Staff (\$70,000 Salary, \$31,920). These staff would be responsible for the in-depth study of subject matter specific data, leading the annual reports required by the legislation, and data visualization. Additional estimated needs include costs for equipment at \$200,000 in FY 24, of which \$150,000 is for one-time startup purchases for a large primary data server and a mirrored backup server along with the related hardware to build a secure data environment. Computers capable of processing the required quantities of data along with the associated software would also need to be purchased in FY 24 for the data center staff. Equipment costs subsequently decrease to \$50,000 in the ensuing years for maintenance. Recurring operating expenses for software, data backup services, and subscriptions are estimated at \$100,000. The combined operational costs for the Blanco Center to start LA FIRST are estimated at \$2.0 M in FY 24, \$1.9 M in FY 25, and \$1.9 M in FY 26.

The Board of Regents is tasked in the legislation to establish and maintain the LA FIRST initiative. Regents report a one-time cost of \$35,000 to hire data security consulting services to aid in the initial deployment and conduct a security evaluation of the new data system. In addition, an increase in annual expenses estimated at \$35,000 for data servers and software subscriptions is needed.

The Louisiana Department of Education (LDE) is bound by laws not to access student’s personal information and would need to pass all data that is personally identifiable (Full Name, Date of Birth, Social Security Number) through its data warehouse vendor eScholar to generate a unique state ID before data can be shared. These additional services are not in the current contract and could result in additional costs to implement. If LDE is tasked with facilitating data sharing agreements between LA FIRST and the local school districts, its System Support team would see a workload increase to ensure local districts comply with the data submissions.

Many departments report the proposed legislation will have minimal or an indeterminable impact on expenditures. The type and amount of data requested to be shared as well as the transfer frequency is not specified in the legislation and will likely be determined with each data sharing agreement. More complex agreements could result in added workloads and/or costs. The initial creation of reports stemming from data sharing agreements that require work with external vendors, system programming, and/or testing could also result in one-time costs.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

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

Senate  
 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*  
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**Evan Brasseaux**  
 Interim Deputy Fiscal Officer