



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **HB 244** HLS 24RS 312
 Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 9, 2024	8:51 AM	Author: HUGHES
Dept./Agy.: EDUCATION		
Subject: Steve Carter Education Program		Analyst: Julie Silva

STUDENTS RE SEE FISC NOTE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2
 Expands the purpose of the Steve Carter Literacy Program to include educational services in math

Proposed legislation expands the purpose of the Steve Carter Literacy program to include mathematics, changes the name to the Steve Carter Education Program, and increases the maximum payment for eligible expenses from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Proposed legislation additionally expands eligibility to include: students enrolled in kindergarten or the first, second, or third grade who are at risk for mathematics learning difficulties according to a mathematics assessment; students enrolled in the fourth through twelfth grade and who scored below mastery in mathematics on the state assessment in the prior school year; students enrolled in the sixth through twelfth grade who scored below mastery in English language arts on the state assessment in the prior school year; and students enrolled in kindergarten through the fifth grade, who lack a mathematics assessment result, and are recommended for the program by a mathematics teacher. Expands the pool of eligible tutoring providers to include students pursuing a degree at a postsecondary institution, those who hold any associate or baccalaureate degree, paraprofessionals employed by a local school governing authority, and certified math teachers.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
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	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

Proposed legislation retains the provision in current law that implementation of the program is subject to appropriation of funds, or the availability of local funds, for such purpose. Assuming local funds are not available, and the legislature opts to allocate funding for the program, the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) estimates that beginning in FY 25, it will cost \$4.5 M annually to fund the expanded Steve Carter Education Program and provide for the department's administrative costs. Administrative costs are anticipated to increase each year. This estimate also assumes student participation in the program remains at the current level of 0.8% of those eligible. If participation rates increase, estimated costs will increase proportionally (\$1,500 per student).

Under current law, the Steve Carter Literacy Program provides \$1,000 vouchers to families of eligible K-5 public school students. The digital vouchers can be used to purchase high-quality literacy tutoring. Under proposed legislation, the Steve Carter Education Program would provide \$1,500 vouchers to families of eligible K-12 public school students, these digital vouchers could be used for high-quality literacy and mathematics (numeracy) tutoring, but each student is eligible for only one \$1,500 voucher. Program costs are affected by and dependent on student performance and program participation. Priority for payments will be given to the lowest-performing, economically disadvantaged students.

LDOE launched the Steve Carter program in November 2022, allocating \$40 M of the state set aside from federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds. Due to lower than expected participation levels, the department reports spending only \$2.4 M on program costs. All ESSER funding is set to expire by September 2024 and will no longer be available for expenditure, therefore, the department reallocated the remaining funds to other academic recovery efforts.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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 numbers provided in the table below reflect the students who would be eligible for participation in the program, based on results from the Fall 2023 Reading Report for kindergarten through second grade students and those students in the third through twelfth grades who scored below Mastery on the Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) English language arts (ELA) or math subject tests in 2023.

Grade	Students Scoring Below Level
K	24,228
1	25,107
2	23,425
3	34,915
4	34,008
5	35,680
6	35,960
7	37,273
8	36,081
<u>9-12</u>	<u>82,356</u>
Total	369,033


Given these counts, 369,033 students would be eligible for the expanded support outlined in proposed legislation. Based on usage data from the first implementation year of the program, less than 0.8% of eligible students are expected to request participation. The current program is available for K-5th grade students scoring below proficient in English and Language Arts/Reading, and of the 150,000 students eligible, only 1,815 students have enrolled in the program since its launch in January 2023. The total cost of the program to date is \$2.4 M. The LDOE assumes that, in alignment with the current 0.8% usage for ELA tutoring, not all eligible students will enroll in the expanded program, and overall participation levels would remain the same. Based on this it is anticipated that 2,952 students will participate in the program, and the amount of funding needed to provide vouchers would be approximately \$4.4 M.

In addition to program payments, beginning in FY 25, the LDOE reports expenditures related to program administration are estimated to cost \$138,323 for one Education Program Consultant 4 position (\$122,087 combined salary and related benefits and \$16,500 operating expenses). The LDOE assumes an annual 4% increase in salaries and related benefits and an annual 5% increase in operating expenses.

Proposed legislation requires any person providing tutoring services in reading to have successfully completed a department approved science of reading training course. These courses cost between \$550 to \$725 per person and are currently required for all kindergarten through third grade teachers and administrators. Local school districts may realize an increase in costs to the extent additional teachers and administrators who are not currently required to take the course would now need to do so in order to provide tutoring services in reading. Any non-employee tutoring provider would presumably pay the cost of the course on their own in order to qualify as a department approved tutor.

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