

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



Fiscal Note On: **SB 441** SLS 26RS 831  
 Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**  
 Opp. Chamb. Action: **w/ HSE FLOOR AMD**  
 Proposed Amd.:  
 Sub. Bill For.: **REVISED**

<b>Date:</b> May 12, 2026	2:14 PM	<b>Author:</b> MIZELL
<b>Dept./Agy.:</b> Education		
<b>Subject:</b> Nonpublic prekindergarten programs		<b>Analyst:</b> Julie Silva

STUDENTS REF -\$6,530 SG RV See Note Page 1 of 1  
 Provides relative to programs for prekindergarten-aged children. (gov sig)

Proposed legislation expands BESE's authority to approve nonpublic pre-K programs that meet existing curriculum requirements and maintain substantial compliance with child safety and welfare standards. Removes the requirement that approved nonpublic pre-K programs be licensed as early learning centers and instead requires parental notification that such programs are not subject to federal daycare regulations. Modifies child safety and welfare standards for school-based pre-K programs and requires BESE to establish child-to-staff ratios through rulemaking, with waivers authorized for significant economic hardship if adequate alternative safety measures are maintained. Applies standards to public and certain nonpublic pre-K programs connected to elementary schools, provides for monitoring and enforcement, and expands the definition of "camp" to include programs serving children age three and older, Vacation Bible Schools, religious camps, and certain after-school or weekend programs. Exempts tribally operated schools and programs, privately funded nonpublic pre-K programs that receive no state or federal funding, and stand-alone early learning programs not connected to elementary schools. Allows approved nonpublic pre-K programs to demonstrate compliance through a BESE-recognized accrediting or monitoring organization or through LDOE review and approval. Authorizes BESE to revoke approval if student health, safety, or welfare is jeopardized.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	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	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>						
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	(\$6,350)	(\$6,350)	(\$6,350)	(\$6,350)	(\$6,350)	(\$31,750)
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Annual Total</b>	<b>(\$6,350)</b>	<b>(\$6,350)</b>	<b>(\$6,350)</b>	<b>(\$6,350)</b>	<b>(\$6,350)</b>	<b>(\$31,750)</b>

**EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION**

Proposed legislation requires the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to perform compliance and oversight activities related to certain nonpublic pre-K programs beginning in FY 27. This workload is not anticipated to require additional positions or funding beyond what was originally appropriated to the department under Act 409 of the 2025 RS.

Act 409 required nonpublic pre-K programs to be licensed as early learning centers. Proposed legislation instead allows certain nonpublic elementary schools to operate pre-K programs if they meet existing academic standards and comply with child safety and welfare standards in R.S. 17:407.41. Parents must acknowledge that the program is school-operated, not licensed as an early learning center, and not subject to federal daycare regulations. Proposed legislation requires BESE to establish child-to-staff ratios through rulemaking and authorizes waivers for significant economic hardship if adequate alternative safety measures are maintained. The legislation also expands the definition of "camp" to include programs serving children age three and older, Vacation Bible Schools, religious camps, and certain after-school or weekend programs.

Proposed legislation exempts tribally operated schools and programs, privately funded nonpublic pre-K programs that do not receive state or federal tuition funding, and standalone early learning programs. Approved nonpublic pre-K programs may demonstrate compliance through a BESE-recognized accrediting or monitoring organization or through LDOE review and approval, including a transitional attestation process for the 2026-2027 school year for schools affiliated with organizations awaiting BESE recognition.'

LDOE reports that the work required under proposed legislation can be supported using the eight positions and total funding of \$877,792 originally appropriated to the department as a result of Act 409. The LFO is unable to independently corroborate whether all positions and the total appropriation are necessary to carry out the requirements of proposed legislation. To the extent they are not, LDOE may realize a reduction in workload and associated expenditures.

**REVENUE EXPLANATION**

Eliminating the licensing requirement for nonpublic pre-kindergarten programs would reduce LDOE SGR by an estimated \$6,350 annually (254 programs at \$25 each).

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**