



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 441** SLS 26RS 831
 Bill Text Version: **ENROLLED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 31, 2026	12:17 PM	Author: MIZELL
Dept./Agy.: Education		
Subject: Nonpublic prekindergarten programs		Analyst: Julie Silva

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

Proposed legislation expands BESE authority to approve nonpublic pre-K programs that meet existing curriculum requirements and substantially comply 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. Requires BESE to establish child-to-staff ratios for school-based pre-K programs through rulemaking and authorizes waivers under certain circumstances. Applies child safety and welfare standards to public and certain nonpublic pre-K programs connected to elementary schools, provides for DOE monitoring and enforcement, and expands the definition of "camp" to include certain programs serving children age three and older, including Vacation Bible Schools, religious camps, and specified after-school or weekend programs. Provides exemptions from certain monitoring requirements for qualifying nonpublic schools, tribally operated schools, and certain privately funded nonpublic pre-K programs. 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 of a pre-K program 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
Annual Total						
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
Annual Total	(\$6,350)	(\$6,350)	(\$6,350)	(\$6,350)	(\$6,350)	(\$31,750)

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed legislation requires the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to perform compliance, monitoring, and review activities related to school-based prekindergarten programs beginning in FY 27. This workload is not anticipated to require additional positions or funding beyond what was originally appropriated to the department pursuant to Act 409 of the 2025 RS.

Act 409 required nonpublic prekindergarten programs to be licensed as early learning centers. Proposed legislation instead allows approved nonpublic elementary schools to operate prekindergarten programs if they meet existing academic standards and substantially comply with child safety and welfare standards provided in present law. Parents must be provided notice that such programs are school-operated, are not licensed as early learning centers, and are not subject to federal daycare regulations.

Proposed legislation requires BESE to establish child-to-staff ratios for school-based prekindergarten programs through rulemaking and authorizes waivers under certain circumstances. The legislation also provides for DOE monitoring and enforcement activities and authorizes certain nonpublic schools to demonstrate compliance through a BESE-recognized accrediting or monitoring organization or through LDOE review and approval. Certain tribally operated schools and certain privately funded nonpublic prekindergarten programs are exempt from specified monitoring requirements.

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 cannot independently verify whether all positions and associated funding are necessary to implement the provisions of proposed legislation. To the extent they are not required, 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
 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