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OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research
and Drafting

Legislative Budget
Office

S.B. 162
135th General Assembly

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Sen. Brenner

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: Yes

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Highlights

- The bill's requirement to provide free academic intervention services to students who demonstrate a limited level of skill on state assessments will increase costs for school districts and other public schools. These costs could be significant but are highly uncertain. Ultimately, they will depend on the number of qualifying students already receiving services meeting the bill's requirements and district and school implementation decisions.
- The bill may increase Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) operating costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually to review academic intervention services in 5% of districts and schools each year.

Detailed Analysis

Overview

The bill requires each school district, community school, and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) school to provide qualifying students with evidence-based academic intervention services, free of cost, either directly, through a vendor, or a combination of both. A student qualifies for such services if they demonstrate a "limited" level of skill in math, English language arts, or both, on a state assessment (the limited level is the lowest level of achievement on the state assessments). These academic intervention services may be provided through (1) high-dosage tutoring opportunities that include additional instruction time of at least three days a week or at least 50 hours over 36 weeks, (2) additional instruction time, (3) an extended calendar year, (4) participation in a learning support program, or (5) any other academically centered support service determined to improve the student's academic performance.

The bill also requires each district or school to notify the parent or guardian that their student qualifies for and will receive academic intervention services with periodic updates on the services provided. Under the bill, a district or school must also annually report to DEW (1) the number of qualifying students, (2) the number of qualifying students receiving academic intervention services, and (3) the number of qualifying students receiving the services through a vendor, or a combination of both options.

Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, and each school year thereafter, DEW is required to randomly select 5% of school districts, community schools, and STEM schools for a review of their academic intervention services and outcomes. DEW must provide a report to the district or school of the review's results within six weeks of completion. That district or school is then required to post the results on its website or to make it available upon request.

Academic intervention services

According to DEW, of the roughly 882,000 students in grades 3-12 who took the state assessment in English language arts in the 2022-2023 school year, 179,557 (20.4%) scored at the limited level of skill. Of the roughly 975,000 students in grades 3-12 tested in mathematics, 314,482 (32.2%) scored at the limited level of skill. According to the Buckeye Association of School Administrators (BASA), most schools already offer intervention services to students. As a result, some portion of these students may already be receiving academic intervention services that meet the bill's requirements. Due to data limitations, that number is not known. Schools that already provide academic intervention services may still incur increased costs if there is a need to restructure or expand their existing programs or to comply with the bill's notification and reporting requirements. Consequently, the costs of providing academic intervention services to qualifying students could be significant but are highly uncertain. Ultimately, costs will vary depending on the number of students who score at a limited level of skill in each district or school who are not already served and how each district or school chooses to provide the services. Based on a search of providers on DEW's list of high-quality tutoring providers,¹ the costs of a tutor ranges from \$18 to \$40 an hour. Costs to provide other academic intervention will depend on a number of factors including staffing needs, staff salaries, contract agreements, and other considerations.

Annual reviews

DEW's operating costs likely will increase beginning in FY 2025 to review and report on the academic intervention services provided by 5% of districts and schools. The bill's requirement translates to reviews for about 50 districts, community schools, or STEM schools each year. The bill requires the reviews to include, at a minimum, a document review, interviews with applicable district and school staff, and observations of interventions. The reviews will evaluate whether qualifying students are receiving the services, the types and methods of services qualifying students receive, and the quality of the services provided.

DEW may need to hire new staff to carry out the reviews. It is conceivable that the costs, if the reviews are performed in-house, would be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually,

¹ See DEW's [Approved Vendor Directory](#), which may be accessed by conducting a keyword "Approved Vendor Directory" search on DEW's website: education.ohio.gov.

though it will depend highly on the number of new staff needed. This number will depend on the scope, duration, and complexity of the reviews and the DEW unit responsible for overseeing them. Currently, the Office of School and District Improvement oversees school improvement initiatives, including identifying evidence-based strategies to improve outcomes.

The base pay rate for an education program specialist starts at \$31.24 per hour. The total annual payroll costs for each such position will range from about \$83,000 to \$100,000, depending on the single or family health insurance coverage the employee may enroll in. If necessary, a program manager position may start at a base pay rate of around \$36 per hour, which would mean total annual payroll costs ranging from \$94,000 to \$110,000. An administrative professional's base pay rate starts at about \$20 per hour, equating to annual payroll costs ranging from \$56,000 to \$72,000. Hypothetically, if this new function is administered by a team of three education program specialists, a program manager, and an administrative professional, the total annual payroll cost could range from \$399,000 to \$482,000 plus any supplies, equipment, and travel reimbursement costs. Costs may be different if the Department chooses to contract with an organization involved in supporting school improvement and academic intervention services to assist in conducting the reviews, as permitted by the bill. Contract costs will depend on the particulars of the contractual arrangement.