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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

H.B. 715  
(1\_136\_2054-2)  
136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

[Click here for H.B. 715's Bill Analysis](#)

**Version:** In House Education

**Primary Sponsors:** Reps. Manning and Odioso

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

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### Highlights

- In general, the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) expects to use existing staff and resources to comply with the bill's new data reporting requirements. However, the provision moving up DEW's deadline to post scholarship student performance data from February 1 to September 15 each year will significantly increase the agency's pre-deadline workload.

### Detailed Analysis

#### The bill

The bill establishes new data reporting requirements for the Department of Education and Workforce (DEW) in regard to chartered nonpublic schools and students receiving state scholarships. The bill requires DEW to establish a publicly available system on its website for comparing the performance of scholarship students enrolled in a chartered nonpublic school with that of similar students in the school district where the school is located, or a community; science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM); or other chartered nonpublic school in the same district. The comparison must consider age, grade, race and ethnicity, gender, and socioeconomic status. The bill's requirements are similar to continuing law that requires DEW to provide student performance data for EdChoice scholarship students for comparison purposes. The bill moves up the annual deadline for DEW to post the student performance data for EdChoice scholarship students for the prior school year from February 1 to September 15, the same date by which the state report cards for public schools must be published.

The bill also requires DEW to post on its website the number of EdChoice Expansion scholarship students and, as available, the number of traditional EdChoice and Cleveland scholarship students, disaggregated by income level; specifically, those whose family adjusted gross income (AGI) is at or below 450% of the federal poverty level (FPL), the number in each

50 percentage point FPL band above 450% FPL and at or below 750% FPL (e.g., above 450% and at or below 500%; above 500% and at or below 550%, etc.), and the number above 750% FPL. The bill requires DEW to request any student family income data necessary for the income reporting requirement from the Department of Taxation. Further, the bill requires DEW to annually post on its website a number of data items for each chartered nonpublic school. These include the school's total enrollment; the number of enrolled scholarship students disaggregated by the type of school they were enrolled in, or whether they were educated at home or were not enrolled in school in Ohio, during the prior year; and the total amount of state support the school received through state scholarship programs, auxiliary services payments, and administrative cost reimbursements. DEW already collects or will have access to the data it is required to post, meaning that the bill does not require any additional reporting of this information by nonpublic schools.

## **Fiscal effects**

Presumably, DEW will leverage its public-facing reports portal platform to provide the comparisons and additional data reporting required by the bill. The portal currently houses data on test results for public school students and chartered nonpublic school enrollment, among a number of other data sets. In addition, under continuing law, DEW posts a Scholarship Assessment Report on the portal that allows users to access proficiency rates of EdChoice and Cleveland scholarship students on each state assessment for all such students and by scholarship program, nonpublic school, and the scholarship student's resident district, including further breakdowns by grade, race and ethnicity, gender, and years in the program.<sup>1</sup> In general, DEW expects to use existing staff and resources to build out the new data sets. However, based on LBO's conversations with DEW, the bill will significantly increase the Department's workload leading up to the September 15 deadline, as its data managers will need to organize and post scholarship student performance data much more quickly while continuing to fulfill responsibilities under continuing law for state report cards and student growth data for chartered nonpublic schools.

There are also timing issues that may impede DEW's ability to post a complete set of scholarship student performance data by September 15. While DEW will receive testing data directly from the state's main testing vendor (Cambium) as usual for chartered nonpublic school students who take the state tests, most scholarship students take an approved alternative test, such as the Iowa Assessments or TerraNova tests. Chartered nonpublic schools that administer an approved alternative test individually contract with the test vendors. The vendor reports the results to chartered nonpublic schools, and the schools in turn report the information to DEW. DEW explained that it does not always have the complete set of testing data from chartered nonpublic schools by the beginning of September. The timing of a chartered nonpublic school's submission will depend on specifications in the school's vendor contract and on each school's capacity to report this data to DEW.

## **Synopsis of Fiscal Effect Changes**

- The bill's fiscal effects remain unchanged under the substitute bill (I\_136\_2054-2).

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<sup>1</sup> [DEW Scholarship Assessment Report](#).