

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 81ST LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 16, 2009

TO: Honorable Florence Shapiro, Chair, Senate Committee on Education

FROM: John S. O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: SB1460 by Shapiro (relating to professional development academies designed for public school teachers who provide instruction to certain students of limited English proficiency.),
Committee Report 1st House, Substituted

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for SB1460, Committee Report 1st House, Substituted: a negative impact of (\$12,440,000) through the biennium ending August 31, 2011.

The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

General Revenue-Related Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds
2010	(\$6,670,000)
2011	(\$5,770,000)
2012	(\$6,120,000)
2013	(\$5,770,000)
2014	(\$5,770,000)

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

Fiscal Year	Probable Savings/(Cost) from General Revenue Fund 1
2010	(\$6,670,000)
2011	(\$5,770,000)
2012	(\$6,120,000)
2013	(\$5,770,000)
2014	(\$5,770,000)

Fiscal Analysis

The bill would require the Commissioner of Education to establish professional development academies for teachers providing instruction to students with limited English proficiency (LEP) in grades 7 and above.

The bill would require attendance at the academies for eligible teachers for whom a deficit in the delivery of instruction to LEP students has been identified through an appraisal process who provide instruction in a special language program, reading, English language arts, mathematics, science, or social studies on a campus at which the academic performance of LEP students needs improvement. The bill directs the Commissioner to adopt criteria for the selection of other teachers to participate in the academies.

The bill would entitle participating teachers to a stipend in an amount determined by the Commissioner.

The bill directs the Regional Education Service Centers (RESCs) to assist in the design, establishment, and operation of the academies at the request of the Commissioner.

The bill directs the Commissioner to conduct or contract for a comprehensive evaluation of the academies using a variety of qualitative and quantitative research methodologies including the use of comparison groups. The Commissioner would be required to report the results of the evaluation to the legislature not later than December 1, 2012.

Methodology

For purposes of this estimate, it is assumed that an academy created under the provisions of the bill would include three days of training and one day of online follow-up content.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) estimates a one-time cost for content development in FY2010 of \$900,000.

TEA notes that this training would be allowed for general education teachers who have one or more LEP students in their classroom as well as English as a Second Language teachers. The agency estimates that over 100,000 teachers could be eligible for training, although the subset of teachers required to attend the training under the bill's provisions would be significantly smaller. Based on TEA experience with the Texas Adolescent Literacy Academies (TALA) conducted during the 2008-09 biennium, TEA estimates that 8,500 teachers would be trained annually, including teachers providing instruction in special language programs and general education teachers serving LEP students in their classrooms.

Assuming stipends of \$500 for teachers for four days of training, the associated cost is estimated at \$4.25 million per year. Assuming cost of providing the training at \$120 per teacher, the estimated cost of providing training would be \$1.02 million annually. Should the agency establish academies that would serve more than 8,500 teachers per year, costs would increase proportionately.

RESCs would coordinate registration and payment of the stipends, participate in the evaluation, and assist with delivery of the training at an estimated cost of \$25,000 per RESC annually. The annual cost statewide for 20 RESCs would be \$500,000.

An estimated \$350,000 in FY2012 would be expended to conduct the evaluation required by the bill.

Local Government Impact

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 701 Central Education Agency

LBB Staff: JOB, JSp, JGM, JSc