

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas**

FISCAL NOTE, 87TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 29, 2021

TO: Honorable Harold V. Dutton, Jr., Chair, House Committee on Public Education

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB2344 by Zwiener (Relating to the assessment of writing performance for public school students.),
As Introduced

Estimated Two-year Net Impact to General Revenue Related Funds for HB2344, As Introduced : a negative impact of (\$465,452,608) through the biennium ending August 31, 2023.

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:

| <i>Fiscal Year</i> | <i>Probable Net Positive/(Negative) Impact to General Revenue Related Funds</i> |
|--------------------|---|
| 2022 | (\$231,207,104) |
| 2023 | (\$231,199,104) |
| 2024 | (\$231,199,104) |
| 2025 | (\$231,199,104) |
| 2026 | (\$231,199,104) |

All Funds, Five-Year Impact:

| <i>Fiscal Year</i> | <i>Probable Savings/(Cost) from General Revenue Fund 1</i> | <i>Change in Number of State Employees from FY 2021</i> |
|--------------------|--|---|
| 2022 | (\$231,207,104) | 2.0 |
| 2023 | (\$231,199,104) | 2.0 |
| 2024 | (\$231,199,104) | 2.0 |
| 2025 | (\$231,199,104) | 2.0 |
| 2026 | (\$231,199,104) | 2.0 |

Fiscal Analysis

The bill's provisions would permit any portion of the STAAR reading assessments and English I and English II End Of Course assessments that are not presented in a multiple-choice format to be used as part of a classroom portfolio and scored by a local classroom teacher.

Methodology

According to TEA, approximately 3.3 million students take an annual reading assessment. This analysis assumes 165,000 teachers would need to be trained at a cost of approximately \$1,400 per teacher if each

teacher scored 20 student portfolios. Consequently, 165,000 teachers would need to be trained at a cost of approximately \$1,400 per teacher. The estimated cost to ensure consistent local scoring of certain sections of reading and English assessments to be \$231 million annually.

TEA estimates 2 additional Education Specialist IV FTEs would be needed to coordinate the teacher training, calibration of responses, and logistics of providing local district copies of or access to student responses and collecting scores from schools. The combined annual salary for these positions would be \$145,578. Benefits would be \$47,342 and the Paryroll Contribution would be \$2,184. Other operating expenses would be \$12,000 in FY 2022 and \$4,000 in subsequent years. Employee costs in FY 2022 would total \$207,104 and \$199,104 in subsequent years.

Local Government Impact

Districts and charter schools may be required to provide training, additional time, and financial compensation for teachers to learn and apply methods of classroom portfolio assessment. Districts and charter schools would likely incur costs to annually train teachers and to access and score student responses. There may also be costs for districts to aggregate and report results to TEA.

Source Agencies: 701 Texas Education Agency

LBB Staff: JMc, SL, AH