

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 6/8/2017

LRB Number	17-0630/1	Introduction Number	SB-282	Estimate Type	Original
Description community school start-up grants and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to create a community school start-up grant program, under which DPI awards competitive grants to school boards to plan and implement community schools. The bill defines a "community school" as a public school that focuses on improving student learning, strengthening families, and developing healthier communities, working with community partners to provide additional services to the surrounding community and providing wrap-around support services to pupils and their families. Under this bill, independent charter schools or charter schools that are not an instrumentality of a school district would not be eligible for a grant under this program.

The bill requires that under the community school start-up grant program, DPI must allocate portions of the program funding to establishing community schools in rural school districts, to establishing community schools in high-poverty school districts, and to transforming low-performing schools into community schools.

The bill also requires an applicant for a community school start-up grant to demonstrate that it has secured matching funds for the grant and to identify a school resource coordinator who will coordinate school programming. An applicant for a community school start-up grant must also describe the types of programming the school will provide to improve student learning, strengthen families, and develop a healthier community.

This bill creates a new GPR appropriation of \$15 million annually beginning in FY18 to DPI to develop and implement a program to provide competitive start-up grants for the purpose of planning and implementing community schools. A grant is for five years and may be renewed for additional five year terms. Under the bill, DPI could distribute up to \$15,000,000 annually in grants, and unencumbered funds would lapse to the general fund at the end of each fiscal year.

Local: Indeterminate

The costs to school districts to develop and write grant applications and to submit annual reports to the Department will likely vary among school districts and is indeterminate. In addition, grant applicants are required to designate a staff position to serve as the program's school resource coordinator. It is unknown how many grant recipients would add those responsibilities to an existing school staff person or would need to reallocate funding to create a new position.

State: Indeterminate

It is unknown how many school boards will apply for the grants and how many of those applications will succeed in securing the required matching funds. The costs for developing and implementing this grant program will require reallocation of department staff and resources, assuming no additional position authority is provided. Staff and resources will be required to review all applications, determine eligibility, confirm matching funds have been secured and make awards to qualified applicants. Depending on the volume of grant applications, the department might be able to absorb the costs of administering this grant program.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications

The bill increases state's base appropriation going forward by \$15,000,000.