

SF438 - 0 - Academic Standards Review Suspension

Chief Author: Roger Chamberlain
 Committee: Education Finance And Policy
 Date Completed: 2/10/2021 2:08:08 PM
 Agency: Education Department

| State Fiscal Impact | Yes | No |
|---------------------------|-----|----|
| Expenditures | X | |
| Fee/Departmental Earnings | | X |
| Tax Revenue | | X |
| Information Technology | | X |
| Local Fiscal Impact | X | |

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

| State Cost (Savings) | Biennium | | | Biennium | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Dollars in Thousands | FY2021 | FY2022 | FY2023 | FY2024 |
| General Fund | - | 411 | 151 | 116 | 76 |
| Total | - | 411 | 151 | 116 | 76 |
| Biennial Total | | | 562 | | 192 |

| Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE) | Biennium | | | Biennium | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| | FY2021 | FY2022 | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 |
| General Fund | - | 1 | 1 | .5 | .5 |
| Total | - | 1 | 1 | .5 | .5 |

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

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State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

| State Cost (Savings) = 1-2 | | Biennium | | | Biennium | |
|--|---|----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Dollars in Thousands | | FY2021 | FY2022 | FY2023 | FY2024 | FY2025 |
| General Fund | - | 411 | 151 | 116 | 76 | |
| Total | | - | 411 | 151 | 116 | 76 |
| Biennial Total | | | | 562 | | 192 |
| 1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out* | | | | | | |
| General Fund | - | 411 | 151 | 116 | 76 | |
| Total | | - | 411 | 151 | 116 | 76 |
| Biennial Total | | | | 562 | | 192 |
| 2 - Revenues, Transfers In* | | | | | | |
| General Fund | - | - | - | - | - | |
| Total | | - | - | - | - | - |
| Biennial Total | | | | - | | - |

Bill Description

This is a bill to suspend the academic standards review or revision cycle identified in Minnesota Statute, as well as any implementation of standards that have previously been revised. During the suspension the bill requires the department to work with stakeholders to assess the standards for relevance and rigor and to report back to the legislature along with recommendations on the review and revising timeline.

Assumptions

Assumptions made in the development of the fiscal impact include:

- 1) Current academic standards are those reviewed and revised in previous cycles ending in 2012.
- 2) MDE staff would need to develop a process and rubric to review the current academic standards.
- 3) MDE staff would continue to support districts on current standards therefore a supervisor would need to be hired to oversee the work and utilize a percentage of each of the content specialist's time to support the work. The review and revision of the standards are a small part of the content specialist's position once every 10 years.
- 4) The Supervisor FTE would be responsible for 1) Leading the process for reviewing the standards alignment to rigor and relevance. 2) Supervise content area specialists and collaborate in coordinating the reviews of each of the K-12 state academic standards (physical education, fine arts, science, social studies, English language arts, and mathematics) 3) Research and understand the SONARS developed for each of the disciplines 4) Develop, in coordination with the content area specialists, a rubric and process to engage all content areas 5) Facilitate the development of the legislative report.
- 5) Districts and charters would need to stop the current implementation of the physical education, fine arts, science, and English Language Arts standards revised in 2017 to current.
- 6) Once the report was finalized the department would continue to implement the physical education, fine arts, science, and English language arts standards.
- 7) With the content expertise of each discipline, a similar process could be utilized but unique experts would be required. Therefore, 8-10 stakeholders for each discipline (physical education, fine arts, science, English language arts, social studies, and mathematics) will be needed for at least three days throughout the review and development of the report. Stipend, expenses, and per diem are estimated at \$5,000 per stakeholder.

8) Delaying the mathematics standards review for two years will provide a potential savings to the department of \$40,000 in FY 22 but will be incurred in FY 24. This savings in FY22 and expense in FY24 would accrue to and from the agency budget.

Development and revision of state standards drive changes to the statewide assessments the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA) and Alternative Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment, and those changes are borne out a few years after the standards are changed. Therefore, the ripple effect from delaying the review now will likely increase these costs in the future. The following are examples of assessment costs that are not included in the scope of this fiscal note:

1) Statewide assessment costs for the science standards and English language arts reading standards revisions which have already begun with the development of the test specifications and item development needed to be prepared for implementation in the 23-24 and 24-25 school years respectively. With the delay in the standards, these costs will likely increase.

a. Costs estimated for science assessments are:

- i. Alignment Studies MCA Science ~ \$250,000
- ii. Alignment Studies MCA-Alternate Science ~\$250,000
- iii. Standard Setting MCA Science ~\$325,000
- iv. Standard Setting MCA-Alternate Science ~\$325,000

2) Additional costs if the legislature requires the department to re-review and revise each of the standards.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

| | | | | | | |
|----|---|-------------|--|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1 | Standards experts - stipends | \$5,000 | per person (includes stipend, expenses and per diem) | | | |
| 2 | 10 experts * 6 disciplines | 60 | experts | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | |
| 4 | | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
| 5 | Expert stipends (line 1 * line 2) | | 300,000 | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | |
| 7 | | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
| 8 | Education Program Supervisor | | 151,153 | 151,153 | 75,577 | 75,577 |
| 9 | | | | | | |
| 10 | | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
| 11 | Delayed review of math standards | | (40,000) | | 40,000 | |
| 12 | | | | | | |
| 13 | | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | FY24 | FY25 |
| 14 | Total fiscal note costs (line 5 + line 8 + line 11): | | 411,153 | 151,153 | 115,577 | 75,577 |

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

FTE cost would be 0.5 FTE beginning in FY24

Local Fiscal Impact

Districts and charters are currently planning for and working toward implementation for the standards that have been reviewed and revised over the past four years physical education, fine arts, science, and English language arts. This includes professional development, additional staffing, and curriculum purchases. These costs can be several hundred thousand dollars for districts for each of the disciplines. Districts are currently planning for implementation of physical education and fine arts in the 2021-22 school year as determined by rule and of science in the 2023-24 and English language arts in 2024-25 as proposed by the rulemaking process.

References/Sources

N/A

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