

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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HB-7009

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CONNECTICUT STATE SEAL OF CIVICS EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT.

As Amended by House "A" (LCO 8094)

House Calendar No.: 219

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 26 \$	FY 27 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	Potential Savings	None	See Below
Madison	Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Explanation

The bill makes various changes relating to education, which result in the fiscal impacts described below.

Sections 1 - 2 have no fiscal impact. They require the State Department of Education (SDE) to establish criteria by which the Connecticut State Seal of Civics Education and Engagement may be affixed to a graduating student's diploma. There is no cost associated with establishing criteria or affixing the Connecticut State Seal of Civics Education and Engagement to high school diplomas, since SDE has staff with expertise in this area, and the change is procedural in nature.

Sections 3 - 4 have no fiscal impact. They expand the data SDE is

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5/14/25

required to share in the statewide public school information system (EdSight). They also expand the multilingual learner bill of rights to include the right to access publicly available education data. These changes do not impact the cost to SDE of its data gathering or reporting responsibilities.

Section 5 has no fiscal impact. It requires local and regional school districts to adopt a technology policy using existing guidance from SDE by FY 27. It is anticipated they can meet this requirement with existing resources.

Section 6 has no fiscal impact. It requires SDE to make Islamic and Arab Studies curriculum available to school districts. It is anticipated that SDE can meet these requirements with existing resources.

Section 7 establishes a working group to address antisemitism in schools, resulting in no fiscal impact to the state because the working group has the expertise to carry out the bill's requirements.

Sections 8 – 9 result in a potential savings to local and regional school districts starting in FY 27. Section 8 makes it optional, rather than required, for districts to consider admitting students to kindergarten who turn five after September 1 in FY 27, and Section 9 eliminates the admission of four-year-olds (based on the same date) to kindergarten beginning in FY 28. The savings in FY 27 is dependent on whether districts choose to opt out and the number of children who otherwise would have been admitted. The savings in FY 28 will be experienced by districts that chose not to opt out in FY 27, and is dependent on the number of children who otherwise would have been admitted.

Sections 10 – 12 delay potential costs incurred by certain local and regional school districts. The sections delay, until July 1, 2029, any action that the State Board of Education (SBE) or a local or regional school district is required to take when SBE has found that racial imbalance exists in such district. This correspondingly delays, until FY 30, any costs a district would incur in order to comply with such laws.

Sections 13 – 16 make various clarifying and procedural changes, which have no fiscal impact.

Section 17 changes the potential uses of regional school districts' reserve funds. It allows districts to move funds previously appropriated to and currently in a reserve fund for capital and nonrecurring expenditures, to a reserve fund for educational expenditures starting in FY 26.

Section 18 makes a clarifying and procedural change, which has no fiscal impact.

Section 19 makes Madison eligible to participate in the Open Choice Program, beginning with the 2025-2026 school year. This results in a cost to the state and a corresponding revenue gain to Madison of \$3,000 per student annually starting in FY 26. The total impact will depend on the number of students that participate in the Open Choice Program in Madison.

Sections 20 – 25 make various clarifying and procedural changes, which have no fiscal impact.

Section 26 has no fiscal impact. It requires the Center for School Safety and Crisis Prevention at Western Connecticut State University to develop standard guidance, terminology and evaluation protocols for crisis response drills in schools and to conduct a study concerning the impact of crisis response drills on school communities. It is anticipated that the Center can complete these responsibilities with existing resources.

Section 27 makes a conforming change which has no fiscal impact.

Section 28 requires local and regional school districts to implement certain provisions relating to crisis response drills beginning in FY 27, which have no fiscal impact. It is anticipated school districts can meet the requirements with existing resources.

Section 29 has no fiscal impact. It requires school districts to make

non-prohibited portions of the school security and safety plan available to the school community. It is anticipated they can meet this requirement with existing resources.

Section 30 repeals the requirement for districts to report certain information to the Commission for Educational Technology which has no fiscal impact.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and its associated fiscal impact and replaces it with the fiscal impact described above.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.