

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-5323

AN ACT CONCERNING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE
EDUCATION STATUTES.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Auditors	GF - Cost	500,000 to 750,000	None
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	None	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	Revenue Gain	None	See Below
Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs)	Revenue Gain	None	See Below

Explanation

The bill makes various changes to education statutes, resulting in a cost of \$500,000 to \$750,000 to the Auditors of Public Accounts (APA) in FY 27 and costs to the State Department of Education (SDE) beginning in FY 28. The fiscal impacts are described by section below.

Section 1 requires school-based health centers to use an evidence-based screening tool for the early identification of disordered eating behavior and to provide that screening tool to certain patients during their annual health assessment, resulting in no fiscal impact.

Sections 2 and 3 establish: (1) a task force to develop recommendations for identification and treatment of eating disorders in

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children; and (2) a working group to develop a state-wide food education roadmap and model school nutrition curriculum. These sections do not result in a fiscal impact as the task force and working group have the necessary expertise to meet the requirements.

Sections 4 and 5 require the APA to conduct an audit for the dissolved regional board of education (former regional school district six) and the dissolved local board of education for the town of Litchfield by October 1, 2026, resulting in a cost to the state. The APA does not have the resources required to meet the requirements of the bill and will have to hire a consultant for an approximate cost of \$500,000 to \$750,000 in FY 27. The exact cost is dependent on the responses to the RFP.

Section 6 allows retired parole officers that meet specific conditions to provide armed security services in public schools. This has no fiscal impact as it is not expected to change security costs incurred by school districts or municipalities.

Section 7 requires the Connecticut Advisory Council for School Administrator Professional Standards to: (1) create a plan by July 1, 2027 for implementing a pilot program for a new school administrator mentorship program; and (2) implement the pilot program in school districts in FY 28. This results in a potential cost in FY 28 to SDE that is dependent on the provisions of the pilot program upon implementation.

Section 8 has no fiscal impact. It requires high school students that participate in extracurricular activities to meet the academic standards set by the Connecticut Association of Schools and the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletics Conference (CIAC).

Section 9 requires SDE to establish a grant program for schools to provide therapeutic arts programs beginning in FY 28. The cost to SDE, and corresponding revenue to school districts and Regional Educational Service Centers (RESCs), depends on the funding provided and provisions of the grant program. When awarding grants, SDE is required to give priority to districts and RESCs that have a high rate of exclusionary discipline and lack access to behavioral health supports.

Section 10 has no fiscal impact. It extends the reporting date for the Connecticut Education Preparation and Certification Board's first annual report by one year.

The Out Years

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