



**LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note**

Fiscal Note On: **SB 72** SLS 24RS 171
 Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: March 14, 2024	10:46 AM	Author: PRESSLY
Dept./Agy.: EDUCATION		Analyst: Julie Silva
Subject: Literacy screening for students with dyslexia		

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Exempts students with dyslexia from certain literacy examinations and provides for alternative progress monitoring tests. (gov sig)

Proposed legislation exempts students diagnosed with dyslexia, as defined in R.S. 17:392.11, from all literacy examinations and instead requires that schools select and provide students with alternative progress monitoring tests that are appropriate for students who are diagnosed with dyslexia. Such tests must include assessments of: (1) the acquisition of literacy skills; and (2) fluency of the English language.

EXPENDITURES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	SEE BELOW					
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Ded./Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed legislation may result in an increase in local fund expenditures, but such an increase is not anticipated to be significant. Proposed changes will exempt students with dyslexia from requirements of existing law (R.S. 17:24.10), which provides that all students in kindergarten through third grade be screened for literacy three times each school year. Schools are instead required to select and provide alternative progress monitoring tests for students with dyslexia.

Any impact to local school districts will be determined by the number of enrolled kindergarten through third grade students who have a diagnosis of dyslexia. These students would no longer be required to take the three annual literacy screeners in existing law (R.S. 17:24.10), but instead be provided alternative progress monitoring tests, which must assess a student's acquisition of literacy skills and their fluency in the English language. Based on data included in the *Annual Report of Dyslexia*, published by the Louisiana Department of Education in February 2024, there are an estimated 2,500 students enrolled in kindergarten through third grade who would be exempted from literacy screeners based on the proposed legislation. Another potential factor which may have an effect on expenditures is existing BESE policy. Specifically, *Bulletin 1903 - Louisiana Handbook for Students with Dyslexia*, which requires school boards to provide multi-sensory, structured language and literacy programs, within the regular school day, for children with dyslexia (or exhibiting characteristics of dyslexia) and further requires that progress monitoring data is maintained on students receiving instruction in such programs. To the extent local school boards are in compliance with this policy, and the tools used to obtain progress monitoring data meet the requirements of proposed legislation, there is no expected impact to expenditures. In the event this is not the case, local school district would likely experience an increase in expenditures in order to be compliant with progress monitoring assessments as required by proposed legislation.

For illustrative purposes, one such assessment, currently in use in some school districts in the state, is the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) assessment. Costs for the DIBELS Data System include a one-time account set up fee of \$200, an additional \$1 fee per student, per year, and the cost of printing the paper-based training materials that are provided as a free download. Based on all the above information, any increase in expenditures local school districts may experience as a result of proposed legislation is anticipated to be minimal.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

There is no anticipated direct material effect on governmental revenues as a result of this measure.

Senate
 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}
 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}

House
 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}
 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}


Patrice Thomas
Deputy Fiscal Officer