



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 105** SLS 25RS 323
Bill Text Version: **ORIGINAL**
Opp. Chamb. Action:

Proposed Amd.:
Sub. Bill For.:

Date: May 6, 2025	7:46 PM	Author: ABRAHAM
Dept./Agy.: Education		
Subject: Student assessments		Analyst: Julie Silva

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY OR INCREASE GF EX See Note Page 1 of 2

Requires that schools utilize a nationally normed assessment instead of the LEAP test for purposes of school and district accountability. (qov siq)

Proposed legislation requires that, beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year, the school and district accountability system utilize a nationally normed assessment, rather than the existing Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP). Creates the Nationally Normed Assessment Task Force and provides for its membership, provides for an initial meeting date of July 1, 2025, requires, at a minimum, monthly meetings, and requires submission of a report, no later than January 15, 2026, to the governor, House and Senate committees on education, the state superintendent of education, and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE). The assessment, as selected and submitted by the task force, is to be used beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year.

EXPENDITURES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	
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	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	INCREASE	\$0
Annual Total						
REVENUES	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	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	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
Local Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Annual Total						

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed legislation is expected to result in a significant increase in governmental expenditures. Depending on the assessment chosen by the Nationally Normed Assessment Task Force, annual per student assessment costs could range between \$2.5 M to \$29.7 M, reflected in the table below.

Assessment Name	Cost Per Student	Total Cost
College Board’s SAT	\$60	\$29,693,460
CLT (Classical Learning Test)	\$69 CLT; \$49 CLT 10; \$39 CLT 3-8	\$28,760,942
Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) Form E	\$47 for K-3; \$37 for 4-12	\$18,825,997
California Achievement Test (CAT)	\$37	\$18,310,967
Stanford Achievement Test 10th Edition (SAT 10)	\$18	\$8,759,571
Stanford Achievement Test 10th Edition Abbreviated Battery	\$16	\$7,967,745
PSAT	\$18 NMSQT/PSAT 10; \$14 PSAT 8/9	\$6,825,754
Metropolitan Achievement Test 8th Edition (MAT8)	\$5	\$2,474,455


Note: Estimates in the table do not contemplate costs for project management, assessment analysis, and psychometrics, which may be significant. Additional per-student costs are also expected for retakes of assessments that may be needed prior to grade advancement and/or graduation. LDOE reports there is likely to be a significant increase in expenditures during the first few years of implementation. There may be additional costs incurred related to the timeline included in proposed legislation necessitating implementation be completed in a short time frame.

LDOE reports that the change from a criterion-based assessment, to a nationally norm-referenced assessment is expected to require an update to the student standards included in the existing state school and district accountability system that is designed to work in tandem with a criterion-based assessment to determine student success. **This change could result in significant impacts to local school systems for updates to instructional materials and curricula.** Systems may have to readopt core curricula and conduct professional development to support teachers in implementing the changes.

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REVENUE EXPLANATION

The LFO is unable to make a determination on whether federal fund revenues will be affected as a result of proposed legislation. Based on information provided by LDOE, some federal funding is dependent on the contents of a new assessment.

Senate	Dual Referral Rules	House	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 13.5.1 >= \$100,000 Annual Fiscal Cost {S & H}		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6.8(F)(1) >= \$100,000 SGF Fiscal Cost {H & S}	
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.5.2 >= \$500,000 Annual Tax or Fee Change {S & H}		<input type="checkbox"/> 6.8(G) >= \$500,000 Tax or Fee Increase or a Net Fee Decrease {S}	 Patrice Thomas Deputy Fiscal Officer



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CONTINUED EXPLANATION from page one: Page 2 of 2

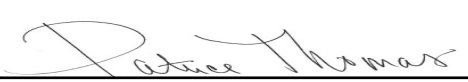
LDOE provides that federal requirements, specifically those included in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), emphasize standards-based accountability. Though federal guidelines do not explicitly require the use of criterion-referenced assessments, such assessments typically focus on the meeting of set standards. Alternatively, norm-referenced assessments compare student assessments against the results of other students within norm-referenced groups. **While the LFO is unable to make a determination on whether proposed legislation will necessitate a two-assessment system, the information provided below is based on LDOE’s position it may be required to ensure retention of certain federal funding.**

LDOE provides the LEAP assessment or other criterion-based assessment would need to be conducted along with, rather than in lieu of, a norm-referenced assessment for certain grade levels. For students in grades 3-8, LDOE provides the existing criterion-based assessment will need to be updated or a new one developed to be compatible with new standards to ensure testing is reflective of student curricula. **Revising content on one LEAP subject assessment may cost as much as \$11.4 M.** LDOE provides this cost is dependent on the significance of the changes made and assumes at least some changes will be required to the English Language Arts, Math, and Science assessments.

Local schools and school systems are anticipated to realize increased costs and workload for an additional assessment and additional testing time. Without knowing the specifications of the assessment that will be selected, LDOE reports an additional six positions may be needed at a total cost of \$796,260, including salaries, related benefits, and operating expenses. **The LFO is unable to corroborate that in the event a second assessment is needed, any additional staff members will be required.**

Senate Dual Referral Rules
☒ 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