



LEGISLATIVE FISCAL OFFICE
Fiscal Note

Fiscal Note On: **SB 441** SLS 26RS 831
 Bill Text Version: **REENGROSSED**
 Opp. Chamb. Action:
 Proposed Amd.:
 Sub. Bill For.:

Date: April 15, 2026	8:53 AM	Author: MIZELL
Dept./Agy.: Education		
Subject: Nonpublic prekindergarten programs		Analyst: Julie Silva

STUDENTS RE -\$6,530 GF RV See Note Page 1 of 1
 Provides relative to programs for prekindergarten-aged children. (gov sig)

Proposed legislation expands BESE's authority to approve nonpublic prekindergarten programs that meet existing curriculum requirements and maintain substantial compliance with child safety and welfare standards. Removes the requirement that such programs be licensed as early learning centers and instead requires parental acknowledgment that they are not subject to federal daycare regulations. Modifies child safety and welfare standards, including adjustments to child-to-staff ratios, removal of provisions for children under two and for special healthcare staffing, and exceptions during activity transitions. Applies these standards to public and nonpublic prekindergarten programs, provides for monitoring and enforcement, and expands the definition of "camp" to include children age three and older, Vacation Bible Schools, religious camps, and after-school or weekend programs. Provides exemptions for certain BESE-approved nonpublic schools meeting specified accreditation or certification standards, while subjecting those that lose such status to the new provisions. Authorizes BESE to adopt rules, including emergency rules, as necessary to implement the proposed legislation.

EXPENDITURES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	SEE BELOW	
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						
REVENUES	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	5 -YEAR TOTAL
State Gen. Fd.	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Agy. Self-Gen.	(\$6,350)	(\$6,350)	(\$6,350)	(\$6,350)	(\$6,350)	(\$31,750)
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	(\$6,350)	(\$6,350)	(\$6,350)	(\$6,350)	(\$6,350)	(\$31,750)

EXPENDITURE EXPLANATION

Proposed legislation requires the Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) to perform several compliance activities related to nonpublic prekindergarten programs beginning in FY27. This workload is not anticipated to require additional positions or funding beyond what was originally appropriated to the department under Act 409 of the 2025 RS.

Act 409 required nonpublic prekindergarten programs to be licensed as early learning centers. Proposed legislation instead allows any nonpublic elementary school to operate a prekindergarten program if it meets existing academic standards, complies with child safety and welfare standards in R.S. 17:407.41, and annually attests to such compliance. Parents must acknowledge that the program is school-operated, not licensed as an early learning center, and not subject to federal daycare regulations. Child safety and welfare standards are retained with targeted changes, including revised child-to-staff ratios through FY 27, established ratios for FY 28 and thereafter, removal of references to children under age two, and limited exceptions during activity transitions. Provides exemptions for certain BESE-approved nonpublic schools that meet specified accreditation or certification standards, while subjecting schools that lose such status to these requirements.


LDOE reports that the work required under proposed legislation can be supported using the eight positions and total funding of \$877,792 originally appropriated to the department as a result of Act 409. The LFO is unable to independently corroborate whether all positions and the total appropriation are necessary to carry out the requirements of proposed legislation. To the extent they are not, LDOE may realize a reduction in workload and associated expenditures.

REVENUE EXPLANATION

Eliminating the licensing requirement for nonpublic pre-kindergarten programs would reduce LDOE SGR by an estimated \$6,350 annually (254 programs at \$25 each).

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