

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 3832H.03C
 Bill No.: HCS for SB 1351
 Subject: Elementary and Secondary Education; Boards, Commissions, Committees, and Councils; Elections; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Children and Minors; Science and Technology
 Type: Original
 Date: April 27, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal modifies and establishes provisions relating to elementary and secondary education.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue	(Could exceed \$2,637,474)	(Could exceed \$840,315)	(Could exceed \$721,061)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(Could exceed \$2,637,474)	(Could exceed \$840,315)	(Could exceed \$721,061)

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue	2 FTE	2 FTE	1 FTE
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	2 FTE	2 FTE	1 FTE

- Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.
- Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Local Government*	Unknown or (Unknown)	Unknown or (Unknown)	Unknown or (Unknown)

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§160.068 - Student Screen-Time Standards Act

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** assume this section will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

Oversight notes §160.068 requires elementary school students in kindergarten through grade five in each school district and charter school, excluding virtual school, shall adopt a written screen time and instructional technology policy. In creating the policy, the district or charter school shall consider and document research on best practices in literacy instruction, instructional technology, and assessment and the optimal role for the use of handwriting and cursive writing in promoting literacy for all students. Each elementary school shall publish such policy on such school's website.

Oversight assumes school districts are equipped with the necessary resources to handle the requirements of this provision. Therefore, Oversight will reflect no fiscal impact for school districts.

§160.524 – Accountability Measures for Elementary and Secondary Schools

Officials from the **DESE** assume this section calls for the creation of an annual accountability "report card" separate from the existing Annual Performance Report card to be completed by DESE or a private entity contracted by the state board of education to score all public-school districts, public schools, and charter schools on a rating scale of 0-100. This report card would require considerable changes and additions to DESE's current data reporting system. These changes would require ITSD programming for a total cost of \$2,680,737 (three year total). DESE would also require an additional Research Analyst FTE-\$83,134 for the associated salary, \$7,424 for ongoing expenses, and \$5,082 for one-time equipment to handle the visualization, analysis, and reporting data required for the report card.

DESE assumes 2 meetings of stakeholders from across the state will be needed to create the report card and estimates these meetings to cost \$69,600.

This section also creates the "Show Me Success Program" to provide additional funding to public and charter schools that demonstrate strong student academic growth, sustained improvement over time, or success in closing achievement gaps as determined by DESE. This section also states DESE shall establish by rule the methodology for determining school eligibility, award amounts, and distribution of funds. DESE estimates these costs as unknown as DESE currently has no way to determine how many schools might meet the criteria for additional funding or how much funding may be available through appropriation. Without knowing these pieces of information, DESE cannot estimate a specific cost at this time.

This section also calls for DESE to use a growth to proficiency standard, in addition to the existing normative value-added growth measure to measure student success. This growth to proficiency measure shall evaluate for each student with two consecutive years of Missouri assessment program performance levels whether that student has made sufficient academic progress to put such student on a trajectory to reach grade-level proficiency within three years or by grade ten, whichever comes first. After further discussion, DESE believes the development of this measure will cost \$40,000 per year for file generation and review. This cost is based on current vendor contracts DESE uses with the University of Missouri for growth measures and on meetings with several technical groups that would be responsible for developing the growth measure. However, if for some reason DESE must use another vendor to complete this work costs could increase but DESE assumes these costs would not be over \$100,000 per year.

DESE is a consolidated agency under **OA-ITSD**. It is assumed that every new IT project/system will be bid out because all ITSD resources are at full capacity.

The Annual Performance Report/Report Card is an existing set of data processes (ETLs) that gather data that DESE has collected from districts using the MOSIS application/system will be impacted and a new set of data processes (ETLs) may be needed to gather the data for the new accountability report. Database changes may be needed, as well as report and ETL modifications and new ETL development. The impact of this new accountability report changes is not fully known for the systems and processes in place now.

Additionally, ITSD assumes that new sets of data are required to be collected for the anonymous annual survey as specified in the proposal. This proposal discusses a public school or charter school shall receive performance-based funding. Some application/system functionality may need to be modified or may no longer be needed in the Foundation Formula (school finance) application/system, but it's assumed these changes are feasible and can be included in the Foundation Formula (school finance) system as it is today. Also, it is assumed that the modifications are able to be completed without additional data elements needed within the application and process.

OA-ITSD states the project would take 19,747.8 hours at a contract rate of \$105 for a total cost of **\$1,894,347** in FY 2027 with on-going support costs of \$388,341 in FY 2028 and \$398,049 in FY 2029.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect the estimated impact by DESE in the fiscal note.

Oversight notes it is unclear if DESE will need to use another vendor for file generation and review. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a cost up to \$100,000 per year as estimated by DESE.

Oversight notes the "Show Me Success Program" will only award top performing schools if money is appropriated by General Revenue. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a "zero or"

Unknown cost as estimated by DESE in FY 2027. Oversight will also reflect the corresponding revenue gain to school districts in the fiscal note.

Oversight notes §160.524.11 states public school districts, public schools, and public charter schools shall report for high schools the number of graduates who within six months of graduation attend postsecondary education or training programs, serve in the military, serve in national or community service, or are employed in a living-wage career. Oversight notes Missouri high schools already report post-graduation outcomes through the Missouri High School Graduates Performance Report. Therefore, Oversight will assume this section would cause no additional cost to the school districts.

§161.355 – Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Act

Officials from **DESE** state:

§161.355.5-6: Establishment of Expectations and Implementation of Pilot Program

Prior to implementation of the pilot program, an advisory team of library media specialists and/or other educators who work closely with media literacy instruction (one from each of the state's nine RPDC regions, to include librarians and/or other educators who work with elementary, middle, and high school libraries and/or classrooms and represent rural, suburban, and urban districts) will meet in Jefferson City for two consecutive days in the fall of 2026 (FY2027) to determine expectations for districts participating in the pilot program. Estimated cost: \$13,555. - \$5,400.00 stipends (\$300/day for each of the nine advisory team members over two days), \$2,700.00 lodging (\$150/night for each of the nine advisory team members over two nights), \$1,575 mileage (actual cost will depend on mileage each of the nine advisory team members reports in driving to and from Jefferson City), \$1,080.00 meal allowances (covers five meals at \$60 for nine advisory team members for two days (\$60 x 9 x 2)), \$2,898.00 substitute payments (covers one substitute per each of the nine advisory team members at \$161 per substitute per day for two days).

During the spring of 2027, a one-day meeting in Jefferson City with the seven participating districts will provide guidance prior to the districts' implementation of the pilot program during the following school year. Each district shall send two representatives: one superintendent or principal and one librarian or classroom teacher who works closely with media literacy instruction. Estimated cost: \$6,517.00 - \$2,100.00 lodging (\$150/night for each of the 14 participants for one night), \$2,450.00 mileage (actual cost will depend on mileage each of the 14 participants reports in driving to and from Jefferson City), \$840.00 meal allowances (covers two meals at \$60 for each of the 14 participants: breakfast and lunch), \$1,127.00 substitute payments (covers one substitute per each of the seven librarians/classroom teachers at \$161 per substitute for one day). During the spring of 2028, a meeting in Jefferson City with the seven participating districts will provide an opportunity for the districts to share successes and find solutions to difficulties incurred during the first year of implementation. Each district shall send two representatives: one superintendent or principal and one librarian or classroom teacher who

works closely with media literacy instruction. Estimated cost: \$6,517 - \$2,100.00 lodging (\$150/night for each of the 14 participants for one night). \$2,450 mileage (actual cost will depend on mileage each of the 14 participants reports in driving to and from Jefferson City), \$840.00 meal allowances (covers two meals at \$60 for each of the 14 participants: breakfast and lunch), \$1,127.00 substitute payments (covers one substitute per each of the seven librarians/classroom teachers at \$161 per substitute for one day).

§161.355.7: Samples of Learning Activities, Resources, and Training

Officials from **DESE** assume during the spring of 2028 (FY2028), during the spring of 2029, a meeting with the seven participating districts in Jefferson City will provide an opportunity for the districts to share their experiences with the pilot and their recommendations for media literacy instruction. Each district shall send two representatives: one superintendent or principal and one librarian or classroom teacher who works closely with media literacy instruction. Estimated cost: \$7,644 - \$2,100.00 lodging (\$150/night for each of the 14 participants for one night), \$2,450.00 mileage (actual cost will depend on mileage each of the 14 participants reports in driving to and from Jefferson City), \$840.00 meal allowances (covers two meals at \$60 for each of the 14 participants: breakfast and lunch), \$2,254.00 substitute payments (covers one substitute per each of the seven librarians/classroom teachers at \$161 per substitute for two days).

§161.355 would also require stipends for the two representatives from each pilot school attending whole work group meetings in the spring of 2027, 2028, and 2029. -\$4,200 each year (\$300/day for each of the representatives 300 X 3).

§161.355.9: Draft of PK-12 Media Literacy and Critical Thinking State Standards - DESE Report to General Assembly

Officials from **DESE** assume during the summer or fall of 2029, two teams of 18 educators each (team for preschool-grade 5 and team for grades 6-12) will meet for three days in Jefferson City to draft media literacy and critical thinking state standards. Each team will consist of representatives who work closely with media literacy instruction from each of the state's nine RPDC regions, to include librarians and/or other educators who work with elementary, middle, and high school libraries and/or classrooms and represent rural, suburban, and urban districts. Estimated cost: \$46,368.00 - \$16,200.00 lodging (\$150/night for each of the 36 participants for three nights), \$6,300.00 mileage (actual cost will depend on mileage each of the 36 participants reports in driving to and from Jefferson City), \$6,480.00 meal allowances (covers eight meals at \$60 for each of the 36 participants, \$17,388.00 substitute payments (covers one substitute per each of the 36 participants at \$161 per substitute for three days).

DESE assumes for all sections requiring work and support **DESE** estimates the need for one Media Literacy Consultant which would be contracted with the Regional Professional Development Centers (RPDC). Because media literacy instruction is a significant part of the work of school librarians (see Missouri Association of School Librarians Instructional Standards), **DESE** guidance of this work would fall mainly to the Director of Secondary Literacy, who, as part of that position, oversees school library K-12 instructional work. Because the project proposed in HB 1792 will require supervision and guidance beyond the current capacity of Office of Literacy staffing, it is recommended that **DESE** add one fulltime Media Literacy Consultants through appropriate Regional Professional Development Centers depending on pilot school location to support the program implementation by providing targeted professional development and program guidance within each of the school buildings in the participating districts under the direction of **DESE**'s Director of Secondary Literacy. This position would run from the beginning to end of the project, July 2026 through June 2029. (\$115,000.00/year covering salary, benefits, travel expenses for the Media Literacy Consultant). In addition to the RPDC consultant, an assistant director FTE would be required to support the implementation of the multi-year pilot program and the data collection involved (\$71,887/year covering salary, benefits, travel expenses).

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, **Oversight** will reflect the estimated impact by **DESE** in the fiscal note.

Oversight assumes consultant cost for participating schools will only be applicable to the first year prior to the pilot programs start date in order to ensure professional development for the five to seven participating school districts. Therefore, **Oversight** will reflect the impact for RPDC consultants in FY27 on the fiscal note.

Oversight notes this proposal presents a pilot program to be implemented during the 2027-28 and 2028-29 school years which will include five to seven diverse school districts. **Oversight** assumes there may be costs to implement the Media Literacy and Critical Thinking pilot program for school districts; therefore, **Oversight** will reflect a \$0 or unknown cost in the fiscal note.

Oversight notes the program is to terminate on June 30, 2029.

Oversight notes, upon further inquiry, **DESE** noted the review of the pilot programs would be concluding in May 2029. Therefore, They assumed any additional cost related to the program for FY 2029 could be absorbed by the department. Therefore, **Oversight** will not show cost relating to the pilot program for FY 2029.

In response to similar legislation, HB 1792 (2026), officials from the **High Point R-III School District** assumed the proposal will have a fiscal impact on their organization. However, they did not further elaborate on how the impact would be realized for their organization.

In response to similar legislation, HB 1513 (2025), officials from the **Henry County R-1 School District** assumed the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

§162.192 – School Financial Ledger

In response to similar legislation, SCS for SB 1029 (2026), officials from the **Office of Attorney General (AGO)** assumed any potential litigation costs arising from this proposal can be absorbed with existing resources. The AGO may seek additional appropriations if the proposal results in a significant increase in litigation or investigation costs.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight assumes the AGO will be able to perform any additional duties required by this proposal with current staff and resources and will reflect no fiscal impact to the AGO for fiscal note purposes.

Officials from **DESE** assume some ITSD costs may be incurred if this legislation is passed. Modifications to the Annual Secretary of the Board Report (ASBR) also DESE and Office of Data System Management (ODSM) will collect any historical information in a standard data layout, that aligns with the database/fields they define and compile all data from the school districts.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect the ITSD impact as estimated by DESE in the fiscal note for this agency.

Oversight notes §162.192.10 states if the department finds that any school district or charter school has violated a provision of this section, the department may withhold up to five percent of the state aid to which the school district or charter school is entitled under chapter 160 or 163 for the current school year until the school district or charter school proves to the satisfaction of the department that the school district or charter school is no longer in violation of this section. Oversight notes, for the simplicity of the fiscal note, Oversight assumes school districts and charter schools would satisfy the requirements of the legislation to avoid state aid withholdings. Therefore, Oversight will reflect no impact on school districts or DESE for this section.

In response to similar legislation, SCS for SB 1029 (2026), officials from **Republic R-III School District** assumed this bill may require school districts to hire an additional person in the business services part of the school district. In the Republic School District, they would likely shift some duties to ensure compliance with the law. These shifts may cause an additional part-time opening which would cost approximately \$30,000. There could be additional costs associated with the State Auditor taking civil action against a district.

In response to similar legislation, SB 1029 (2026), officials from the **Wellington-Napoleon R-IX School District** noted there are already state requirements written in statute on the quarterly and annual reporting of school finance to the state, and public. This information is already

readily available on school websites and the DESE site on an annual basis through the ASBR (Annual Secretary of the Board Report).

In response to similar legislation, SB 1029 (2026), officials from the **Sedalia 200 School District** noted that they already are fulfilling the requirements of the proposal and further noted that each month this information is published in the board packet. It is also part of every budget amendment and the final budget amendment.

Oversight assumes there is potential for additional IT cost for school districts that would need to update their website to provide a link directly to their district's financial ledger as defined in the proposal. Oversight notes school districts are responsible to update the ledger monthly. Furthermore, they must maintain complete financial ledger data for no fewer than the five prior fiscal years on their website. Therefore, Oversight will show a cost to school districts as zero (school is currently compliant) to unknown cost in the fiscal note.

§162.481 – Independence School District School Board Terms and Elections

Officials from **DESE** assume this section will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

§162.821 – District Secretary Records

Officials from **DESE** assume some ITSD cost may be incurred if this legislation is passed. Modifications to the Annual Secretary of the Board Report (ASBR). Also DESE and Office of Data System Management (ODSM) will collect any historical information in a standard data layout, that aligns with the database/fields they define and compile all data from the school districts.

DESE is a consolidated agency under OA-ITSD. It is assumed that all new IT projects/systems will be bid out because all ITSD resources are at full capacity. Assuming this work would have to be prioritized by DESE to be completed among DESE's other projects, if it passes, modifications will be needed to ASBR. DESE ODSM and DESE Data Governance will define all data elements needed to be captured, provide those to ITSD, which will be used to establish the database table(s) and fields. DESE ODSM will also collect any historical information in a standard data layout, that aligns with the database/fields they define, compile all data from school districts.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect an impact in the fiscal note for this agency as estimated by DESE.

§167.1001 – Excused Absence for Students during Scheduled Elections

Officials from **DESE** assume this section will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

§170.027 – Missouri Integrated Safe Driving Program

Officials from **DESE** assume this would require DESE to vet materials. As DESE does not have a Driver's Education Director, an estimated \$10,000 would be required to contract services to complete the vetting process, then communicate/distribute/provide limited program development for LEAs. Concerns - It should be noted that the premise of this bill includes language that makes this an optional activity for LEAs. If this were compulsory, then it would raise concerns about how districts would incorporate this into the current local curricula.

Oversight assumes DESE is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of activity each year. Oversight assumes DESE could absorb the costs related to this proposal. If multiple bills pass which require additional staffing and duties at substantial costs, DESE could request funding through the appropriation process.

In response to similar legislation, HCS for HB 2195 (2026), officials from **Miller County R-III School District** assumed the wording of this bill makes it sound like this will require very little extra time and effort on the part of the district and require no extra funding since the curriculum is supposed to be worked into existing courses, all additional curricular mandates require extra work on the part of the district.

To work extra standards or units into existing courses will require man hours to rewrite existing curricula and pacing guides, and possibly require that they spend less time focusing on standards that affect our state-mandated testing outcomes, since these must be placed in courses that all students will already be taking--they cannot be put into elective courses because all students may not then be exposed to them. Requirements like this are especially onerous for small schools; they have fewer staff members among whom they can spread out the work it takes to revise curricula to incorporate new materials. This bill requires more work of districts with no additional funding resources to compensate teachers for the time it will take to incorporate more requirements.

In response to similar legislation, HCS for HB 248 (2025), officials from **Warren Co. R-III School District** assumed the cost would be approximately \$500,000 annually. This would require a large increase in staff and vehicles for students to drive.

Oversight assumes there could be cost to schools that choose to participate in the Missouri Integrated Driving Program. However, the program does not require participants to spend any time operating a vehicle and program participation is voluntary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect no additional cost to schools.

§186.085 - Literacy Advisory Council

Officials from **DESE** assume this section will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

Oversight notes §186.085 requires the literacy advisory council established under §186.080 to provide advice on the inclusion of instruction and assessment of cursive writing and reading, including the optimal role for the use of cursive writing and reading in promoting literacy for all students. Such advice shall include recommendations for a related model policy on cursive.

Oversight assumes DESE is able to absorb any cost associated with providing advice as defined in this section. Therefore, Oversight will reflect no fiscal impact for DESE for this section.

§186.095 - Framework on Classroom Use of Screens Council

Officials from **DESE** assume this section calls for the Commissioner of DESE to establish a Framework on Classroom Use of Screens Council (FOCUS) consisting of members as specified in the legislation to meet at least four times a year in its first year and two times per year thereafter and requires DESE to provide all necessary staff and resources for the work of the council. This section requires the council to meet to conduct a comprehensive survey and analysis on screen time and instructional use of technology and to review best practices regarding screen time and technology use in schools. DESE assumes each of these meetings will take 2 days to cover the material called for in and estimates the costs to be \$83,520 in year one and \$41,760 in each succeeding year. These costs are based on there being 15 members specified in the legislation. DESE also estimates it will need a .5 FTE supervisor position, with an annual salary of \$65,208 along with onetime costs of \$5,082 and an ongoing cost of \$7,424 for expenses and equipment, to provide the necessary staffing to complete the work of the council.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for this agency regarding the meeting cost.

Oversight assumes DESE is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of activity each year. Oversight assumes DESE could absorb the costs related to FTE in this proposal. If multiple bills pass which require additional staffing and duties at substantial costs, DESE could request funding through the appropriation process. Officials from the Oversight Division assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization regarding FTE.

Responses regarding the proposed legislation as a whole

Officials from the **Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development, University of Missouri, Office of the State Courts Administrator, Missouri House of Representatives** and **Missouri Senate** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for this agency.

Officials from the **Platte County Board of Elections, St. Louis City Board of Elections, St. Louis County Board of Elections, Northwest Missouri State University** and **University of Central Missouri** each assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for this agency.

Oversight only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other school districts were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. Upon the receipt of additional responses, Oversight will review to determine if an updated fiscal note should be prepared and seek the necessary approval to publish a new fiscal note. A general listing of political subdivisions included in our database is available upon request.

Rule Promulgation

Officials from the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules** assume this proposal is not anticipated to cause a fiscal impact beyond its current appropriation.

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** note many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The SOS is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. The fiscal impact for this fiscal note to the SOS for Administrative Rules is less than \$5,000. The SOS recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, the SOS also recognizes that many such bills may be passed by the General Assembly in a given year and that collectively the costs may be in excess of what the office can sustain with its core budget. Therefore, the SOS reserves the right to request funding for the cost of supporting administrative rules requirements should the need arise based on a review of the finally approved bills signed by the governor.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Cost – DESE (§160.524) p.4</u>			
Personal Service	(\$69,278)	(\$84,797)	(\$86,493)
Fringe Benefits	(\$41,477)	(\$50,441)	(\$51,123)
Expense & Equipment	(\$11,269)	(\$7,572)	(\$7,724)
<u>Total Costs – DESE</u>	<u>(\$122,024)</u>	<u>(\$142,810)</u>	<u>(\$145,340)</u>
FTE Change – DESE	1 FTE	1 FTE	1 FTE
<u>Cost – DESE/ITSD (§160.524) Programming cost p.4</u>	(\$1,894,347)	(\$388,341)	(\$398,049)
<u>Cost – DESE (§160.524) Report-card stakeholders meetings p.4</u>	(\$69,600)	\$0	\$0

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
<u>Cost – DESE (§160.524) File generation & review p.4</u>	(Up to \$100,000)	(Up to \$100,000)	(Up to \$100,000)
<u>Cost – DESE (§160.524) Performance-based funding p.4</u>	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)
<u>Cost – DESE (§161.355) p.5</u>			
Personal Service	(\$59,906)	(\$73,325)	(\$0)
Fringe Benefits	(\$37,707)	(\$45,827)	(\$0)
Expense & Equipment	(\$16,564)	(\$14,055)	(\$0)
<u>Total Costs – DESE</u>	<u>(\$114,177)</u>	<u>(\$133,207)</u>	<u>(\$0)</u>
FTE Change – DESE	1 FTE	1 FTE	0 FTE
<u>Cost - DESE (§161.355) RPDC Media Consultant Contractors p.5</u>	(\$115,000)	(\$0)	(\$0)
<u>Cost – DESE (§161.355.5) Workgroup Meetings p.5</u>	(\$20,072)	(\$6,517)	(\$0)
<u>Cost – DESE (§161.355.7) Workgroup Meetings p.6</u>	(\$0)	(\$0)	(\$7,644)
<u>Cost – DESE (§161.355.7) Stipends for teachers to attend workgroups p.6</u>	(\$4,200)	(\$4,200)	(\$4,200)
<u>Cost – DESE (§162.192) OSDM changes p.8</u>	(\$57,267)	(\$11,740)	(\$12,034)
<u>Cost – DESE/ITSD (§162.821) OSDM changes p.9</u>	(\$57,267)	(\$11,740)	(\$12,034)
<u>Cost – DESE (§186.095) FOCUS Meetings p.11</u>	(\$83,520)	(\$41,760)	(\$41,760)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	(Could exceed <u>\$2,637,474</u>)	(Could exceed <u>\$840,315</u>)	(Could exceed <u>\$721,061</u>)
Estimated Net FTE Change on General Revenue	2 FTE	2 FTE	1 FTE

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
<u>Revenue Gain</u> – School Districts (§160.524) Performance-based funding p.4	\$0 or Unknown	\$0 or Unknown	\$0 or Unknown
<u>Cost</u> – School Districts (§161.355) Implement the Media Literacy and Critical Thinking pilot program p.5	\$0	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)
<u>Cost</u> – School Districts (§162.192) Maintain financial ledger p.8	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	Unknown or (Unknown)	Unknown or (Unknown)	Unknown or (Unknown)

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

No direct fiscal impact on small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY (Sections 160.068, 186.085, and 186.095)

This act establishes the "Student Screen-Time Standards Act" and creates provisions relating to the use of instructional technology in school districts and charter schools serving students in kindergarten through fifth grade.

The act defines "instructional technology" as including learning devices and platforms such as computers, tablets, Chromebooks, smart devices, and software platforms. The act distinguishes instructional technology from "traditional materials", such as printed books and paper-based educational resources, and from "manipulatives", defined as hands-on physical learning tools.

Before the end of the 2027-28 school year and in all subsequent school years, each school district and charter school shall adopt a written screen time and instructional technology policy for students in kindergarten through grade five. The policy shall establish limits on student screen time and use of instructional technology during the school day; establish limits on the use of school-issued devices outside the school day; establish limits on student access to internet-connected instructional technology; identify the digital platforms used; establish standards and

requirements for student use of manipulatives and traditional materials; provide a process for parents to obtain information regarding their child's screen time and instructional technology use, as well as a process for parents to limit or eliminate such use; and provide the research, evidence, and information upon which the policy is based. In creating the policy, the district or charter school shall consider research on best practices in literacy instruction, instructional technology, assessment, and the optimal role for the use of handwriting and cursive writing in promoting literacy for all students.

Each elementary school shall notify parents and guardians annually of the policy adopted and publish the policy on the school's website. Parents of students in kindergarten through grade five may, upon request, receive information about their child's login time and use of district-provided instructional technology and online learning platforms. Such information shall be made available within a reasonable time and at no cost. The policy shall be periodically updated to incorporate best practices recommendations from the recommended model school board policy provided by the newly created "Framework on Classroom Use of Screens Council" or "FOCUS Council", which is established in the act.

These requirements shall not apply to virtual instruction programs. (Section 160.068)

The literacy advisory council established under current law shall provide advice on the inclusion of instruction and assessment of cursive writing and reading, including the optimal role for the use of cursive writing and reading in promoting student literacy. Such advice shall include recommendations for a related model policy on cursive. (Section 186.085)

The Commissioner of Education shall establish a "Framework on Classroom Use of Screens Council" or "FOCUS Council" consisting of between 12 and 15 members, including representatives from school boards and charter schools and other professionals with experience in education, mental health, and child development, as provided in the act. The FOCUS Council shall conduct a comprehensive survey and analysis of screen time and instructional technology use in public schools and review best practices. The act outlines specific items and information to be included in relation to such best practices, such as impacts on educational outcomes, behavioral and discipline outcomes, special education, early childhood brain development, and other items specified in the act.

The FOCUS Council shall hold its initial meeting before December 1, 2026, with at least three additional meetings held before July 1, 2027. On or before July 1, 2027, the FOCUS Council shall submit a report containing its findings and recommendations to the State Board of Education, the Governor, and the Joint Committee on Education. The council's report shall include a model school board policy on screen time and instructional technology that contains recommended best practices on certain topics specified in the act. The council's report shall be presented to the State Board of Education and the Joint Committee on Education in public hearings, and shall be updated at least every two years. (Section 186.095)

SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT CARDS (Section 160.524)

This act requires the State Board of Education to develop an annual school accountability report card for each public school, charter school, and school district in the state, designed to inform the public regarding school performance and to satisfy applicable federal reporting requirements concerning students, staff, finances, and related data. Each report card shall be presented in a standardized, clear, and accessible format and include a summary for parents explaining the school's performance level and underlying indicators, identifying strengths and areas for improvement, highlighting year-to-year progress and student academic growth, and describing opportunities for family engagement. The State Board of Education may assign duties specified in the act to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) or contract with a third party under state law.

An embargoed version of each report card shall be provided to districts and schools by September 15 annually, subject to an appeals process to be provided by the State Board of Education, and each district and school shall publish its report card on its website by October 31.

The State Board of Education shall assign each district and school a letter grade of "A" through "F" based on a 0-100 scale and derived from multiple performance measures, with an "A" reflecting excellent student outcomes benchmarked as the top decile of composite scores of certain specified measures. Assessment participation rates below 95% shall be separately reported but shall not automatically reduce a school's rating.

The act establishes the "Show Me Success Program", subject to appropriation, to provide performance-based funding to public schools and charter schools demonstrating strong academic growth, sustained improvement over multiple years, significant improvement among historically underserved student groups, high levels of postsecondary readiness, or improvement in early literacy outcomes, with funds distributed to classroom incidental funds for teacher recruitment and retention.

DESE shall develop a criterion-referenced growth measure termed "growth to proficiency", evaluating whether students are on a trajectory to reach or exceed grade level within a specified timeframe, in addition to an existing value-added growth measure.

School and district ratings shall be based on specified factors, including student proficiency levels on statewide assessments in English language arts, mathematics, and science; academic growth for all students and the lowest-performing quartile; and, for high schools, the four-year graduation rate and a "Success-Ready Graduate" measure incorporating advanced coursework, industry-recognized credentials, dual enrollment, and degree completion. The act prescribes weighted components for elementary, middle, and high school ratings; mandates annual reporting of post-graduation outcomes for high schools; and requires district-level ratings to be calculated using the same methodology as school-level ratings, as provided in the act.

The State Board of Education shall also issue a statewide report card detailing the percentage of students attending schools in each letter-grade category and comparing state assessment performance with results on the National Assessment of Educational Progress, with the objective of alignment in proficiency rates.

The annual report card requirements established in the act do not apply to special school districts or state-operated schools serving exclusively students with disabilities.

MEDIA LITERACY AND CRITICAL THINKING (Section 161.355)

The act establishes the "Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Act" and the "Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Pilot Program", which shall be implemented during the 2027-28 and 2028-29 school years. The act defines "media literacy" as an individual's ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and participate in various forms of media, including print news and social media content, as well as the ability to recognize bias and stereotypes, apply principles of digital citizenship and internet safety, and engage in the critical analysis of media within classroom instruction. Under the pilot program, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) shall select five to seven diverse school districts to participate and to provide data regarding program outcomes.

Participating pilot program sites shall address all components of media literacy and develop effective instructional strategies integrated into daily classroom curricula across all grades or selected grade levels, as provided in the act. Each site shall identify high-quality resources and demonstrate and report how the site incorporates instruction in news content literacy, visual literacy, digital fluency, and digital literacy, including students' ability to distinguish verified information from opinion or propaganda, interpret and evaluate visual media, understand responsible technology use and media influence, and make informed decisions regarding digital content while effectively communicating through digital tools.

Guidelines developed from the pilot program shall include instruction for students on topics such as appropriate social media use, cybersecurity and ethical online behavior, the consequences of irresponsible media use such as cyberbullying, and the ability to engage critically with digital and written communications. Such guidelines shall also address digital ethics, respectful discourse, identification of harmful rhetoric, the role of algorithms, methods for identifying misinformation, and a general understanding of the digital economy, as well as the importance of freedom of speech under the United States Constitution and its application to online interactions in school settings, as provided in the act. In addition, the guidelines shall provide school districts with sample learning activities, resources, and training to promote critical thinking and media evaluation skills.

Each participating site shall submit a report to DESE before August 1, 2029, detailing program implementation and findings. DESE shall, before January 1, 2030, compile such reports and submit a summary to the General Assembly that includes qualitative and quantitative insights, a compendium of high-quality strategies and resources, professional development considerations, recommendations for facilities and materials needed for statewide implementation, potential

policy and legislative recommendations, and proposed state standards for media literacy and critical thinking for preschool through grade twelve, as provided in the act. Any standards developed shall be considered in the next state standards review following the pilot program's conclusion.

The pilot program shall terminate on June 30, 2029.

This provision shall expire on December 31, 2029.

SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CHARTER SCHOOL FINANCIAL INFORMATION (Section 162.192)

Under this act, each school district and charter school shall maintain a searchable, publicly accessible database on its website setting forth all financial transactions conducted with school district or charter school funds. The financial ledger shall be available without login credentials, registration, or fees, and shall be downloadable and exportable in formats specified in the act. The financial ledger shall record transactions using codes set forth in the Missouri Financial Accounting Manual published by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), as applicable. Certain data fields shall be included in the financial ledger at minimum, such as transaction date, transaction amount, revenue or expenditure designation, fund code, function code, object code, vendor or payee name, and a description or memo field.

The homepage of each public or charter school's website shall include a direct link to the financial ledger of the school district or charter school. The link shall make the financial ledger accessible within one click, and shall be functional and mobile-responsive. DESE may provide standardized language or icons that public and charter schools may use for this purpose.

A school district's or charter school's financial ledger shall be updated at least monthly. Details of each calendar month's financial transactions shall be posted no later than 45 days after the close of that calendar month. For record keeping purposes, a school district or charter school shall maintain at least five fiscal years of historical data on its financial ledger.

Protected personal information may be redacted only to the extent required by applicable law. Vendor names, amounts, and accounting codes shall not be redacted. Payroll data may be presented in aggregated form where disclosure of individual information is restricted.

Debt obligations shall be posted in a separate section of the financial ledger, with disclosure of outstanding debt balances, issuance dates, repayment schedules, annual debt service amounts, and debt service as a percentage of total expenditures.

DESE may provide or approve standardized templates or platforms school districts and charter schools may use for their financial ledgers. DESE may additionally provide guidance to assist school districts and charter schools with compliance.

DESE shall promulgate rules establishing procedures and timelines for school districts and charter schools to certify compliance annually. A school district or charter school that violates any provision of this act may be subject to the withholding of up to 5% of that school year's state aid entitlement for the school district or charter school.

DESE shall establish a process for members of the public to file complaints if they believe a school district or charter school has violated any provision of the act. DESE may also establish a public compliance dashboard on DESE's website to enable members of the public to check whether a particular school district or charter school is certified as in compliance.

SCHOOL BOARD TERMS IN CERTAIN URBAN SCHOOL DISTRICTS (Section 162.481)
This act changes the term of office for members of the Independence School District school board from six years to three years. (Section 162.481)

SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CHARTER SCHOOL LEGAL EXPENSES (Section 162.821)
The act requires school districts and charter schools to include the amount expended for legal services in their Annual Secretary of the Board Report. If the report does not include the amount expended for legal services, then the Attorney General may bring a civil action, including an action for injunctive relief, against the school district or charter school. Such action shall be brought in the county where the school district or charter school is located.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE AT SCHEDULED ELECTIONS (Section 167.1001)
Additionally, this act provides that a student enrolled in a public school governed by an urban school district shall not be considered absent for the time such student spends attending a scheduled primary, general, or special election with his or her parent, legal guardian, or person standing in loco parentis to the student. A student may receive only one excused absence during each scheduled election. Upon his or her return to school, the student shall be encouraged by school officials to demonstrate his or her attendance at the election by wearing an official sticker, badge, or other item indicating that he or she attended the election. (Section 167.1001)

DRIVER EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS (Section 170.027)
This act establishes the "Missouri Integrated Safe Driving Program" to provide standardized driver education instruction for pupils in grades 9-12. The program shall include instruction on the safe operation of motor vehicles, the rules of the road, and applicable motor vehicle laws, including Missouri's driver licensing system. The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) shall receive and review sample instructional lessons from recognized statewide professional organizations and school districts and shall make approved sample lessons available to school districts and charter schools. Beginning with the 2027–28 school year, school districts and charter schools may implement a plan adopting the program and may utilize the sample lessons provided by DESE.

The program shall promote knowledge, attitudes, habits, and skills necessary for safe driving; address distracted driving as a significant traffic safety concern; explain law enforcement procedures during traffic stops; provide current data regarding risky driving behaviors; and

provide instruction on safety concerns relating to pedestrians, commercial vehicles, motorcycles, and other potentially hazardous encounters on the road. Districts may require pupil participation in program-related lessons within existing courses, as provided in the act. The program shall not require pupils to physically operate a motor vehicle; nor shall the program be construed to prohibit school districts or charter schools from offering other elective driver education courses.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education
Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development
Office of the Secretary of State
University of Missouri
University of Central Missouri
Missouri Senate
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules
Platte County Board of Elections
St. Louis City Board of Elections
St. Louis County Board of Elections



Julie Morff
Director
April 27, 2026



Jessica Harris
Assistant Director
April 27, 2026