



OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Dan Redmond

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 477 of the 132nd G.A.

Status: As Enacted

Sponsor: Rep. Koehler

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Subject: Employment of paraprofessionals in schools; performance management section of the Ohio Department of Education website; elimination of various obsolete, expired, or inactive education provisions; public school and employee civil liability

Fiscal Highlights

- The bill may provide public districts and schools with some additional flexibility in hiring paraprofessionals by specifying that only paraprofessionals who work in a program supported with federal Title I funds are required to have certain credentials.
- The bill may increase the information technology expenditures of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to modify its website to prominently display certain school district academic and financial performance data.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Employment of paraprofessionals in schools

Beginning July 1, 2019, current law prohibits public districts and schools from employing a paraprofessional providing academic support in a core subject area that is not "properly certified."¹ The bill narrows the scope of this prohibition so that it only applies to a paraprofessional providing academic support in a core subject area in a program supported with federal Title I funds, which support programs providing educational services to disadvantaged students. This provision may allow public districts and schools some flexibility in hiring paraprofessionals in programs not supported by Title I funds beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.

¹ Under continuing law, a "properly certified paraprofessional" must: (1) hold an educational aide permit issued by ODE and (2) either: (a) have an "ESEA qualified" designation on the educational aide permit, (b) completed at least two years of coursework at an accredited institution of higher education, (c) hold an associate degree or higher, or (d) attain a qualifying score on an academic assessment specified by ODE.

Performance management section of the Ohio Department of Education website

Current law requires certain metrics regarding the academic and financial performance of each school district to be displayed on a performance management section of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) website. ODE posts this information online under the "Financial Data" section of each district's report card. The bill requires ODE to place this section in a prominent location on the website, which may increase the Department's information technology expenditures to modify the website.

Other provisions

All other provisions of the bill appear to have no direct fiscal effect on the state or political subdivisions. In general, these provisions (1) repeal and make conforming changes to sections of the Revised Code to eliminate various obsolete, expired, or inactive provisions and programs related to ODE and the operation of primary and secondary schools and (2) provide civil immunity to public districts and schools and their employees for injury, death, or other loss allegedly arising from a decision not to provide or procure mental health services to a suspended or expelled student in grades pre-K through three. Practically, public districts and schools and their employees acting within the scope of employment generally have immunity from civil liability for damages in the performance of governmental functions under the state Political Subdivision Sovereign Immunity Law. For a full description of these provisions, please see the LSC Bill Analysis.