

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sHB-7082

AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDIES IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Education, Dept.	GF - Cost	Up to 2,255,000 - 2,655,000	255,000
Education, Dept. (Professional Developmet)	GF - Cost	Up to 6 million	
State Comptroller - Fringe Benefits ¹	GF - Cost	105,036	105,036

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 20 \$	FY 21 \$
Various Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE ² - Cost	None	Up to \$25,000 for larger districts

Explanation

The bill adds African - American studies as a one-credit requirement for high school graduation, starting with the graduating class of 2023. Additionally, the bill requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to develop and adopt a model curriculum for grades kindergarten through eight that includes African-American studies within and among various subject matter areas. The bill results primarily in costs

¹The fringe benefit costs for most state employees are budgeted centrally in accounts administered by the Comptroller. The estimated active employee fringe benefit cost associated with most personnel changes is 41.19% of payroll in FY 20 and FY 21.

² State mandate is defined in Sec. 2-32b(2) of the Connecticut General Statutes, "state mandate" means any state initiated constitutional, statutory or executive action that requires a local government to establish, expand or modify its activities in such a way as to necessitate additional expenditures from local revenues.

to the State Department of Education (SDE) beginning in FY 20 and various local and regional school districts beginning in FY 21.

High School Graduation Requirement

The bill results in a cost of approximately \$520,012 in FY 20 associated with curriculum development and one full-time position to make African-American studies a one-credit requirement for high school graduation. The \$400,000 in curriculum development is a one-time cost to develop the course of study. Additionally, SDE would require one full-time staff member, with an annual salary of \$85,000 and corresponding fringe benefits of \$35,012, to assure districts properly meet the new requirement and serve as a member of the department's academic office, which does not have the resources necessary to complete the new requirements contained within the bill.

K-8 Statewide Model Curriculum

The bill results in an additional cost of \$7,840,023 to \$8,240,023 in FY 20 associated with the requirement that SDE develop statewide model curriculum for grades kindergarten through eight for all schools to include African-American studies within and among various subject matter. It is estimated that each of the four main subject areas (math, science, language arts, and social studies) would require \$400,000 - \$500,000 in curriculum development costs, totaling \$1.6 million to \$2.0 million. The curriculum development costs would be one-time in nature. SDE would require two additional full-time positions, with an annual salary of \$85,000 and corresponding fringe benefits of \$35,012 (total additional staff costs of \$170,000 in salary and \$70,024 in fringe benefits annually), to staff the academic office, and to assure compliance and assist local and regional school districts with implementing the model curriculum.

Additionally, SDE would need up to \$6 million over the biennium to partner with the regional educational service centers (RESCs) to provide professional development to all local and regional school districts for implementing the statewide model curriculum across

various subject areas. The \$6 million cost is based on a similar professional development partnership between SDE and the RESCs that was used to implement Common Core.

Local and Regional School Districts

The bill results in a state mandate to local and regional school districts. It is estimated that SDE will be responsible for the majority of the bill's costs, as described above. However, local and regional school districts will be responsible for purchasing additional materials and providing substitute coverage for teachers attending professional development. It is estimated these costs could total up to \$25,000 for large districts, and will be minimal for smaller districts with fewer students and teachers.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, except for the curriculum development costs and professional development costs, which are one-time in nature.