

OFFICE OF FISCAL ANALYSIS

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sSB-1033

AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCLUSION OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND FINANCIAL LITERACY AS PART OF THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 22 \$	FY 23 \$
Various Local and Regional School Districts	STATE MANDATE ¹ - Cost	Potential Significant	Potential Significant

Explanation

The bill results in a state mandate and a potential significant cost to local and regional school districts associated with incorporating computer science and personal financial management into the existing high school graduation requirements, beginning with the graduating class of 2025.

The bill requires computer science to be added to a high school's STEM course offerings in time for the class of 2025 to complete it. It also requires students to complete one credit in personal financial management in order to graduate, which may count towards the nine-credit STEM course requirement. The bill does not increase the total number of high school credits needed to graduate beyond the 25 required in current law. However, in order to complete the revised

¹ 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.

graduation requirements, the additional subject areas must be added to a public high school's course offerings.

Currently, the State Department of Education (SDE) has materials and resources available to assist districts in the implementation of the revised graduation requirements, but SDE does not have model curriculum available, and local and regional school districts would be responsible for purchasing their own, if they are currently not offering the courses. In addition to curriculum costs, local and regional school districts could be faced with increased salary and equipment/material costs, which, for larger districts, could be significant. Since the new requirements begin with the graduating class of 2025 a district could choose to begin implementation in FY 22 or wait till FY 24. The cost to districts would be dependent upon the size of the district, and the extent to which they are currently offering computer science and personal financial management classes.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.