



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE
STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT
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Bill Number:	H. 4673	Introduced on January 14, 2020
Author:	Rose	
Subject:	Critical Thinking and Media Literacy Skills	
Requestor:	House Education and Public Works	
RFA Analyst(s):	Wren	
Impact Date:	February 10, 2020	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill, which requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to develop a plan to implement instruction in media literacy in kindergarten through twelfth grade, will increase General Fund expenses of the agency by \$128,944 in FY 2020-21. This includes \$108,944 in recurring expenses for 1 FTE to manage the increased responsibilities pursuant to the bill, for travel expenses, and for supplies. The remaining \$20,000 is non-recurring for creation of the dashboard to house resources for school districts.

This bill will increase expenses of local school districts by an undetermined amount beginning with the 2020-21 school year. While some school districts currently incorporate the requirements of the bill in their curriculum, other districts will need to update their curriculum and assessments and will need to hire digital integration specialists. Expenses will vary by district and are dependent upon the size of the district.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 14, 2020

State Expenditure

This bill requires the State Board of Education to appoint a media literacy advisory committee to conduct a study on teaching media literacy in schools. The advisory committee must include experts in media literacy including, but not limited to, academic experts and non-profit organizations and other stakeholders including teachers, librarians, parent organizations, educators, administrators, and students. The committee must provide a report of its findings including any recommendations for legislative or regulatory action to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives before January 1, 2021.

This bill also requires SDE to develop a plan to implement instruction in media literacy in kindergarten through twelfth grade based upon the recommendations provided by the advisory committee. SDE must also provide a report annually, beginning July 1, 2021, to the General Assembly on the agency's plan, including the timeline for implementation of instruction in media literacy.

SDE must also review and revise its model policy and procedures on electronic resources and Internet safety before July 1, 2021. Additionally, before July 1, 2021, SDE must survey teachers, librarians, principals, and technology directors to understand how digital citizenship and media literacy education are being integrated into current curriculum. Further, SDE must

create a web-based location with links to recommended successful practices and resources to support digital citizenship, media literacy, and Internet safety for use in the 2021-22 school year. The office of the Superintendent of Education must continue to identify and develop additional open-educational resources to support digital citizenship, media literacy, and Internet safety in schools for the web-based location.

SDE indicates that this bill will increase General Fund expenses of the agency by \$128,944 in FY 2020-21. This includes \$108,944 in recurring expenses for 1 FTE to manage the increased responsibilities pursuant to the bill, for travel expenses, and for supplies. The remaining \$20,000 is non-recurring for the creation of the dashboard to house resources for school districts.

State Revenue

N/A

Local Expenditure

This bill requires to SDE to develop a plan to implement instruction in media literacy in kindergarten through twelfth grade. This bill also requires school districts to review their policies and procedures on electronic resources and Internet safety annually, beginning with the 2021-22 school year. The bill also provides extensive criteria that must be considered during the annual review of these policies and procedures.

SDE indicates that districts currently must certify compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act to receive E-rate funds. All school districts and libraries in the state participate in the statewide E-rate consortium through the K-12 Technology Initiative. Also, South Carolina currently has K-8 Computer Science and Digital Literacy Standards and the South Carolina Computer Science Standards for High School approved. Further, the current English Language Arts Standards include K-12 Inquiry-Based Literacy Standards and Disciplinary Literacy Standards, and standards on analyzing and researching across multiple media.

SDE further indicates that this bill will increase expenses of local school districts by an undetermined amount beginning with the 2020-21 school year. While some school districts currently incorporate the requirements of the bill in their curriculum, other districts will need to update their curriculum and assessments and will need to hire digital integration specialists. Expenses will vary by district and are dependent upon the size of the district.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director