



SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE

STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT

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This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.

Bill Number:	H. 3264	Introduced on January 14, 2025
Subject:	Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Pilot Program	
Requestor:	House Education and Public Works	
RFA Analyst(s):	Wren	
Impact Date:	March 25, 2025	

Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill requires the S.C. Department of Education (SCDE) to establish the Media Literacy and Critical Thinking pilot program, which must be implemented and administered by the department during school years 2026-27 and 2027-28. SCDE must select seven school districts in diverse parts of the state to participate in the program. Also, the bill requires each pilot program site to submit a report to SCDE describing the implementation of and the information gained from the program. Additionally, SCDE must then compile the reports from the pilot program sites and submit a summary report containing specific information to the House Education and Public Works Committee and the Senate Education Committee. The pilot program will terminate on June 30, 2026, unless continued, expanded, or both, by the General Assembly. Further, SCDE must adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of the bill.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on SCDE as long as the department is not required to provide instructional materials for the pilot program. SCDE further indicates that there will be a cost for the instructional materials for the program, but the department is unable to determine the cost at this time.

This bill is not expected to have an expenditure impact on the state agency schools as they do not anticipate being chosen to participate in the pilot program.

The expenditure impact on the seven school districts that will be chosen to participate in the pilot program is undetermined and will depend on the curricula selected by SCDE. Additionally, it is unknown at this time which seven districts will participate in the pilot program.

Explanation of Fiscal Impact

Introduced on January 14, 2025

State Expenditure

This bill requires SCDE to establish the Media Literacy and Critical Thinking pilot program, which must be implemented and administered by the department during school years 2026-27 and 2027-28. SCDE must select seven school districts in diverse parts of the state to participate in the program. The bill also requires each pilot program site to submit a report to SCDE describing the implementation of and the information gained from the program before August 1, 2028. SCDE must then compile the reports from the pilot program sites and submit a summary

report with specific information to the House Education and Public Works Committee before January 1, 2029. The pilot program will terminate on June 30, 2026, unless continued, expanded, or both, by the General Assembly. Further, SCDE must adopt rules necessary to implement the provisions of the bill.

S.C. Department of Education. SCDE indicates that this bill will have no expenditure impact on the department as long as they are not required to provide instructional materials for the pilot program. SCDE further indicates that there will be a cost for the instructional materials for the program, but the department is unable to determine the cost at this time.

State Agency Schools. The Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School indicate that the bill will have no expenditure impact since the schools do not anticipate being chosen to participate in the pilot program. Based upon these responses, we do not anticipate that the bill will have an expenditure impact on the School for the Deaf and Blind or the Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities.

State Revenue

N/A

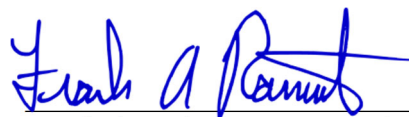
Local Expenditure

This bill requires SCDE to establish the Media Literacy and Critical Thinking pilot program, which must be implemented and administered by the department during school years 2026-27 and 2027-28. SCDE must select seven school districts in diverse parts of the state to participate in the program. The bill also requires each pilot program site to submit a report to SCDE describing the implementation of and the information gained from the program before August 1, 2028. The pilot program will terminate on June 30, 2026, unless continued, expanded, or both, by the General Assembly.

The expenditure impact on the seven school districts that will be chosen to participate in the pilot program is undetermined and will depend on the curricula selected by SCDE. Additionally, it is unknown at this time which seven districts will participate in the pilot program.

Local Revenue

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director