



# 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.*

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**Bill Number:** H. 4468 Introduced on April 30, 2025  
**Subject:** Local Advisory Councils for Educating Students with Disabilities  
**Requestor:** House Education and Public Works  
**RFA Analyst(s):** Bryant  
**Impact Date:** January 28, 2026

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### Fiscal Impact Summary

This bill provides for the establishment of local advisory councils for educating students with disabilities for each school district and charter school authorizer by its respective governing body. The bill also provides for the membership, composition, duties, and purposes of the local advisory councils. The South Carolina Advisory Council for Educating Students with Disabilities (ACESD), with assistance from the S.C. Department of Education (SCDE), must create and adopt model bylaws for use by local advisory councils. Additionally, the bill provides deadlines for the creation of model bylaws, the submission of local advisory council bylaws for approval, and the first meetings of each local advisory council.

SCDE indicates that implementing the provisions of the bill will increase expenses but reports that these expenses can be managed with existing appropriations. However, SCDE notes that this may divert funds from other programs and initiatives. Additionally, SCDE reports that ACESD is comprised of volunteers and only convenes four times a year (three virtual meetings and one in person). SCDE also expressed a concern that ACESD may lack the capacity and availability to review and approve the proposed bylaws for all of the local school districts as the ACESD does not have administrative support. SCDE staff currently provide administrative support to ACESD.

The expenditure impact of this bill on the local school districts will vary. SCDE surveyed the seventy-two regular school districts and three charter school districts and received responses from ten districts. Three of the responding districts indicate that the bill will have no expenditure impact. However, one of these districts reports that there may be costs if staff are required to participate in the local advisory council after normal work hours. One district indicates that expenses may increase if staff are asked to participate in the local advisory council after normal work hours but states that the cost is currently undetermined. Four districts indicate that implementing the provisions of the bill may increase expenses due to personnel and supplies costs but anticipate that these expenses can be managed within existing appropriations. These four districts also note that implementing the provisions of the bill will require additional staff time. The two remaining districts indicate that this bill may increase expenses by an amount ranging from \$500 to \$65,000. These districts indicate that there may be some initial costs to set up the council and to provide training and also anticipate recurring expenses due to staff costs for working outside their contract, increased building costs such as electrical and custodial costs because of operations exceeding normal business hours, and legal fees to develop the policy and set operating parameters.

## Explanation of Fiscal Impact

**Introduced on April 30, 2025**

### **State Expenditure**

This bill establishes local advisory councils for educating students with disabilities for each school district and charter school authorizer by its respective governing body. The school district board or charter school board shall appoint the members of its local advisory council, which must be composed of certain individuals involved in or concerned with the education of students with disabilities, including:

- Parents or legal guardians of students with disabilities enrolled in a school in the district or a school of the authorizer;
- One student with a disability as determined by an Individual Education Program who is enrolled in a school in the district or a school of the authorizer;
- One public school administrator from a school in the district or a school of the authorizer;
- One representative from the district office or employed by the authorizer with expertise in special education;
- A special education teacher employed in a school in the district or a school of the authorizer; and
- Members of the community at the discretion of the local board.

The functions of a local advisory council are to:

- Advise the local board of trustees and district superintendent or charter governing board and charter authorizer of the needs of students with disabilities;
- Comment on district or school improvement plans for students with disabilities;
- Comment on school compliance with state and federal laws and regulations regarding the education of students with disabilities;
- Advise ACESD regarding local special education efforts and recommendations for improvements to the delivery of special education services and instruction; and
- Serve as advocates for students with disabilities and their parents or guardians.

The local school district or charter school authorizer must provide administrative assistance to the local advisory council that it creates, and local advisory boards are encouraged to collaborate with local organizations whose missions are to assist students with disabilities and their families. ACESD, with assistance from SCDE, must create and adopt model bylaws for use by local advisory councils before December 1, 2026. Additionally, the local advisory councils must submit their proposed bylaws to ACESD for approval before May 1, 2027, and the first meeting of each local advisory council must be held before September 1, 2027.

SCDE indicates that implementing the provisions of the bill will increase expenses but reports that these expenses can be managed with existing appropriations. However, SCDE notes that this may divert funds from other programs and initiatives, specifically the requirement that SCDE work with ACESD to create and adopt model bylaws for the local advisory councils. Additionally, SCDE reports that ACESD is comprised of volunteers and only convenes four times a year (three virtual meetings and one in person). SCDE also expressed a concern that

ACESD may lack the capacity and availability to review and approve the proposed bylaws for all of the local school districts since ACESD does not have administrative support. SCDE staff currently provide administrative support to ACESD.

### **State Revenue**

N/A

### **Local Expenditure**

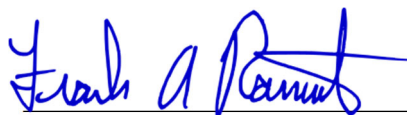
This bill establishes local advisory councils for educating students with disabilities for each school district and charter school authorizer by its respective governing body. The school district board or charter school board shall appoint the members of its local advisory council, which must be composed of certain individuals involved in or concerned with the education of students with disabilities as previously stated. The bill further provides for the functions of a local advisory council.

The local school district or charter school authorizer must provide administrative assistance to the local advisory council that it creates, and local advisory boards are encouraged to collaborate with local organizations whose missions are to assist students with disabilities and their families. Additionally, the local advisory councils must submit their proposed bylaws to ACESD for approval before May 1, 2027, and the first meeting of each local advisory council must be held before September 1, 2027.

The expenditure impact of this bill on the local school districts will vary. SCDE surveyed the seventy-two regular school districts and three charter school districts and received responses from ten districts. Three of the responding districts indicate that the bill will have no expenditure impact. However, one of these districts reports that there may be costs if staff are required to participate in the local advisory council after normal work hours. One district indicates that expenses may increase if staff are asked to participate in the local advisory council after normal work hours but states that the cost is currently undetermined. Four districts indicate that implementing the provisions of the bill may increase expenses due to personnel and supplies costs but anticipate that these expenses can be managed within existing appropriations. These four districts also note that implementing the provisions of the bill will require additional staff time. The two remaining districts indicate that this bill may increase expenses by an amount ranging from \$500 to \$65,000. These districts indicate that there may be some initial costs to set up the council and to provide training and also anticipate recurring expenses due to staff costs for working outside their contract, increased building costs such as electrical and custodial costs because of operations exceeding normal business hours, and legal fees to develop the policy and set operating parameters.

### **Local Revenue**

N/A



Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director