

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 25, 2017

TO: Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB1886 by Miller (Relating to dyslexia screening and testing, the employment of dyslexia specialists by regional education service centers, and the development by the Texas Education Agency of a list of training opportunities for educators regarding dyslexia.), **As Passed 2nd House**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Education Code to require screening or testing of all students for dyslexia upon enrollment in kindergarten and testing each student in the first grade at the end of the school year. The bill would require each regional education service center to employ a dyslexia specialist and would specify persons eligible for the position. The bill would require TEA to annually develop a list of training opportunities that comply with the knowledge and practice standards of an international organization on dyslexia and enable an educator to understand and recognize dyslexia and implement certain evidence-based instruction. The bill would require at least one training opportunity to be available online.

The bill would require special education continuing advisory committee (CAC) meetings to be conducted in compliance with Chapter 551, Government Code. The bill would specify the CAC to have certain procedures and would require the CAC to submit a report to the Legislature with recommended changes to laws and rules related to special education by January 1 of each odd-numbered year.

The bill would change the requirements related to transition planning for students with disabilities who receive special education services. The bill would expand the requirements for what must be provided to students and their families; update certain minimum training guidelines; amend requirements for the transition and employment guide; and amend information to be included in a required notice.

The bill would take effect immediately if passed with necessary voting margins, or September 1, 2017. Provisions related to dyslexia services and special education continuing advisory committee (CAC) meetings would apply beginning school year 2017-18. Provisions related to transition planning would apply beginning school year 2018-19.

The Texas Education Agency would experience some administrative costs related to supporting the CAC in developing the legislative report; however, this analysis assumes the agency could absorb the cost within existing resources.

Local Government Impact

School districts and open-enrollment charter school would incur costs associated with the required screening or testing at kindergarten and first grade. Assuming that most districts would choose to screen students, the cost of a typical dyslexia screener ranges from \$2 to \$10 per student. According to TEA, there were 376,814 kindergarten students and 409,977 first grade students enrolled in school year 2015-16. Assuming a cost of \$5 per student, the statewide local cost to assess all kindergarten students would be \$1.8 million ($\$5 \text{ per student} \times 376,814 \text{ students}$), with additional cost of \$2 million ($\$5 \text{ per student} \times 409,977 \text{ students}$) to assess all first grade students. TEA indicates that many districts already use certain reading assessments that may also be used to as a dyslexia screener; therefore, these costs would vary among districts.

Additionally, districts and charters may opt to test students for dyslexia. The cost of a typical dyslexia test range from \$500 to \$1,000 per student. Cost related to testing would also vary among districts depending on the number of students tested.

Education Service Centers (ESCs) may incur additional costs related to employing a dyslexia specialist with the qualifications as specified in the bill; however, TEA indicates that each ESC already employs a dyslexia specialist so these costs would be minimal.

Source Agencies: 701 Texas Education Agency

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