



March 2, 2020

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires any student in kindergarten through third grade (K-3) whose grades or standardized tests scores do not show a basic understanding of the curriculum and an ability to perform the skills required in the subject of reading or the skills required to succeed in the next grade level, to attend summer school if the student's teacher determines, grade retention may benefit the student. Establishes the requirements and processes for schools to follow when a student in K-3 demonstrates that they are not academically prepared to advance to the next grade level. Prohibits the section from applying to students who have an individualized education program (IEP).

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$636,400/FY20-21 and Subsequent Years

Increase Local Expenditures – \$47,094,700/FY20-21 and Subsequent Years*

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-3115 students in third grade are prohibited from advancing to the next grade level if they do not possess the requisite skills and basic understanding of the curriculum to do so. Students may be promoted to the next grade level if they successfully complete an LEA approved intervention program prior to the beginning of the next school year.
- Due to third graders currently being required to complete an intervention program prior to beginning the next school year, it is assumed that costs associated with a summer school program will be offset by a decrease in costs related to the current intervention program.
- DOE does not maintain data on district level summer school offerings, which LEAs have programs from one year to the next, or what grade levels and courses are offered.
- The average length of a summer school program is six weeks of half-day instruction.
- It is estimated that there are approximately 75,000 students in each grade in Tennessee; the number of students in grades K-2 is estimated to be 225,000 (75,000 x 3 grades).
- Of the 225,000 students in grades K-2, approximately 222,000 are enrolled in traditional local education agencies (LEAs) and 3,000 are enrolled in state-run LEAs.
- Based on the most recent Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) tests, an average of 2/3 of students are not on grade level when completing the third grade; it is assumed that the same ratio of students are not on grade level for grades K-2 also.

- It is estimated that there are 148,000 ($222,000 \times 2/3$) students in traditional LEAs and 2,000 ($3,000 \times 2/3$) students enrolled in state-run LEAs that are not on grade level across grades K-2.
- The precise number and size of current summer school programs is unknown, however it is estimated that LEAs are currently equipped to handle approximately 35 percent of these students in summer school classes.
- Under current law, the maximum class size for grades K-3 is 20 students; therefore, the required additional summer school classrooms is estimated to exceed 4,810 [$65\% \times (148,000 / 20)$] for traditional LEAs and 65 [$65\% \times (2,000 / 20)$] for state-run LEAs.
- The estimated cost of a summer school classroom is based on the cost of voluntary pre-kindergarten (VPK) classroom, which is also limited to a maximum of 20 students.
- One VPK classroom costs \$117,490 and includes 36 weeks of instruction; a summer school classroom will be only 6 weeks long and last for only half of the day. The cost of one summer school classroom is estimated to cost \$9,791 [$(\$117,490 \times .5) / 6$].
- The total recurring increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$636,415 ($\$9,791 \times 65$) in FY20-21 and subsequent years.
- The total recurring mandatory increase in local expenditures is estimated to exceed \$47,094,710 ($\$9,791 \times 4,810$) in FY20-21 and subsequent years.

*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: *no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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