

February 1, 2016

The Honorable Steve Abrams, Chairperson
Senate Committee on Education
Statehouse, Room 224-E
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Senator Abrams:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for SB 357 by Senate Committee on Education

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning SB 357 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

SB 357 would require the Department of Education to conduct a multiple year study of statewide longitudinal reading success programs. The bill would require the Department to issue a request for proposal (RFP) on or before January 1, 2017, from at least three vendors to provide longitudinal reading success programs. The bill would outline the criteria and protocols that the programs would be required to include.

Beginning on July 1, 2017, each school district would be required to select and use an approved longitudinal reading success program for not less than five years. If in any fiscal year there is insufficient funding appropriated for the program, the State Board of Education would be required to expend moneys appropriated to satisfy the following prioritization of expenditures: (1) all school districts may continue the programs for grades kindergarten through four; (2) those school districts which utilized one of the programs during the 2016-2017 school year may continue the program for grades kindergarten through four; and (3) those school districts which the State Board of Education determines are in the greatest need of the programs for grades kindergarten through four.

On or before January 1, 2018, and each January 1, each district would be required to submit a report to the Department of Education on the use of the longitudinal reading success program being utilized by the district. The report would have to include the number of students participating, data showing reading scores and the improvements made, and any other information the Department would require. On or before January 15, 2018, and each January 16, the Department would be required to submit a report to the Governor, the House Committee on Education, and the Senate Committee on Education on the information provided by districts.

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In the agency's current approved budget for FY 2016, the current Kansas Success Reading Program is funded from a \$2.1 million appropriation from the Children's Initiative Fund. The program is not currently funded for FY 2017; however, in *The FY 2017 Governor's Budget Report*, funding is recommended in the amount of \$2.1 million from the State General Fund. According to the Department of Education, SB 357 would require the Department to issue an RFP for the program. Any changes to the current Reading Success Program as a result of the RFP would not occur until FY 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Sullivan", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Shawn Sullivan,
Director of the Budget

cc: Dale Dennis, Education