



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Neil Townsend

Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: H.B. 7 of the 131st G.A.

Date: March 3, 2015

Status: As Reported by Senate Education

Sponsor: Rep. Buchy

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Administration of high school end-of-course exams, student enrollment calculation for the 2015-2016 school year, restrictions on the use and release of individual test scores

State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill enables a student who does not take an elementary achievement assessment or high school end-of-course examination that was administered during the 2014-2015 school year to be included in a district or school's enrollment calculation. Because the state's school funding formula is based on student enrollment, this provision may increase state aid expenditures for the state in FY 2016.
- The bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement one of its provisions. The adoption of rules will have a negligible effect on the Board's administrative burden.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- The bill enables a student who does not take an elementary achievement assessment or high school end-of-course examination that was administered during the 2014-2015 school year to be included in a district or school's enrollment calculation. Because the state's school funding formula is based on student enrollment, this provision may increase state aid for some districts in FY 2016.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Under the state's school funding formula, state aid to school districts, community schools, and STEM schools is based on student enrollment. Current law prohibits including a student who was enrolled in the district or school during the previous school year and who did not take one or more of the state-required elementary and high school achievement assessments in a district or school's enrollment used for state operating funding.¹ The bill specifies that this prohibition does not apply in the case of a student who did not take an elementary achievement assessment or high school end-of-course examination that was administered during the 2014-2015 school year. This provision will ensure that a district or school retains per-pupil funding in the 2015-2016 school year for a student who does not take a state assessment during the current school year. Its effect may be to increase the state aid paid by the state to school districts in FY 2016.

The bill permits a high school student to retake an end-of-course examination, or a "substantially similar" examination, at any time during the student's academic career if the student does not take the examination on the scheduled administration date. This provision is not likely to have a significant fiscal effect. The bill requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules to implement this provision, which will have a negligible effect on the State Board's administrative burden.

Except for the third grade language arts assessment, the bill also prohibits any school district, community school, or STEM school from using a student's score on any achievement assessment administered in the 2014-2015 school year as a factor in any decision to either promote or deny a student promotion to a higher grade level or in any decision to grant course credit. Lastly, the bill prohibits the release of any individual student test score administered in the 2014-2015 school year except to the student, the student's guardians, the student's school, or the student's school district. These provisions have no direct fiscal effect.

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¹ Special education and limited English proficient students are excused from this prohibition.