



[SF 445](#) – English Language Learning, Funding (LSB1648SV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

[Senate File 445](#) increases the amount of supplementary weighting for an English language learner (ELL) from 0.22 to 0.295 per pupil.

Background

The Department of Education describes an ELL as a student who is in the process of acquiring English proficiency and has a first language other than English. Under current law, a student identified as an ELL may draw an additional weighting of 0.22 in the School Aid and Levy formula for no more than five years. In FY 2019, approximately 20,516 students were identified as ELLs and received supplementary weighting, an increase of 2.9% from FY 2018.

Assumptions

Increasing the weighting for ELL pupils would have a fiscal impact on State aid from the General Fund. The fiscal estimate uses growth rates agreed upon by the Legislative Services Agency (LSA) and the Department of Management (DOM) for ELL pupils for fiscal years 2020 through 2024. The ELL weightings have already been established for FY 2020, and the increase in additional weightings would not apply until the October 2019 student count for FY 2021. Under current law, the State cost per pupil is set at \$6,880 for FY 2021 through FY 2024. Individual district cost per pupil may be higher.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact of SF 445 may increase State aid from the State General Fund by \$10.4 million in FY 2021, and increasing to \$12.1 million by FY 2024.

Table 1 — SF 445

Estimated State Aid and Property Taxes for SF 445 — FY 2020 - FY 2024 (in Millions)

Fiscal Year	Current Law		SF 445		Increases	
	State Aid	Property Tax	State Aid	Property Tax	State Aid	Property Tax
FY 2020	\$ 29.1	\$ 3.7	\$ 29.1	\$ 3.7	\$ 0.0	\$ 0.0
FY 2021	30.6	3.9	41.0	5.2	10.4	1.3
FY 2022	32.1	4.0	43.1	5.4	11.0	1.4
FY 2023	33.7	4.2	45.2	5.7	11.5	1.4
FY 2024	35.4	4.5	47.5	6.0	12.1	1.5

Totals may not add due to rounding.

Sources

Department of Education
Department of Management — School Aid and Levy File
LSA analysis and calculations

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 5, 2019

The fiscal note for this Bill was prepared pursuant to Joint Rule 17 and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
