



SF 240 – Student Statewide Assessments (LSB1479SV.1)
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Fiscal Note Version – As amended and passed by Senate

Description

[Senate File 240](#) requires the Department of Education to issue a new request for proposals (RFP) no later than April 30, 2017, for the selection of a statewide assessment to measure student growth and student achievement toward the Iowa core academic standards. The selected assessment will be available for grades three through eight and one high school level grade, and must cover English language arts, math, and science.

The Department must consider only the following in the RFP process:

- Feasibility of implementation by school districts.
- Cost to the State and school districts.
- Alignment with the Iowa core academic standards.
- Compliance with federal law (Every Student Succeeds Act – ESSA).

The Bill requires that the Department implement the selected assessment through administrative rule before the 2018-2019 school year.

Background

Federal law (ESSA) requires that states assess students in grades three through eight and once in high school using an assessment that aligns to the state's math, reading, and science standards (in Iowa, the Iowa Core). [House File 215](#) (2013 Education Reform Act) established an Assessment Task Force to recommend a statewide assessment to the Department of Education by January 1, 2015, that would meet these and other requirements. A recent Dear Colleague letter from the federal Department of Education indicates that the current assessment in use in Iowa (Iowa Assessment) is noncompliant with requirements, and continued use could result in loss of federal education funding. If there are no changes made to current law, the Department will continue with implementation of the recommendation of the Assessment Task Force.

Assumptions

- The Department of Education does not anticipate additional costs for the RFP process.
- All students in grades three through eleven will be assessed using the statewide assessment. An estimated 332,429 students will be assessed.
- School districts will continue to offer a second assessment as required by Iowa Code.
- Students in grades five, eight, and ten will be assessed on the science assessment.
- Estimated cost per student in **Table 1** is based on most recent available data.

Fiscal Impact

The fiscal impact of this Bill is dependent upon which assessment the Department of Education finds best meets the requirements. **Table 1** shows some of the possible outcomes; it is not currently known whether funds will be made available at the State level to purchase the assessment. This is not an exhaustive list, but it offers some possible estimates of statewide assessment cost. More information will be available after the RFP process is complete.

Table 1 – Estimated Cost of Statewide Assessment

	<u>Estimated Cost of Assessment Per Student</u>	<u>Estimated Cost of Additional Assessments</u>	<u>FY 2019 Estimated Number of Students Assessed in Statewide Assessment</u>	<u>FY 2019 Estimated Cost of Statewide Assessment</u>	<u>FY 2019 Estimated Cost of All Required Assessments</u>
Smarter Balanced Assessment	\$ 27.30	\$ 16.00	332,429	\$ 9,075,312	\$ 10,839,536
		<i>Science</i>			
Iowa Assessments (Next Gen) <i>Local scoring</i>	\$ 8.00	\$ 14.00	332,429	\$ 2,659,432	\$ 7,313,438
		<i>Second Assessment</i>			
Iowa Assessments (Next Gen) <i>Central scoring</i>	\$ 15.00	\$ 14.00	332,429	\$ 4,986,435	\$ 9,640,441
		<i>Second Assessment</i>			
ACT Aspire*	\$ 26.00	\$ 14.00	332,429	\$ 8,643,154	\$ 13,297,160
		<i>Second Assessment</i>			

* ACT Aspire cost per student is based on a quote given to the Department of Education in fall 2016.

Sources

Department of Education
Legislative Services Agency analysis and calculations

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 13, 2017

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.
