

Fiscal Estimate - 2025 Session

Original Updated Corrected Supplemental

LRB Number 25-1377/1 **Introduction Number** AB-0003

Description
 incorporating cursive writing into the state model English language arts standards and requiring cursive writing in elementary grades

Fiscal Effect

State:

No State Fiscal Effect

Indeterminate

Increase Existing Appropriations Increase Existing Revenues Increase Costs - May be possible to absorb within agency's budget
 Decrease Existing Appropriations Decrease Existing Revenues Yes No
 Create New Appropriations Decrease Costs

Local:

No Local Government Costs

Indeterminate

1. Increase Costs 3. Increase Revenue **5. Types of Local Government Units Affected**
 Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory Towns Village Cities
 2. Decrease Costs 4. Decrease Revenue Counties Others
 Permissive Mandatory Permissive Mandatory School Districts WTCS Districts

Fund Sources Affected **Affected Ch. 20 Appropriations**

GPR FED PRO PRS SEG SEGS

Agency/Prepared By	Authorized Signature	Date
DPI/ Grant Huber (608) 267-2003	Erin Fath (608) 266-2804	2/5/2025

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 2/5/2025

LRB Number	25-1377/1	Introduction Number	AB-0003	Estimate Type	Original
Description incorporating cursive writing into the state model English language arts standards and requiring cursive writing in elementary grades					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

This bill requires the state superintendent of public instruction to incorporate cursive writing into the model academic standards for English language arts. The bill also requires all school boards, independent charter schools, and private schools participating in a parental choice program to include cursive writing in its respective curriculum for the elementary grades. Specifically, each elementary school curriculum must include the objective that pupils be able to write legibly in cursive by the end of fifth grade.

The department has identified potential costs associated with requiring instruction in cursive in schools:

Handwriting without Tears (producer of widely used workbooks for students and teacher's guides) offers disposable (used for one year) cursive materials for \$10 per child.

McGraw Hill offers a cursive writing program that is \$159.51 for a "teacher presentation book".

CursiveLogic offers workbooks (\$34.95 for a Level 1 workbook) and professional learning webinars for educators (\$25.00 per participant).

The prices noted for these vendors' products do not reflect any volume-discount pricing that the vendor makes available to customers. For example, the vendor CursiveLogic provides a discounts of 25%, 40%, and 45%, depending on the number of items purchased. Other vendors may also offer volume discounts, but the department does not have that information.

The department does not have information as to the number of public school districts, ICS, or private schools that currently teach cursive writing in elementary schools, and thus would not incur any additional costs as a result of the bill. Therefore, it is not possible to reasonably project likely costs for those school districts, ICS, and private schools that do not currently incorporate cursive writing into their curriculum.

Local: Indeterminate. Potential for increased costs.

State: None. Wisconsin's current standards for English language arts already include printing and cursive writing. The department would be required to notify school districts, ICS, and private choice schools of the change in state law and make department staff available for questions from districts (absorbed by existing staff).

Long-Range Fiscal Implications