

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL ESTIMATE
ASSEMBLY, No. 5576
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
220th LEGISLATURE

DATED: JUNE 26, 2023

SUMMARY

Synopsis: Establishes Office of Community Schools; appropriates \$10 million.

Type of Impact: Annual State expenditure increase.

Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Office of Legislative Services Estimate

Fiscal Impact	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Subsequent Years</u>
State Cost Increase	Up to \$10 million	Indeterminate

- The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) concludes that this bill would result in a State expenditure increase of up to \$10 million in the first year the bill is in effect and that the continued cost to maintain the Office of Community Schools during subsequent years is indeterminate.
- The bill provides a \$10 million appropriation to the Department of Education, of which \$2 million will be appropriated from the General Fund and \$8 million, to the extent permitted by federal law, will be appropriated from funds allocated to the State from the State’s flexible \$6.24 billion federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund grant under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

BILL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes the Office of Community Schools in the Department of Education and makes an appropriation of \$10 million. The purpose of the office is to address student needs through community-based educational, developmental, family, health, and other comprehensive services.

The duties of the Office of Community Schools include: (a) providing training and support for public schools interested in adopting community school strategies; (b) increasing the knowledge and skills of school staff and community partners to aid in the implementation, management, and sustainability of community schools; (c) providing grants to public schools for

the purposes of adopting community school strategies; (d) providing a list of school districts, renaissance schools, and charter schools that have established community schools; (e) increasing Statewide capacity to support effective community school strategies; and (f) identifying and evaluating the needs of community schools in order to provide tailored technical assistance and professional development opportunities.

The bill appropriates \$10 million to the Department of Education, with \$2 million appropriated from the General Fund and \$8 million appropriated, to the extent permitted by federal law, from funds allocated to the State from the federal State Fiscal Recovery Fund, established pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

EXECUTIVE BRANCH

None received.

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES

The OLS concludes that this bill would result in a State expenditure increase of up to \$10 million in the first year the bill is in effect and that the continued cost to maintain the Office of Community Schools during subsequent years is indeterminate.

The State expenditure increase in subsequent years will be driven by the number of staff needed to fulfill the responsibilities of the office. Additionally, the responsibilities of the office, which include providing training and support for public schools interested in adopting community school strategies and providing grants to public schools for the purposes of adopting community school strategies, will likely result in increased State expenditures tied to the need to either develop or identify appropriate training, provide technical assistance and professional development opportunities, and the cost of the grants provided to public schools.

Section: Education

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Legislative Budget and Finance Officer*

This legislative fiscal estimate has been produced by the Office of Legislative Services due to the failure of the Executive Branch to respond to our request for a fiscal note.

This fiscal estimate has been prepared pursuant to P.L.1980, c.67 (C.52:13B-6 et seq.).