



**SOUTH CAROLINA REVENUE AND FISCAL AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**  
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*This fiscal impact statement is produced in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and House and Senate rules. The focus of the analysis is on governmental expenditure and revenue impacts and may not provide a comprehensive summary of the legislation.*

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<b>Bill Number:</b>	H. 3332	Introduced on January 12, 2021
<b>Author:</b>	Rose	
<b>Subject:</b>	Critical Thinking and Media Literacy Skills	
<b>Requestor:</b>	House Education and Public Works	
<b>RFA Analyst(s):</b>	Wren	
<b>Impact Date:</b>	February 11, 2021	Updated for Additional Agency Response

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### **Fiscal Impact Summary**

This bill, which requires the State Department of Education (SDE) to develop a plan to implement instruction in media literacy in kindergarten through twelfth grade, will increase General Fund expenses of the agency by \$128,944 in FY 2021-22. This includes \$108,944 in recurring expenses. Of this recurring amount, \$98,944 is for 1 FTE to manage the increased responsibilities of the bill, and \$10,000 is for travel expenses and supplies for the new position. The remaining \$20,000 is non-recurring and is needed for creation of the dashboard to house resources for school districts.

This bill will have no expenditure impact on the state agency schools since the agencies can manage the requirements of the bill within current appropriations.

This bill will increase expenses of local school districts by an undetermined amount beginning with the 2021-22 school year since the curricular content that will be implemented by SDE is unknown at this time. Further, SDE surveyed the seventy-nine regular school districts and the two charter districts and received responses from twenty-three districts. Sixteen of the responding districts indicate no impact, two districts indicate the need for more details on the curricula content, and one district indicates the need for signification funding for FTE's, but could not provide an approximate cost. The remaining four responding districts indicate that expenses could range from \$5,000 to \$940,000 to update curricula content and for FTE's. Further, the responding district that estimated increased expenses of \$940,000 indicates that it may need to hire technology coaches for nineteen of its schools in order to best implement the provisions of the bill. Due to the varying responses and the unknown curriculum requirements, the overall expenditure impact on local school districts is undetermined. Any expenditure impact would likely be realized beginning in FY 2021-22 in order to implement the provisions of the bill by the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.

*The local expenditure section of this impact statement has been updated based upon information provided by SDE.*

## Explanation of Fiscal Impact

### Updated for Additional Agency Response

Introduced on January 12, 2021

#### State Expenditure

This bill requires the State Superintendent of Education to appoint a media literacy advisory committee to conduct a study on teaching media literacy in schools. The advisory committee must include experts in media literacy including, but not limited to, academic experts and non-profit organizations and other stakeholders including teachers, librarians, parent organizations, educators, administrators, and students. The committee must provide a report of its findings including any recommendations for legislative or regulatory action to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives before January 1, 2022.

This bill also requires SDE to develop a plan to implement instruction in media literacy in kindergarten through twelfth grade based upon the recommendations provided by the advisory committee. SDE must also provide a report annually, beginning July 1, 2022, to the General Assembly on the department's plan, including the timeline for implementation of instruction in media literacy.

SDE must also review and revise its model policy and procedures on electronic resources and Internet safety before July 1, 2022. Additionally, before July 1, 2022, SDE must survey teachers, librarians, principals, and technology directors to understand how digital citizenship and media literacy education are being integrated into current curriculum. Further, SDE must create a web-based location with links to recommended successful practices and resources to support digital citizenship, media literacy, and Internet safety for use in the 2022-23 school year. The office of the Superintendent of Education must continue to identify and develop additional open-educational resources to support digital citizenship, media literacy, and Internet safety in schools for the web-based location.

**State Department of Education.** SDE indicates that this bill will increase General Fund expenses of the agency by \$128,944 in FY 2021-22. This includes \$108,944 in recurring expenses. Of this recurring amount, \$98,944 is for 1 FTE to manage the increased responsibilities of the bill, and \$10,000 is for travel expenses and supplies for the new position. The remaining \$20,000 is non-recurring and is needed for the creation of the dashboard to house resources for school districts.

**State Agency Schools.** The Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, the Governor's School for Agriculture at John de la Howe, the School for the Deaf and Blind, and the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School indicate that the bill will have no expenditure impact since the agencies can manage the requirements of the bill within current appropriations. Therefore, this bill will have no expenditure impact on the state agency schools.

#### State Revenue

N/A

## **Local Expenditure**

This bill requires SDE to develop a plan to implement instruction in media literacy in kindergarten through twelfth grade. This bill also requires school districts to review their policies and procedures on electronic resources and Internet safety annually, beginning with the 2022-23 school year. The bill also provides extensive criteria that must be considered during the annual review of these policies and procedures.

SDE indicates that districts currently must certify compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act to receive E-rate funds. All school districts and libraries in the state participate in the statewide E-rate consortium through the K-12 Technology Initiative. Also, South Carolina currently has K-8 Computer Science and Digital Literacy Standards and the South Carolina Computer Science Standards for High School approved. Further, the current English Language Arts Standards include K-12 Inquiry-Based Literacy Standards and Disciplinary Literacy Standards and standards on analyzing and researching across multiple media.

This bill will increase expenses of local school districts by an undetermined amount beginning with the 2021-22 school year since the curricular content that will be implemented by SDE is unknown at this time. Further, SDE surveyed the seventy-nine regular school districts and the two charter districts and received responses from twenty-three districts. Sixteen of the responding districts indicate no impact, two districts indicate the need for more details on the curricula content, and one district indicates the need for signification funding for FTE's, but could not provide an approximate cost. The remaining four responding districts indicate that expenses could range from \$5,000 to \$940,000 to update curricula content and for FTE's. Further, the responding district that estimated increased expenses of \$940,000 indicates that it may need to hire technology coaches for nineteen of its schools in order to best implement the provisions of the bill. Due to the varying responses and the unknown curriculum requirements, the overall expenditure impact on local school districts is undetermined. Any expenditure impact would likely be realized beginning in FY 2021-22 in order to implement the provisions of the bill by the beginning of the 2022-23 school year. This section of the impact statement has been updated based upon information provided by SDE.

## **Local Revenue**

N/A

## **Introduced on January 12, 2021**

### **State Expenditure**

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Arts Standards include K-12 Inquiry-Based Literacy Standards and Disciplinary Literacy Standards and standards on analyzing and researching across multiple media.

The expenditure impact of this bill on local school districts is pending, contingent upon further information from SDE.

**Local Revenue**

N/A



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Frank A. Rainwater, Executive Director