



LFC Requester: Liu

**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
BILL ANALYSIS
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date Prepared: 01/24 /25

Bill No: SB116

Agency Name and Code: PED - 924

Sponsor: Brandt/Gurrola

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Short Title: MATH LAB PILOT PROJECT

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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

| Appropriation | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|---------------|------|---------------------------|---------------|
| FY26 | FY27 | | |
| \$3,000.00 | None | NR | GF |

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

| Estimated Revenue | | | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|-------------------|------|------|---------------------------|---------------|
| FY26 | FY27 | FY28 | | |
| None | None | None | NR | NFA |

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

| | FY26 | FY27 | FY28 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|--------------|------|------|------|-------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Total | None | None | None | None | N/A | NFA |

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Bill 116 (SB116) would create a new section of the Public School Code to provide for a three-year math lab pilot project to demonstrate that students' participation in math labs improves outcomes in kindergarten through sixth grade mathematics and raises the participating public schools' mathematics scores on standards-based assessments.

Math labs would focus on hands-on activities and project-based learning. Participating schools would test students before, during, and after the pilot project, follow those students through the remainder of the students' time in public school and report to the Public Education Department on spending and outcomes. Math labs would require participating schools to staff a teacher knowledgeable about the academic content and performance standards for elementary mathematics, focus on small group instruction, and provide professional development for teachers in math labs.

The bill has an effective date of July 01, 2025

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB116 would appropriate \$3 million from the General Fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY26 through FY28 to conduct the math lab pilot project. The bill would ensure that at least \$100,000 be granted annually to each participating school district or charter school. These funding parameters would allow for 10 school districts or charter schools to receive three-year pilot project grant funding at the minimum annual funding level. The minimum funding amount would pay for an average teacher salary and benefits with approximately \$10,000 left to pay for supplies and materials for the lab.

The bill would require any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY28 to revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Math proficiency for the 2023-2024 school year was 23 percent, lower than both English language arts, and science. English language arts scores for the state have been increasing in recent years as the state has made significant investments in structured literacy. The state has not made similar investments in math. The Public Education Department, school districts, and charter schools received more than \$50 million from the Legislature for reading initiatives in the 2024-2025 school year and no state funding for math initiatives.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

School districts and charter schools. Each participating school district would provide professional development to math lab teachers, would apply for and manage funds, and report annually to the department information about participating schools, students, funding, changes in

math proficiency, and narrative or other forms of feedback from teachers, students and parents.

Public Education Department. The department would administer the pilot project. School districts interested in participating would apply to the department, which would develop criteria for applications, oversee implementation, and provide technical assistance through its Mathematics and Science Bureau and Advisory Council. The department would also use participating schools' reports to evaluate the efficacy of the pilot project including recommendations for improvements or expansion.

The department would make annual reports available to the Governor and the Legislature through the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC). A final report on the pilot project's efficacy, including recommendations for potential improvements or statewide expansion, is due by November 1, 2028.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 235 (SB235) would require school districts and charter schools to have math professional learning plans. It would require student to take a mathematics screener to identify mathematical learning difficulties prior to entering third grade. The bill would also require teacher preparation programs to provide all elementary teacher candidates, at a minimum, one three-credit-hours mathematics education methods course.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

On page 4, subsection J is written in a way that would require PED to make school district reports available to the Governor and the Legislature through the LESC. However, PED communicates directly with the Governor's office.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

None.

AMENDMENTS

None.