



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

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Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

Bill: [Am. H.B. 342 of the 130th G.A.](#)

Date: January 16, 2014

Status: As Passed by the House

Sponsor: Reps. Brenner and Driehaus

Local Impact Statement Procedure Required: No

Contents: Permits educational service centers to join education consortia to apply for Straight A grants and modifies grant goals

State Fiscal Highlights

- There may be a shift in administrative burden from the Auditor of State to the Department of Education as the bill removes the Auditor's responsibility under the Straight A Program related to the return of grant funds.

Local Fiscal Highlights

- No direct fiscal effect on political subdivisions.

Detailed Fiscal Analysis

Auditor of State

The bill removes the responsibility of the Auditor of State to determine if an applicant for a Straight A Program grant fails to implement the agreement with the program's governing board and must, therefore, return grant funds. Presumably, under the bill, this responsibility will be taken up by the governing board, which receives administrative support from the Department of Education (ODE). This provision may result in a shift in administrative burden from the Auditor to ODE.

Educational service centers

Continuing law includes educational service centers (ESCs) in the list of entities eligible for a grant under the Straight A Program. This list also includes public schools and districts, education consortia of public schools and districts, institutions of higher education, and private entities partnering with an educational entity. The bill permits ESCs to be partners in and lead applicants for education consortia seeking grants under the program. Generally, grants awarded to single applicants are limited to \$5.0 million per year, whereas grants awarded to education consortia are limited to \$15.0 million per year. The bill also modifies the goals that projects receiving grants under the program must strive to meet to better reflect projects that may be led by an ESC. These provisions do not have any direct fiscal impact on state agencies or local governments. However, they may make it easier for a project led by an ESC to qualify for a grant, which could increase competition for the awards. Am. Sub. H.B. 59 appropriates \$100.0 million in FY 2014 and \$150.0 million in FY 2015 for the Straight A Program.