



# Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Jason Phillips

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## Fiscal Note & Local Impact Statement

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**Bill:** [Am. H.B. 362 of the 130th G.A.](#)

**Date:** April 3, 2014

**Status:** As Passed by the House

**Sponsor:** Reps. Scherer and Derickson

**Local Impact Statement Procedure Required:** No

**Contents:** Authorizes the STEM Committee to grant a designation of STEM school equivalent to a community school or chartered nonpublic school

### State Fiscal Highlights

- The bill requires the STEM Committee to establish criteria and procedures for and evaluate science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) school equivalent designation proposals submitted by community schools and chartered nonpublic schools. This may increase the administrative burden on the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), which provides administrative support for the Committee, to assist in the evaluation of additional proposals.

### Local Fiscal Highlights

- If a community school opts to pursue designation as a STEM school equivalent, it must submit a proposal that meets substantially similar requirements as a proposal submitted for a regular STEM school. Community schools that seek the designation may incur some costs in order to prepare the proposal and, if approved, implement any necessary changes in curriculum.

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## Detailed Fiscal Analysis

### **STEM school equivalent designations**

Continuing law authorizes the creation of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) schools, which are public schools offering grades six through 12 that partner with higher education institutions and businesses. Proposals to establish STEM schools must meet certain criteria and be approved by the STEM Committee, which is comprised of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Chancellor of the Board of Regents, the Director of Development Services, and four public members with expertise in business or in the STEM fields. Currently, there are ten STEM schools, four of which are governed independently and six that are governed by a school district board of education and function as a school of the district.

The bill authorizes the STEM Committee to grant a designation of "STEM school equivalent" to a community school or chartered nonpublic school. To do so, the bill requires the STEM Committee to determine the criteria for proposals, establish procedures for the submission of proposals, accept and evaluate proposals, and choose which proposals warrant a designation. The bill may increase the administrative burden on the Ohio Department of Education (ODE), which provides administrative support for the Committee, to assist the Committee in evaluating any additional proposals permitted under the bill.

In order to be eligible for a designation under the bill, a community school or chartered nonpublic school must submit a proposal that meets similar requirements as a proposal submitted for a regular STEM school established under continuing law. Community schools that opt to pursue a designation may incur some costs in order to prepare the proposal and, if approved, implement any necessary changes in curriculum. A community school designated under the bill will continue to be funded like a community school, meaning that there will be no change in a designated school's state aid.

### **STEM Programs of Excellence grant eligibility**

The bill permits the governing authority of a chartered nonpublic school to submit a grant proposal under the STEM Programs of Excellence Grant Program. Under current law, proposals can only be submitted by school district boards of education and community school governing authorities. This provision has no fiscal effect as funding for the grant program was discontinued beginning in FY 2012. Prior to that, the grant program was funded from GRF line item 200457, STEM Initiatives.