

**Department of Planning and Budget
2013 Fiscal Impact Statement**

1. Bill Number: SB1374-ES1

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Alexander

3. Committee: Not Assigned

4. Title: Schools that have been denied accreditation and fail to make progress toward accreditation.

5. Summary: Requires the Board of Education to designate for further corrective action any school that has been denied accreditation and that has failed, per the Board of Education's assessment, to demonstrate progress toward full accreditation in accordance with the local school board's corrective action plan. The local school board shall be required to implement meaningful interventions designed to improve academic achievement of students in any such school. Such interventions shall be set forth in an agreement between the Board of Education and the local school board and shall be consistent with the following principals: (i) reviewing the performance of the current principal and either (a) replacing the principal if such a change is necessary to ensure strong and effective leadership or (b) demonstrating to the Board that the current principal has a track record in improving achievement and has the ability to lead the turnaround effort; (ii) providing the principal with operational flexibility in the areas of scheduling, staff, curriculum, and budget; (iii) reviewing the quality of all staff and retaining only those who are determined to be effective and have the ability to be successful in the turnaround effort; (iv) providing ongoing professional development informed by the teacher evaluation and support systems and tied to teacher and student needs; (v) redesigning the school day, week, or year, as deemed necessary, to include additional time for student learning and teacher collaboration; (vi) strengthening the school's instructional program based on students' needs and ensuring that the instructional program is research-based, rigorous, and aligned with state academic content standards; (vii) using data to inform instruction and for continuous improvement, including by providing time for collaboration on the use of data; (viii) establishing a school environment that improves school safety and discipline and addressing other non-academic factors that impact student achievement, such as students' social, emotional, and health needs; and (ix) providing ongoing mechanisms for family and community engagement.

The Board shall appoint an experienced external educational consultant to work with the local school board and principal in implementing such interventions. The Board shall determine whether additional state or local resources are necessary to implement the interventions. In lieu of implementing these interventions, the local school board may convert

the school or close it and reopen it as a charter school or under an education management organization.

The engrossed bill includes an enactment clause stating that the provisions of the bill shall not become effective unless an appropriation of general funds effectuating the purposes of this act is included in a general appropriation act passed by the 2013 Session of the General Assembly, which becomes law.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 134.
7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See item 8.
8. **Fiscal Implications:** This legislation contains a number of provisions that could have a state and local fiscal impact, such as daily meetings of the leadership team comprised of school faculty and staff, intensive professional development for teachers, and potentially extending the length of time for classroom instruction for subjects in which the school is not fully accredited. Any effort to extend the length of the school day or year, or require additional staffing for coverage during the school day, in order to offer more instructional time in such schools would have an immediate local fiscal impact. The state fiscal impact would occur in future biennia once the Standards of Quality (SOQ) funding model is updated based on the latest expenditure data that reflect an increase in instructional time; however, a reliable estimate of potential state costs cannot be determined at this time.

In addition, the professional development required in this legislation has no existing funding source within Virginia's current school improvement models. The intensive role required of the Office of School Improvement in the Department of Education at the school site would require additional staff.

Currently, similar models of school improvement programs under federal accountability requirements cost approximately \$500,000 per school per year to cover the costs of (1) an extended school day, (2) an external partner in the school two-to-three days per week, and (3) intensive professional development for teachers in the school. Given that this bill requires daily in-school support by the Office of School Improvement, the estimated cost per school would be approximately \$750,000 per year, but could be higher depending on circumstances unique to each school.

9. **Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Board of Education and local school divisions.
10. **Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.
11. **Other Comments:** None.

Date: 2/20/13

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