

## Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

**1. Bill Number:** HB332

<b>House of Origin</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
<b>Second House</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

**2. Patron:** Hope

**3. Committee:** Education

**4. Title:** Reading diagnostic tests; intervention.

**5. Summary:** Requires each student in kindergarten and grade one to participate in reading diagnostic tests that include a rapid automatized naming test and one or more rapid alternating stimulus tests as follows: (i) for students in kindergarten, a rapid automatized naming test and a rapid alternating stimulus test that each include colors and objects and (ii) for students in grade one, a rapid automatized naming test and two rapid alternating stimulus tests that each include colors, objects, letters, and numbers. The bill requires any student who enrolls in a public elementary school in the Commonwealth for the first time in grade two or grade three to participate in the reading diagnostic tests required for students in grade one. The bill specifies that such diagnostic tests shall consist of the RAN/RAS tests developed and published by Maryanne Wolf and Martha Bridge Denckla or a substantially similar reading diagnostic tool that is evidence-based, normed, and approved by the Department of Education. The bill requires, beginning July 1, 2021, each local school division to provide evidence-based, structured literacy instruction to students in kindergarten through grade three who fall below the benchmark on any such reading diagnostic test and requires that such structured literacy instruction be overseen and monitored by the local school division's advisor on dyslexia and related disorders, when applicable.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes, Item 139.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Preliminary. See Item 8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** This bill requires each student in kindergarten and grade one to participate in reading diagnostic tests that include a rapid automatized naming test and one or more rapid alternating stimulus tests. If the Department of Education (DOE) supports the cost of such tests in local school divisions, DOE estimates an additional state cost between \$3.5 million and \$10.1 million in FY 2021 and an annual cost between \$149,160 and \$329,960 in FY 2022 and outgoing years to implement the provisions of this bill.

DOE identifies two testing options to meet the provisions of this bill: Rapid Automatized Naming/Rapid Alternating Stimulus (RAN/RAS) or Comprehensive Test of Phonological Processing (CTOPP).

The RAN/RAS test currently is the lower cost option. In the first year, DOE will need to purchase testing kits for all elementary schools in Virginia. A kit includes an examiner's manual, 50 examiner record forms, and a card pack. DOE estimates a cost of \$165 per kit, eight kits per elementary school (on average, one kit for each K-1 classroom), and 1,156 elementary schools in Virginia, for a total cost of approximately \$1,525,920. Each year, additional examiner record forms will need to be purchased at an estimated cost of \$149,160. This cost assumes approximately 113,000 K-1 students in Virginia and 50 forms per examiner record form booklet at a cost of \$66 per booklet.

The CTOPP currently is the higher cost option. In the first year, DOE will need to purchase testing kits for all elementary schools in Virginia. A kit includes an examiner's manual, 25 examiner record forms, a picture book, and a compact disc (CD). DOE estimates a cost of \$347 per kit, eight kits per elementary school (on average, one kit for each K-1 classroom), and 1,156 elementary schools in Virginia, for a total cost of approximately \$3,209,056. Each year, additional examiner record forms will need to be purchased at an estimated cost of \$329,960. This cost assumes approximately 113,000 K-1 students in Virginia and 25 forms per examiner record form booklet at a cost of \$73 per booklet.

Additionally, DOE identifies the need to train teachers on the use of structured literacy and interventions. A number of different training models are available, which range in cost from \$350 per teacher to \$1,200 per teacher. Assuming each elementary school would need to train, on average, five teachers to provide assessments and perform interventions, the cost to train teachers at approximately 1,156 elementary schools in Virginia may range from \$2,023,000 to \$6,936,000 in FY 2021.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Education, local school divisions

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No

**11. Other Comments:** None