



February 19, 2024

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires a non-public school that receives a state-funded education scholarship for a student's tuition to comply with the same requirements for student testing that apply to public schools in this state. Excludes a school that only receives public funds deposited into an education savings account through the Education Savings Account (ESA) Pilot Program from the requirement. Requires a non-public school that receives a state-funded education scholarship to return a pro-rated amount of the funds if a student leaves the non-public school before the end of the school year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Other Fiscal Impact – To the extent a non-public school returns a pro-rated amount of scholarship funds to the state, there will be an increase in revenue to the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement account of the Education Fund.

In the event a student receives a state-funded education scholarship for a student's tuition at a non-public school, an increase in testing administration costs will occur. However, the extent and timing of any such future costs, including which entity would be responsible for the costs, is unknown. Therefore, a precise increase in state expenditures cannot reasonably be determined.

Assumptions:

- The Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) test is administered annually to public school students in grades three through eight in English language arts, math, science, and social studies. Students in grades nine through twelve are required to take end-of-course assessments in specific English, math, science, and social studies courses. All students in grade eleven must take either the ACT or SAT exam.
- The proposed legislation would require a non-public school that receives a state-funded education scholarship for a student's tuition to comply with state testing requirements for public school students.
- The State Board of Education designates five categories of private schools based on the approval status, accreditation, or membership agency and applicable state requirements.

- Testing requirements vary by private school category; some categories require a nationally recognized standardized test and one category requires the same TCAP tests that public school students take.
- The Department of Education's (DOE) contract for the delivery of state assessments, details the modes of test administration by grade-level and subject area and determines what assessment materials are required. The contract terminates June 2025.
- In the event a student receives a state-funded education scholarship for a student's tuition at a non-public school, an increase in testing administration costs will occur.
- However, the extent and timing of any such future costs, including which entity, whether the non-public school or the DOE, would be responsible for the costs is unknown. Therefore, a precise fiscal impact cannot reasonably be determined.
- To the extent a non-public school returns a pro-rated amount of scholarship funds to the state, there will be an increase in state revenue to the Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement account of the Education Fund in FY24-25 and subsequent years.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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