



March 3, 2024

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Department of Education (DOE) to recommend academic standards for a year-long course in civics education for students in eighth grade to the State Board of Education (SBE) for adoption. Requires the SBE to adopt such academic standards, which must be available for implementation beginning with the 2024-25 school year. Requires local education agencies (LEAs) and public charter schools that serve students in eighth grade to implement the year-long course in civics education for students in eighth grade beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$184,600/FY23-24

Other Fiscal Impact – To the extent LEAs and public charter schools require additional resources in order to incorporate a year-long course in civics education for students in eighth grade, a mandatory increase in local expenditures will occur. However, due to multiple unknown factors, a precise local fiscal impact cannot reasonably be determined. *

Assumptions:

- Tennessee Code Annotated 49-6-1028(b)(1) requires the SBE to include in the social studies standards, at the appropriate grade level or levels in high school, as determined by the SBE through standards and the local board of education through curriculum, courses and content designed to educate children about the United States and Tennessee governments. The standards shall include:
 - The three branches of government;
 - The fundamental documents identified in 49-6-1011(a) that underpin our form of government;
 - An understanding of how laws are enacted; and
 - Ways citizens shape and influence government and governmental actions.
- The proposed legislation identifies the same standards as identified in Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1028(b)(1) and specifies that those standards be taught in the eighth grade.
- The current social studies standards have specific high school standards to teach United States government and civics and do not incorporate civics education in the eighth grade.

- It is unknown if the proposed civics standards can be incorporated into the current eighth grade social studies courses. If not, the standards currently taught in eight-grade will need to be revised and moved to different grade levels to ensure instruction of those standards. Subsequently, state assessments would need to be revised to align with the revised courses.
- The DOE will be able recommend academic standards for a year-long course in civics education for students in eighth grade to the SBE within existing resources.
- It is assumed that the standards would need to be approved prior to July 1, 2024, in order to be available for implementation in the 2024-25 school year.
- According to the SBE's standards review cycles:
 - The SBE began its most recent review of social studies standards in summer of 2022 and completed its final reading of those standards in February of 2024;
 - The textbook and instructional materials review process will take place in FY24-25;
 - The local adoption of material will occur in FY25-26, and the standards are anticipated to be implemented in FY26-27.
- Tennessee Code Annotated §§ 49-1-311 through 49-1-313 outlines the process through which course standards are adopted for kindergarten through grade 12 education and assigns authority for review of social studies standards exclusively to the SBE.
- The SBE will need to convene the following:
 - An Educator Advisory Team of 21 members;
 - A Standards Development Committee of 8 members;
 - A Standards Recommendation Committee of 8 members; and
 - One contracted content expert.
- The Educator Advisory Team will incur the following costs:
 - \$52,500 for individual stipends (21 members x \$2,500);
 - \$4,750 for catered meals [(21 members + 3 staff) x \$19.79 per meal x 2 per day x 5 days];
 - \$11,650 lodging (10 members x \$233 x 5 days); and
 - \$1,600 for travel (10 members x \$160 mileage reimbursement).
- The total cost for the Educator Advisory Team is estimated to be \$70,500 (\$52,500 + \$4,750 + \$11,650 + \$1,600) in FY23-24.
- A Standards Development Committee will incur the following costs:
 - \$16,000 for individual stipends (8 members x \$2,000);
 - \$4,000 for chair stipends (2 chairs x \$2,000);
 - \$1,824 for catered meals [(8 members + 4 staff) x \$19 per meal x 2 per day x 4 days];
 - \$4,660 lodging (5 members x \$233 x 4 days); and
 - \$800 for travel (5 members x \$160 mileage reimbursement).
- The total cost for the Standards Development Committee is estimated to be \$27,284 (\$16,000 + \$4,000 + \$1,824 + \$4,660 + \$800) in FY23-24.
- The Standards Recommendation Committee will incur the following costs:
 - \$20,000 for individual stipends (8 x \$2,500);
 - \$2,280 for catered meals (8 x \$35.62 per meal x 2 per day x 4 days);
 - \$5,592 lodging (6 members x \$233 x 4 days); and
 - \$960 for travel (6 members x \$160 mileage reimbursement).

- The total cost for the Standards Recommendation Committee is estimated to be \$28,832 (\$20,000 + \$2,280 + \$5,592 + \$960) in FY23-24.
- The SBE will require one content expert contractor which is estimated to cost \$10,000 in FY23-24.
- A public feedback survey must be conducted in order to modify the social studies standards. The cost of a single survey is estimated to be \$48,000 in FY23-24.
- The total increase in state expenditures is estimated to be \$184,616 (\$70,500 + \$27,284 + \$28,832 + \$10,000 + \$48,000) in FY23-24.
- It is assumed that the State Textbook and Instructional Materials Quality Commission will be able to recommend textbooks and instructional materials for the year-long course in civics education to the SBE for approval within existing resources.
- LEAs and public charter schools that serve students in eighth grade will be required to implement the year-long course in civics education for students in eighth grade beginning with the 2025-26 school year.
- Teachers utilize a variety of instructional materials in the classroom, including textbooks, digital and online materials. Based on various teacher surveys, over 75 percent of teachers reported that they create their own classroom materials to supplement or replace a textbook.
- The extent to which LEAs and public charter schools may be required to alter their course offerings, adjust staffing, determine knowledge gaps due to the change in the sequencing of civics curriculum, or acquire additional resources and materials, including textbook updates and supplements, is unknown. Therefore, a precise mandatory increase in local expenditures cannot reasonably be determined.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

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



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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