

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 3993H.011
 Bill No.: HB 1911
 Subject: Tax Credits; Taxation and Revenue - Income; Taxation and Revenue - General;
 Education, Elementary and Secondary
 Type: Original
 Date: February 23, 2024

Bill Summary: This proposal establishes the "Missouri Parental Choice Tax Credit Act" relating to a tax credit for certain educational expenses.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
General Revenue Fund*	\$0	Less than (\$877,688,300) or Could Exceed (\$1,538,121,860)	Less than (\$877,290,438) or Could Exceed (\$1,537,723,998)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	\$0	Less than (\$877,688,300) or Could Exceed (\$1,538,121,860)	Less than (\$877,290,438) or Could Exceed (\$1,537,723,998)

*Oversight will reflect a range in education expense tax credits, which does not have a maximum cap, and additionally show 32 DOR FTEs to comply with the implementation and process within the proposal, effective FY 2026.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
General Revenue Fund (DOR)	0 FTE	32 FTE	32 FTE
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0 FTE	32 FTE	32 FTE

- Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.
- Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS			
FUND AFFECTED	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Local Government	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

Officials from the **Office of Administration – Budget & Planning (B&P)** note:

Beginning with tax year 2025, this proposal would grant a tax credit for qualifying private school and homeschooling expenses. The tax credit shall be equal to 100% of the incurred expenses, up to the state adequacy target amount. The credit shall be refundable, but may not be transferred, sold, or otherwise assigned.

B&P notes that the state adequacy target is set on a school year basis (July 1 – June 30), while the tax year is generally set on a calendar year (January 1 – December 31) basis. It is unclear which adequacy amount should be used for a tax year if the amount is changed mid-year for the new school year.

B&P does not know what the adequacy target will be in future years; for the purpose of this fiscal note, B&P will use the current amount. B&P notes that the current state adequacy target will be \$6,760 for FY25 and \$7,145 beginning FY26. B&P further notes that the tax credit limit is per taxpayer, regardless of number of qualified students that taxpayer may claim as a dependent.

Private School

Based on information published by DESE, there are 862,185 students enrolled in public K-12 schools. Based on data published by the Private School Review there are 116,347 students enrolled in private K-12 schools within Missouri. Of the 116,347 private school students, B&P estimates that 82,826 are enrolled in elementary school and 33,521 are enrolled in secondary school.

The Private School Review shows the average private school tuition in Missouri is \$10,067 for elementary and \$12,384 for secondary. Assuming 20% is reduced for scholarships or other financial assistance, the total average cost of elementary is \$8,054 and \$9,907 for secondary. B&P notes that both elementary and private school tuition exceed the state adequacy target / tax credit limit. Therefore, B&P will reflect the loss from this provision as at the maximum credit limit.

Therefore, B&P estimates that this provision could reduce GR by \$786,505,720 (116,347 private school students x \$6,760 FY25 credit limit) in FY26. This provision could reduce GR by \$831,299,315 (116,347 private school students x \$7,145 FY26 credit limit) annually beginning FY27.

B&P does not have data on the number of public-school students that might switch to private schools because of this proposal. Depending on the number of students that switch, the cost of this program could increase significantly.

Home School

Using the information above, B&P estimates that there are approximately 11,695 children (990,227 children – 862,185 public school – 116,347 private school) homeschooled in Missouri.

Based on numerous websites, the average cost to homeschool a child is between \$400 (cheapest online option) and \$7,000 (homeschooling with additional tutoring). For the purpose of this fiscal note, B&P will reflect the potential cost of \$400 (lowest cost) to \$6,760 (state adequacy target) for 2025. Beginning with 2026, B&P will reflect the potential cost of \$400 (lowest cost) to \$7,000 (upper average range < \$7,145 state adequacy target).

Therefore, B&P estimates that this provision could reduce GR by \$4,678,000 (11,695 students x \$400 cost) to \$79,058,200 (11,695 students x \$6,760 credit limit) annually beginning in FY26. Starting in FY27, this provision could reduce GR by \$4,678,000 (11,695 students x \$400 cost) to \$81,865,000 (11,695 students x \$7,000 cost) annually.

Summary

B&P estimates that this proposal could reduce TSR and GR by \$791,183,720 (\$786,505,720 private school + \$4,678,000 homeschool) up to \$865,563,920 (\$786,505,720 private school + \$79,058,200 homeschool) in FY26.

B&P estimates that this proposal could reduce TSR and GR by \$835,977,315 (\$831,299,315 private school + \$4,678,000 homeschool) up to \$913,164,315 (\$831,299,315 private school + \$81,865,000 homeschool) annually beginning in FY27.

Officials from the **Department of Revenue (DOR)** note:

For all tax years starting on or after January 1, 2025, this program would allow a qualified taxpayer to claim a refundable credit for educating each child at a private school or home school. The tax credit is equal to the amount of qualified expenses or the state adequacy target whichever is less. Qualified expenses include tuition and fees, textbooks, educational therapies, tutoring services and more. A taxpayer can not receive this tax credit if the child participates in the MO Empowerment Scholarship Program.

DOR checked the tuition price of some of the private schools across the state:

2023-2024 tuition prices

Rockhurst High School – Kansas City - \$15,300

Barstow K-12- Kansas City:

- \$18,980 K-5,

- \$22,940 5th – 9th and
- \$27,930 10th- 12th

Helias High School – Jefferson City – \$3,000

Sacred Heart Elementary – Sedalia - \$8,775

Springfield Catholic – Springfield:

- \$7,102 K-8th, and
- \$9,931 9th- 12th

Vianney High School - St. Louis - \$18,150

St. Louis University High School - St. Louis - \$19,750

DOR notes the prices for items used by home school students:

Curriculums	\$500
Curriculum with tutor enhancements	\$7,000
Materials	\$300

This program does not have a cap but does limit each taxpayer’s credit to no more than the current state adequacy target amount. It should be noted that the state adequacy target is set by the General Assembly and for several years was frozen at \$6,375. Additionally, the state adequacy target is set on a school year basis (July 1 – June 30), while the tax year is set on a calendar year (January 1 – December 31) basis. It is unclear which adequacy amount DOR would use for a tax year if the amount were changed mid-year for the new school year. For the fiscal note purposes only, DOR will use the \$6,760 current amount for all fiscal years.

The State Adequacy Target History

School Year	State Adequacy Target Amount
2025-2026	\$7,145 (projected)
2024-2025	\$6,760
2023-2024	\$6,375
2022-2023	\$6,375
2021-2022	\$6,735
2020-2021	\$6,735
2019-2020	\$6,313

From the information gathered by DOR, tuition costs at most private schools in Missouri exceed the state adequacy target amount and so for fiscal note purposes DOR will assume that all the taxpayers with students in private school will qualify for the current \$6,760 as their tax credit amount. Students that are homeschooled could potentially reach the state adequacy target amount depending on the program and services they use. DOR will show the impact as if all have a minimum of \$800 (curriculum & supplies) up to all qualifying for the state adequacy target amount.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education said there were 861,494 of the 1,088,652 kids reported by the U.S. Census Bureau between the ages of 5 and 18 enrolled in public schools. Which leaves about 227,158 either in public school or being home schooled.

The Private School Review, an organization aimed at helping parents find private schools right for their children noted there are 116,347 kids enrolled in MO private schools. Therefore, DOR will assume the remaining 110,811 may be homeschooled.

Assuming that all of the 116,347 private school kids will have parents that apply for the credit and can claim the full credit amount for each child, this will result in \$786,505,720 in credits being claimed. Assuming that all of the 110,811 homeschool kids apply for the credit, this could result in another \$88,648,800 (based on \$800 in expenses) to \$749,082,360 (based on expenses equaling the state adequacy target) being claimed.

This credit is a refundable credit and therefore the state could see a reduction in general revenue of \$875,154,520 to \$1,535,588,080 annually if every non-public school child claims the credit. DOR notes this program could encourage more students to switch from public school to private school. Depending on the number of additional students that may switch, the cost of this program could significantly increase over the estimated amount.

DOR notes that these credits cannot be transferred, sold, or assigned and they do contain a sunset.

This tax credit is to begin on January 1, 2025, and requires the credit be claimed on their tax return. The 2025 tax year individual income tax returns are not filed until January 2026 (FY 2026) and so should not impact general revenue until FY 2026. However, since this is a refundable credit, taxpayers may file their return early in FY 2025 and then file an amended return in FY 2026. DOR is unable to determine if any taxpayers would do this, and for fiscal note purposes only, DOR will show the entire impact in FY 2026.

This proposal creates a new tax credit that would require a new line being added to the Form MO-TC (\$7,138), updates to DOR's website and changes to DOR's individual income tax computer system (\$1,785). These changes are estimated to cost \$8,923. In order to process the individual qualified expenses, DOR assumes the need for a new form. This is estimated to cost \$10,000.

Verifying expenses and whether a student is enrolled in a certain school is outside the normal course of business for DOR. It would more appropriately be done by DESE who has access to the records needed to handle this quicker for the taxpayer. Since this bill is requiring DOR to administer this program, DOR will need additional FTE to verify the qualification of the credits.

DOR's existing tax credit staff is no longer able to take on any additional tax credits without additional resources. Due to the intensive knowledge of credits that is needed DOR is not able to use temporary staff to help with processing these returns. DOR will need one Associate Customer Service Representative for every 7,000 returns applying for the credit. Given the number of participants expected in this program of 116,347 private school kids, DOR will need 16 FTE to handle the administration of this credit for private school kids and depending on the

number of homeschooled students (estimated at 110,811 currently) DOR would expect the need of an additional 15 FTE for those returns.

This proposal would require at least 31 additional FTE Associate Customer Service Rep at a salary of \$35,880 and 1 Lead Customer Service Rep at a salary of \$40,704 to supervise.

Oversight notes the officials from Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), through additional conversation via e-mail, provided statistics as follow:

DESE does not collect private school enrollment unless they are registered with their nonpublic data system, so their number would not be an accurate reflection. However, <https://www.privateschoolreview.com/> shows for the 23-24 school year there are 116,367 students being served in private schools.

Another available website, <https://missouri.educationbug.org/private-schools/> shows there are 118,667 students in private schools.

Oversight notes that according to the [educationdata.org.](http://educationdata.org), the average tuition in Missouri private school cost \$10,472 per pupil.

Oversight notes that according to [responsible homeschooling](http://responsiblehomeschooling) there were 34,802 home schooled pupils in MO in 2023.

Oversight notes that the average cost of homeschooling ranges from \$700 to \$1,800 per child per school year, according to Time4Learning.com.

Oversight, for purposes of this fiscal note, will accept the DOR's finding as to how many children there are in homeschool or private school settings.

Cost up to State Adeq. Target	Children in homeschool	Total tax credit potential
\$800- \$6,760	110,811	\$88,648,800 - \$749,082,360
State Adeq. Target	Children in private schools	Total tax credit potential
\$6,760	116,347	\$786,505,720

Therefore, **Oversight** will reflect a reduction in general revenue of \$875,154,520 to \$1,535,588,080 annually, effective FY 2026.

Oversight notes DOR assumes the need for at least 31 additional FTE Associate Customer Service Rep at a salary of \$35,880, and 1 Lead Customer Service Rep at a salary of \$40,704, to supervise and assure compliance with this proposal. Oversight does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect DOR's FTEs costs in the fiscal note beginning FY 2025.

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** and **Office of the State Treasurer (STO)** both assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note for DESE and STO.

Officials from the **Oversight Division** are responsible for providing a Sunset Report pursuant to Section 23.253 RSMo; however, Oversight can absorb the cost with the current budget authority.

Rule Promulgation

Officials from the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules** assume this proposal is not anticipated to cause a fiscal impact beyond its current appropriation.

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** note many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The SOS is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. The fiscal impact for this fiscal note to the SOS for Administrative Rules is less than \$5,000. The SOS recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, the SOS also recognizes that many such bills may be passed by the General Assembly in a given year and that collectively the costs may be in excess of what the office can sustain with its core budget. Therefore, the SOS reserves the right to request funding for the cost of supporting administrative rules requirements should the need arise based on a review of the finally approved bills signed by the governor.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2025 (10 Mo.)	FY 2026	FY 2027
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Revenue Loss – 135.721 Educational Tax Credit</u>	\$0	Less than (\$875,154,520) or Could Exceed (\$1,535,588,080)	Less than (\$875,154,520) or Could Exceed (\$1,535,588,080)
<u>Costs – Sections 135.721 & 144.701(p.6)</u>			
Personnel Service	\$0	(\$1,176,044)	(\$1,199,565)
Fringe Benefits	\$0	(\$927,773)	(\$936,353)
Expense & Equipment	\$0	(\$429,963)	(\$0)
<u>Total Costs - DOR</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>(\$2,533,780)</u>	<u>(\$2,135,918)</u>
FTE Change	\$0	32 FTE	32 FTE

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2025 (10 Mo.)	FY 2026	FY 2027
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	\$0	Less than (\$877,688,300) or Could Exceed (\$1,538,121,860)	Less than (\$877,290,438) or Could Exceed (\$1,537,723,998)
Estimated Net FTE Change on General Revenue	0 FTE	32 FTE	32 FTE

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2025 (10 Mo.)	FY 2026	FY 2027
	\$0	\$0	\$0

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill establishes the "Missouri Parental Choice Tax Credit Act" and provides a tax credit to parents/guardians of any "qualified student" enrolling in a "qualified school" as defined in the bill.

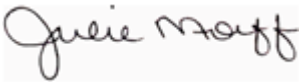
The amount of the tax credit set forth in the bill is for eligible expenses which are outlined and include the cost of tuition and fees at qualified schools. Such tax credit shall not exceed the lesser of the eligible qualified expenses or the state adequacy target for each tax year.

The bill outlines specific provisions for claiming the tax credit along with eligibility restrictions. Taxpayers participating in the Missouri Empowerment Scholarship Program are ineligible. Tax credits are refundable but not transferable. This program sunsets six years after the effective date.

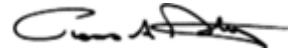
This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Revenue
Office of Administration – Budget & Planning
Joint Committee on Administrative Rules
Office of the Secretary of State
Office of the State Treasurer
Oversight Division
Department of Elementary and Secondary Education



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