

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

FISCAL NOTE

L.R. No.: 5744H.04C
 Bill No.: HCS for HB Nos. 2230 & 2978
 Subject: Elementary and Secondary Education; Science and Technology; Children and Minors
 Type: Original
 Date: March 4, 2026

Bill Summary: This proposal establishes provisions relating to instructional methods in schools.

FISCAL SUMMARY

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
General Revenue*	(Up to \$83,520)	(Up to \$41,760)	(Up to \$41,760)
Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue	(Up to \$83,520)	(Up to \$41,760)	(Up to \$41,760)

*Oversight notes this proposal creates a council composed of 12-15 members provided by DESE. Oversight will show cost associated with council meetings depending on how many members are on the council.

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
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 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0

ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)

FUND AFFECTED	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE	0	0	0

- 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 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029
Local Government	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)

*Oversight notes School districts will need to update or modify their district website to meet the provisions of the proposal.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

ASSUMPTION

§160.068 - Student Screen-Time Standards Act

Oversight notes §160.068 requires elementary school students in kindergarten through grade five in each school district and charter school, excluding virtual school, shall adopt a written screen time and instructional technology policy. In creating the policy, the district or charter school shall consider and document research on best practices in literacy instruction, instructional technology, and assessment and the optimal role for the use of handwriting and cursive writing in promoting literacy for all students. Each elementary school shall publish such policy on such school's website.

Oversight assumes school districts are equipped with the necessary resources to handle the requirements of this provision. Therefore, Oversight will reflect no fiscal impact for school districts.

§186.085 - Literacy Advisory Council

Oversight notes §186.085 requires the literacy advisory council established under §186.080 to provide advice on the inclusion of instruction and assessment of cursive writing and reading, including the optimal role for the use of cursive writing and reading in promoting literacy for all students. Such advice shall include recommendations for a related model policy on cursive.

Oversight assumes DESE is able to absorb any cost associated with providing advice as defined in this section. Therefore, Oversight will reflect no fiscal impact for DESE for this section.

§186.095 - Framework on Classroom Use of Screens Council

Officials from **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)** assume §186.095 calls for the Commissioner of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) to establish a Framework on Classroom Use of Screens Council (FOCUS) consisting of at least 12 and no more than 15 members to meet at least four times a year in its first year and two times per year thereafter and requires DESE to provide all necessary staff and resources for the work of the council. This section requires the council to meet to conduct a comprehensive survey and analysis on screen time and instructional use of technology and to review best practices regarding screen time and technology use in schools. DESE assumes each of these meetings will take 2 days to cover the material called for in and estimates the costs to be \$66,816 to \$83,520 in year one and \$33,408 to \$41,760 in each succeeding year. These costs range based on the council either having 12 or 15 members.

DESE also estimates it will need a .5 FTE supervisor position, with an annual salary of \$65,208 along with onetime costs of \$5,082 and an ongoing cost of \$7,424 for expenses and equipment, to provide the necessary staffing to complete the work of the council.

Oversight assumes DESE is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of activity each year. Oversight assumes DESE could absorb the FTE costs related to this proposal. If multiple bills pass which require additional staffing and duties at substantial costs, DESE could request funding through the appropriation process. Officials from the Oversight Division assume the proposal will not require a partial FTE for their organization. However, Oversight will reflect the estimated cost for the meetings as estimated by DESE for their organization.

Oversight notes this proposal requires school districts to publish such policies created to be published on such school’s website. Oversight assumes there is potential cost for school districts to update their websites and continued cost to keep the policy updated. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero to unknown cost to school districts for updating or changing their website.

Officials from the **Department of Mental Health, University of Missouri, Northwest Missouri State University** and **University of Central Missouri** each 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 this agency.

Oversight only reflects the responses that we have received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other school districts were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. Upon the receipt of additional responses, Oversight will review to determine if an updated fiscal note should be prepared and seek the necessary approval to publish a new fiscal note. A general listing of political subdivisions included in our database is available upon request.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
GENERAL REVENUE			
<u>Cost – DESE (\$186.095) Council Meeting Costs p.3</u>	<u>(Up to \$83,520)</u>	<u>(Up to \$41,760)</u>	<u>(Up to \$41,760)</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE	<u>(Up to \$83,520)</u>	<u>(Up to \$41,760)</u>	<u>(Up to \$41,760)</u>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2027 (10 Mo.)	FY 2028	FY 2029
LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS			
Cost – School Districts (§186.095) Update and modify district website p.3	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>	\$0 or <u>(Unknown)</u>	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>
ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS	<u>\$0 or (Unknown)</u>	\$0 or (Unknown)	\$0 or (Unknown)

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

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

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This bill creates the "Student Screen-Time Standards Act" and provides definitions for "instructional technology" and before the end of the 2027-28 school year, requires that school districts and charter schools have a policy on screen time and the use of instructional technology for students in grades Kindergarten through five.

The bill requires that schools limit the use of screen time and the use of instructional technology both during school hours and as assignments or on school devices after the school day. The policy must provide a process for parents to request information about limits on their child's screen time and instructional technology use and districts must use research, evidence, and information to develop the policy based on best practices.

This bill requires parental notification of the policy annually and schools must publish the board policy relating to the use of screen time and instructional technology on the district website.

This bill directs the Literacy Advisory Council under section 186.080 to provide school districts and the State Board of Education advice on the inclusion of instruction and assessment of cursive writing and reading including the development of a model policy on cursive.

The bill directs the Commissioner of Education to establish the "Framework on Classroom Use of Screens Council" or "FOCUS Council" that will consist of 12 to 15 members appointed by the Commissioner. The Council is directed to meet four times a year in the initial year and at least two times annually after that with the purpose of reviewing best practices regarding screen use and the use of technology in instruction and providing related policy provisions. The bill outlines best practices and policies that must be included and directs the council to submit a report containing the Council's actions and policy proposals to the State Board of Education, the

Governor, and the Joint Committee on Education on or before July 1, 2027 and updated every two years annually after that.

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 Elementary and Secondary Education
Department of Mental Health
University of Missouri
University of Central Missouri
Northwest Missouri State University



Julie Morff
Director
March 4, 2026



Jessica Harris
Assistant Director
March 4, 2026