## Department of Planning and Budget 2025 General Assembly Session State Fiscal Impact Statement

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**Bill Number:** SB753S1 **Patron:** Favola

Bill Title: Standards of Quality; Standards of Learning assessments in languages other than English,

development and administration.

Bill Summary: Requires that each mathematics Standards of Learning assessment shall be made available in the most commonly spoken native language in the Commonwealth other than English to any English language learner who speaks such language natively and is identified as having limited English proficiency. Directs that beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, (i) for any such student scoring level 3 or higher on domain-specific English Language Proficiency (ELP) assessments for reading and writing, the English language learner faculty at such student's school shall make the final determination as to whether the administration of a mathematics Standards of Learning assessment in the student's native language is appropriate and (ii) any such student scoring a level 1 or 2 on domain-specific ELP assessments for reading and writing shall take the mathematics Standards of Learning assessment in the student's native language. Finally, the bill directs the Department of Education to submit to the U.S. Department of Education any amendments to its consolidated plan under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, that are necessary to implement its provisions.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes **Items Impacted:** 119

**Explanation:** This bill would require the Department of Education to contract with the statewide

assessment system vendor to provide tests in a language other than English, which would increase the cost for the testing contract. Additionally, DOE would require additional funds

to administer the requirements of the bill.

**Fiscal Summary:** DOE estimates that the additional cost to update the statewide assessment vendor contract to meet the requirements of this bill could be approximately \$300,000 general fund beginning in FY26. This number is an estimate and is dependent on the final contract, as described below. DOE also estimates that \$47,908 would be required for .25 of a position to support the implementation and ongoing management of the additional assessments.

## **General Fund Expenditure Impact:**

<u>Agency</u>	FY2025	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>
201 (DOE)	\$0	\$347,908	\$347,908	\$347,908	\$347,908	\$347,908
TOTAL	\$0	\$347,908	\$347,908	\$347,908	\$347,908	\$347,908

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## **Position Impact:**

<u>Agency</u>	FY2025	<u>FY2026</u>	FY2027	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	FY2030
201 (DOE)	0	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25
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TOTAL	0	.25	.25	.25	.25	.25

**Fiscal Analysis:** This bill would require the Board of Education and the Department of Education (DOE) to develop Standards of Learnings (SOL) assessments in mathematics in the native language other than English that is most commonly spoken in the Commonwealth, which is Spanish, and to make these assessments available to appropriate students.

In order to provide assessments in languages other than English, DOE would have to contract with the statewide assessment vendor to translate and develop the assessments. DOE is in the beginning of a process to procure a new contract for the entire statewide assessment system and if implemented this change would be built into the new assessment contract. DOE solicited information from potential vendors on costs to provide math assessments in Spanish. DOE received estimates from each vendor and estimates that approximately \$300,000 general fund a year beginning in FY26 would be required. This cost estimate does not include the costs for retakes and annual updates, which could cost additional amounts but are indeterminate at this time. The actual cost will be dependent on the actual assessment vendor chosen and the contract that is negotiated.

DOE also anticipates the need for additional staff time to support the implementation and ongoing review of SOL assessments in languages other than English. DOE anticipates the need for .25 FTE at a total estimated cost of \$47,908 for salary, benefits, and technology. This is based on \$25,500 for salary, \$12,408 for benefits, and \$10,000 for technology and travel costs.

**Other:** This bill is similar to HB1679. This bill requires that the new assessments shall be implemented during the 2025-2026 school year. If passed, this bill would have an effective date of July 1, 2025, and any funding provided in FY26 would be available beginning July 1, 2025. Given this timing, it may not be possible for DOE to complete a procurement process and for the vendor to translate the assessments for the 2025-2026 school year.