

**Department of Planning and Budget  
2026 General Assembly Session  
State Fiscal Impact Statement**

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**ORIGINAL**

**Bill Number:** SB264S1 **Patron:** Stanley  
**Bill Title:** Department of Education; individualized education programs; social skills development.

**Bill Summary:** Requires the Department of Education to develop and make available to each school board guidelines for individualized education program (IEP) teams to use in developing IEPs that recommend that an IEP team consider whether a child has a disability that affects social skills development or is experiencing bullying, harassment, or teasing in school, and guidance on certain strategies, services, and supports to consider including a child's IEP to support the child in achieving objectives related to addressing and preventing bullying, harassment, and teasing. The bill also directs the Department to develop model instructional programs or materials to increase awareness, understanding, and acceptance of neurodivergence and autism spectrum disorder. Finally, the bill directs the Department to consult with special education instructors, groups dedicated to disability and neurodivergence advocacy, and other stakeholders in developing such guidelines and model instructional programs or materials.

**Budget Amendment Necessary:** Yes **Items Impacted:** 118

**Explanation:** The Department of Education would require additional one time funding to support the work to draft required guidelines and materials. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

**Fiscal Summary:** The Department of Education estimates a one time cost of \$100,000 general fund in FY27 to support contractual assistance.

**General Fund Expenditure Impact:**

<u>Agency</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>FY2031</u>
201 (DOE)	\$0	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

**Fiscal Analysis:** This bill requires the Department of Education (DOE) to develop guidelines for IEP teams to utilize when developing IEPs to indicate whether the child has a disability that affects social skills development and is vulnerable to bullying, harassment, or teasing. The bill also requires DOE to develop model instructional programs or materials for students and to work with various stakeholders. DOE does not currently have staff available to support this work and would require funding to support contractual assistance to draft required guidelines and technical assistance materials to support IEP teams, instructional materials for students, and to support DOE with workgroups and stakeholder sessions. DOE estimates a one time cost of \$100,000 general fund in FY27 to support this work.

**Other:** None