

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

introduced budget, HB/SB30. Moving the At-Risk Add-On program to the Standards of Quality would make the program mandatory for all local school divisions to participate and provide local effort (mandatory matching funds). Currently the program is optional and multiple school divisions did not participate in fiscal year 2026.

Special Education Add-On

The bill requires that a state-funded add-on shall be provided to support each special education student based on a student weight set forth in the appropriation act based on whether the student is served at a service level I or II. Funding for a Special Education Add-On is provided in HB/SB30. Adding the Special Education Add-On to the Standards of Quality would make the program mandatory for all local school divisions to participate and provide local effort. Currently the program is optional and multiple school divisions did not participate in fiscal year 2026.

Reporting Requirements

The bill requires DOE to report annually on the total and per pupil annual operating expenditures from local, state, and federal sources in each school division and the change in expenditures from each such source over the preceding two-year, three-year, and five-year time frames. This new language is included in existing language related to DOE's annual report to the General Assembly of required local effort and required local match compliance, which is typically published by the first day of the General Assembly session in January. DOE does not currently have staff available to complete the work to communicate with school divisions, and compile, test, and review the data related to this report by January each year. If DOE is required to include this data in the annual report in January, then additional support will be required. DOE estimates a cost of \$44,000 general fund each year for contract support to complete this work.

DOE publishes data of per-pupil operating expenditures annually in Table 15 of the Superintendent's Annual Report, typically published in April. DOE anticipates the agency could report the required information at that time using existing agency resources.

Other: None.