

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

PUBLISHED: 3/5/2026 9:41 AM

ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB478ER

Patron: Watts

Bill Title: Diploma seal for excellence in fine arts established; industry-recognized workforce credential.

Bill Summary: Requires the Board of Education to establish criteria for awarding a high school diploma seal for excellence in fine arts, which may include a sequence of coursework, cumulative grade point average in such sequence of coursework, or any other performance-based criteria that the Board deems appropriate. The bill also requires the Board to add such diploma seal to its list of industry-recognized workforce credentials for the purpose of satisfying the career and technical education credential option for high school graduation.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No

Items Impacted: None

Explanation: There is no anticipated state fiscal impact resulting from the provisions of this bill. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

Fiscal Analysis: The Department of Education can absorb any work to develop criteria for the seal and provide seals to local school divisions. Any impact to local school divisions is indeterminate.

Other: None