

BDR 34-15
SB 81

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
FISCAL NOTE

AGENCY'S ESTIMATES

Date Prepared: February 2, 2009

Agency Submitting: Local Government

Items of Revenue or Expense, or Both	Fiscal Year 2008-09	Fiscal Year 2009-10	Fiscal Year 2010-11	Effect on Future Biennia
Total	0	0	0	0

Explanation

(Use Additional Sheets of Attachments, if required)

See attached.

Name Michael Nakamoto

Title Deputy Fiscal Analyst

The following responses from local governments were compiled by the Fiscal Analysis Division. The Fiscal Analysis Division can neither verify nor comment on the figures provided by the individual local governments.

Local Government Responses
SB81 / BDR 34 - 15

<p>City/County: Clark County School District Approved by: Jeff Weiler, Chief Financial Officer Comment: It is not possible for CCSD to estimate the fiscal impact of this bill, though it would appear to take funding from existing State DSA-funded programs and provide it to private schools instead. More information is needed to assess the fiscal impact of this bill.</p>				
Impact	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	Future Biennia
Has Impact	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

<p>City/County: Douglas County School District Approved by: Holly Luna, CFO Comment: Section 16 indicates "In addition to the basic support ... receive proportionate cost of providing a special education". Depending on the determination of the pool of funds for DSA, this may benefit or hurt the various school districts. If the pool of funds increases to allow for the disbursement of the scholarship, then this BDR is truly an increase in revenues to the District. However, if the pool of funds allowed for DSA is DECREASED by the state allotment for the disbursements of these scholarships, then there is the potential for NEGATIVE impacts to our school District's DSA (Douglas County School District) - for current biennia and all future biennia.</p>				
Impact	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	Future Biennia
Has Impact	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

<p>City/County: Elko County School District Approved by: Jeff Zander, Asst. Supt. of Finance Comment: This BDR may or may not have a fiscal impact, based upon whether the District chose to participate as an eligible school under the scholarship program. If parents chose to withdraw students from the Elko County School District, and enroll them in a scholarship eligible school, the District would lose the per pupil basic support funding and a portion of the Federal IDEA monies.</p>				
Impact	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	Future Biennia
Has Impact	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

<p>City/County: Esmeralda County School District Approved by: Robert Aumaugher, Superintendent Comment: Any legislation that reduces the District's student count will have a negative impact upon the District's financial condition. We cannot determine an actual dollar amount at this time.</p>				
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City/County: Esmeralda County School District				
Impact	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	Future Biennia
Has Impact	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

City/County: Humboldt County School District Approved by: David Jensen, Assistant Superintendent Comment: No fiscal impact. HCSD has no desire to participate.				
Impact	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	Future Biennia
No Impact	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

City/County: Lander County School District Approved by: Velma Gamble, Bookkeeper Comment: No Impact				
Impact	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	Future Biennia
No Impact	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

City/County: Lincoln County School District Approved by: Nykki L. Holton, Superintendent Comment: I have simply calculated the number of SPED students in our district against the amount of funding we receive for them. I have no way of estimating how many parents would actually choose to remove their children from public school to participate in a scholarship program. I also think after the initial appeal, they might decide to bring them back to their neighborhood schools...thus the diminishing funds in subsequent years.				
Impact	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	Future Biennia
Has Impact	\$0	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000

City/County: Nye County School District Approved by: Dr. William Roberts, Superintendent Comment: Has Impact -- See attachment.				
Impact	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	Future Biennia
Has Impact	\$0	\$357,000	\$392,700	\$431,970

City/County: Pershing County School District Approved by: Dan Fox, Supt. Comment: The calculated figures are based on the FY08 audit and estimating that 5% of the special needs students would participate in the choice program; the dollar figures take into account the transfer of funds as identified in the BDR, which would result in a loss of revenue to the district.				
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City/County: Pershing County School District				
Impact	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	Future Biennia
Has Impact	\$0	\$138,888	\$145,832	\$153,124

City/County: Storey County School District Approved by: Robert Slaby, Superintendent Comment: No Impact				
Impact	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	Future Biennia
No Impact	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

City/County: Washoe County School District Approved by: Bryn Lapenta, Senior Director Comment: Section 7 of this bill establishes authority with the State Board for determining the method for determining the proportionate cost of providing a special education to a child, based on the individualized education program of the child, who participates in the Scholarship Program for purposes of determining the amount of the scholarship for that child. This means the specific special education and related services described in the student's IEP also drive the costs for the amount of the scholarship in accordance with the requirements set forth by the State Board of Education which could be for individual students. It could be significant depending on the type and amount of special education and related services described in the IEP, certainly if the scholarship amount is greater than the amount received for special education services.				
Impact	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	Future Biennia
Has Impact	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

City/County: White Pine County School District Approved by: Paul Johnson, CFO Comment: No private schools in or near White Pine County.				
Impact	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10	FY 2010-11	Future Biennia
No Impact	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

The following cities/counties did not provide a response: Carson City School District, Churchill County School District, Eureka County School District, Lyon County School District, and Mineral County School District.

**Nye County School District
SB 81 / BDR 34-15**

Response to BDR 34-14

This bill, if passed, would produce a voucher system for special education students so that these students might attend a public school or a private school (clearly the intent of this bill) utilizing the DSA funding for that child cast in the guise of a “scholarship.” In point, the DSA funding for the child utilizing the “scholarship” would be displaced from the district in which the child resides and forwarded to the private school that accepts the child.

As we know, there are wide variations in the services needed by students with special needs. Where one student might need extended time to take tests in math class, another might need feeding tubes, constant physical rotation, physical therapy, speech services, and catheterization as well as a full time aide. We believe that the receiving private school may be eager to accept the child that requires few services, but carries a weighted DSA allocation and not at all inclined to accept a heavy needs child whose barely subsidized DSA allotment is only a small percentage of the cost of maintaining and educating the child. We do not see in this bill any requirement for the receiving school to accept children that it does not want.

In the Nye County School District there are several small private schools. These schools do not use certified teachers and there are certainly no certified special education teachers. Will these schools accept certain, low maintenance special needs children and attempt to hire a special education teacher? We do not know and estimation is difficult, however, if 5% of our special needs children (54 children) are enrolled in private schools, the cost will be approximately \$357,000.

Finally, as private schools have no accountability under NCLB, the special needs students who transfer to those schools will not need to pass proficiency exams as do those children in public schools in order to graduate. This bill would lessen the accountability of educational authorities and would represent a giant step backwards in our efforts to educate all children.