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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6709

BILL NUMBER: SB 491

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 3, 2013

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Accountability for Certain Schools.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Miller Pete

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FIRST SPONSOR:

FUNDS AFFECTED: **GENERAL**
 DEDICATED
 FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill has the following provisions:

State Board of Education: This bill requires the State Board of Education to place the Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired (ISBVI) and the Indiana School for the Deaf (ISD) in a category or designation of school improvement annually, and to report the placement to the General Assembly.

Accountability: It requires the results of statewide assessments, academic progress, grade level, and graduation date for a student placed in the ISBVI or the ISD to be included in the accountability determinations for both the school corporation in which the student has legal settlement and the ISBVI or the ISD, as applicable.

Effective Date: July 1, 2013.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *State Board of Education:* There should be little or no cost to the State Board of Education for implementing this provision. The Board may choose to modify the academic performance metrics used to compute a grade for these schools owing to the circumstances of their students.

Accountability: This bill places both the ISBVI and the ISD under the same academic performance accountability standards as other public schools. Both schools currently receive a performance grade, but it is for informational purposes only. Under this bill, the schools would be subject to State Board action for substandard academic performance.

Both the ISBVI and ISD may have to expend extra resources to improve their academic performance. Under

the new rating system both schools are currently in the lowest performance category. Under current law, if the schools were subject to State Board action, each would have to hold a public hearing in which public testimony is received concerning the lack of improvement, and each would have to revise its improvement plan. The schools are funded through state and federal appropriations (in FY 2013 a total of approximately \$16.9 M total for the ISD; \$11.4M for the ISBVI).

Additional Information - Accountability:

In 2012, HB 1367 required the State Board of Education to make recommendations to the Legislative Council and to the State Budget Committee concerning the unique and appropriate methods of evaluation and accountability that should be applied to the ISBVI and the ISD.

From 2006 to 2012 (there were no ratings for 2009), the ISD achieved the following academic performance ratings, starting with 2006: Academic Probation, Academic Watch, Academic Probation, Academic Probation, Academic Progress, F (under the new rating system).

The ISBVI achieved the following ratings: Academic Probation; Academic Probation; Academic Probation; Academic Probation; Academic Progress, F (under the new rating system).

The ISBVI provides services to approximately 200 students; the ISD to about 340.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Accountability:* Under this bill, if a student with legal settlement in a school corporation is transferred to attend either the ISBVI or the ISD, the student's data, including the results of all statewide assessments, would be used to compute the performance of the ISBVI or ISD, as applicable, as well as the school corporation of legal settlement.

About 540 students attend the ISBVI and ISD. The academic performance grade of the school corporations of legal settlement could be impacted if the number of students that are transferred are concentrated in only a few school corporations. If only one or two students come from each school corporation, the impact on the academic performance grade should be minor.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State Board of Education; ISD; ISBVI.

Local Agencies Affected: School Corporations.

Information Sources:

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