

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH  
OVERSIGHT DIVISION

**FISCAL NOTE**

L.R. No.: 0061S.01I  
Bill No.: SB 429  
Subject: Education, Elementary and Secondary;  
Type: Original  
Date: January 14, 2025

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Bill Summary: This proposal authorizes school districts and charter schools to provide instruction in cursive writing.

**FISCAL SUMMARY**

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON GENERAL REVENUE FUND</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on General Revenue</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON OTHER STATE FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>Other</u> State Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

Numbers within parentheses: () indicate costs or losses.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FEDERAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on <u>All</u> Federal Funds</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON FULL TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE)</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Total Estimated Net Effect on FTE</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

- Estimated Net Effect (expenditures or reduced revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.
- Estimated Net Effect (savings or increased revenues) expected to exceed \$250,000 in any of the three fiscal years after implementation of the act or at full implementation of the act.

<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON LOCAL FUNDS</b>			
<b>FUND AFFECTED</b>	<b>FY 2026</b>	<b>FY 2027</b>	<b>FY 2028</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	<b>\$0 or (Less than \$2,729,454)</b>	<b>\$0 or (Less than \$2,729,454)</b>	<b>\$0 or (Less than \$2,729,454)</b>

## FISCAL ANALYSIS

### ASSUMPTION

#### Section 170.025 Instruction in Cursive Writing

Officials from the **Department of Elementary and Secondary Education** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization. **Oversight** does not have any information to the contrary. Therefore, Oversight will reflect a zero impact in the fiscal note to this agency.

Officials from **Concordia R-II School District** assume a cost of \$3,000 for curriculum as well as approximately \$20,000 per year in instruction time.

Officials from **Sedalia School District** assume schools already have the ability to provide cursive writing. If it were to become mandatory, then additional time and teaching would be necessary to implement. This could entail hundreds of thousands across a district like theirs if they hired extra teachers to implement.

Officials from the **Green Forest R-II School District** assume the proposal will have no fiscal impact on their organization.

In response to a similar proposal, HB 108 (2021), officials from the **Bowling Green R-1 School District** stated this proposal is redundant. This is already a communications arts standard in Missouri that requires students in 2nd and 3rd grade to write legibly (print, cursive).

In response to a similar proposal, HB 108 (2021), officials from the **Fordland R-III School District**, **High Point R-III School District** and the **Shell Knob 78 School District** each assumed the proposal would have no fiscal impact on their respective organizations.

In response to a similar proposal, HB 54 (2019), the **Springfield Public Schools** stated it would cost \$85,000 in materials, assessments and teacher time.

**Oversight** notes the [English Language Arts Missouri Learning Standards](#) for K-5 include a standard for Grade 2 and Grade 3 to “write legibly (print, cursive)”.

This proposal provides that school districts and charter schools **may** provide instruction in cursive writing to all students by the end of fifth grade and ensure that each student passes a teacher-constructed test demonstrating competency in both reading and writing cursive.

Based on the cost estimate provided by the Springfield Public Schools and the district’s 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade enrollment numbers, **Oversight** estimates a per student cost of approximately \$21 (\$85,000/4,087).

The statewide total enrollment as of January 2025 for Grade 4 and Grade 5 is 129,974. Assuming a per student cost of \$21, **Oversight** estimates the cost if a school chose to implement this proposal at \$2,729,454. However, Oversight notes some districts indicated there would be no fiscal impact from this proposal; therefore, Oversight will show a cost of \$0 (chose not to establish program) or less than \$2,729,454.

**Oversight** received no responses from school districts related to the fiscal impact of this proposal. Oversight has presented this fiscal note on the best current information available. Upon the receipt of responses, Oversight will review to determine if an updated fiscal note should be prepared and seek the necessary approval to publish a new fiscal note. Oversight only reflects the responses received from state agencies and political subdivisions; however, other school districts were requested to respond to this proposed legislation but did not. A listing of political subdivisions included in the MOLIS database is available upon request.

Rule Promulgation

Officials from the **Joint Committee on Administrative Rules** assume this proposal is not anticipated to cause a fiscal impact beyond its current appropriation.

Officials from the **Office of the Secretary of State (SOS)** notes many bills considered by the General Assembly include provisions allowing or requiring agencies to submit rules and regulations to implement the act. The SOS is provided with core funding to handle a certain amount of normal activity resulting from each year's legislative session. The fiscal impact for this fiscal note to the SOS for Administrative Rules is less than \$5,000. The SOS recognizes that this is a small amount and does not expect that additional funding would be required to meet these costs. However, the SOS also recognizes that many such bills may be passed by the General Assembly in a given year and that collectively the costs may be in excess of what the office can sustain with the core budget. Therefore, SOS reserves the right to request funding for the cost of supporting administrative rules requirements should the need arise based on a review of the finally approved bills signed by the governor.

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – State Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>

<u>FISCAL IMPACT – Local Government</u>	FY 2026 (10 Mo.)	FY 2027	FY 2028
<b>SCHOOL DISTRICTS</b>			
<u>Costs</u> - materials, assessments and teacher time to implement cursive writing	\$0 or (Less than <u>\$2,729,454</u> )	\$0 or (Less than <u>\$2,729,454</u> )	\$0 or (Less than <u>\$2,729,454</u> )
<b>ESTIMATED NET EFFECT ON SCHOOL DISTRICTS</b>	<b>\$0 or (Less than <u>\$2,729,454</u>)</b>	<b>\$0 or (Less than <u>\$2,729,454</u>)</b>	<b>\$0 or (Less than <u>\$2,729,454</u>)</b>

FISCAL IMPACT – Small Business

No direct fiscal impact to small businesses would be expected as a result of this proposal.

FISCAL DESCRIPTION

This act provides that school districts and charter schools may provide instruction in cursive writing to all students by the end of fifth grade and ensure that each student passes a teacher-constructed test demonstrating competency in both reading and writing cursive.

This legislation is not federally mandated, would not duplicate any other program and would not require additional capital improvements or rental space.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education  
 Office of the Secretary of State  
 Joint Committee on Administrative Rules  
 Concordia R-II School District  
 Sedalia School District  
 Green Forest R-II School District  
 Bowling Green R-1 School District  
 Fordland R-III School District  
 High Point R-III School District

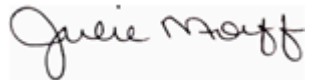
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Shell Knob 78 School District  
Springfield Public Schools



Julie Morff  
Director  
January 14, 2025



Jessica Harris  
Assistant Director  
January 14, 2025