



Legislative Council Staff

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Fiscal Note

Drafting Number:	LLS 24-0686	Date:	January 17, 2024
Prime Sponsors:	Rep. Weinberg	Bill Status:	House Education
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Bill Topic: **AIR CONDITIONING IN SCHOOLS & SCHOOL BUSES**

Summary of	<input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue	<input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Government
Fiscal Impact:	<input type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure	<input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> School Districts

The bill requires that new schools and school buses have air conditioning. This may increase costs for school districts starting in FY 2024-25.

Appropriation Summary: No appropriation is required.

Fiscal Note Status: The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

Summary of Legislation

Beginning July 1, 2024, this bill requires that:

- new schools built, purchased, or leased have air conditioning in all spaces to be occupied by students, and
- school buses purchased or leased by a school district be equipped with air conditioning.

School Districts

Starting in FY 2024-25, the bill may increase school district costs for capital construction, transportation, and operating and maintenance. However, the exact impact will vary depending on the timing of future leases, purchases, and construction, whether or not the district or school is currently planning to include air conditioning, and other factors. More information about these impacts is provided below.

Funding sources. The cost of building schools is borne primarily by public schools, though financial assistance is available from state sources such as Building Excellent Schools Today (BEST). Transportation expenses are also the responsibility of school districts, though there is categorical funding through the School Finance Act that can offset some transportation expenses. The state does not provide direct funding for either school construction, or the purchase or lease of school buses.

Capital construction. This bill applies the requirement to install air conditioning to new school buildings and leases. The bill will increase the cost to design and build new school buildings. For current leases, schools will have costs to retrofit unequipped leased space used for instruction of students once the lease is renewed. For new leases, the school district may be required to lease more expensive facilities with air conditioning.

Vehicle leases and purchases. Costs to equip school buses with air conditioning will impact future purchases and leases of school buses. For informational purposes, adding air conditioning to the passenger portion of school buses is estimated to increase the purchase cost by about \$8,500 for new buses. The timing of costs will depend on when new vehicles are brought into service and the financing method used by the school district.

Operating and maintenance. By requiring air conditioning in buses and school buildings, maintenance and operating costs for school districts will also increase. Operating costs for school districts will vary based on several factors, including location in the state, school calendar and daily schedules, and operational decisions on when to use the air conditioning.

Effective Date

The bill takes effect upon signature of the Governor, or upon becoming law without his signature.

State and Local Government Contacts

Education School Districts

The revenue and expenditure impacts in this fiscal note represent changes from current law under the bill for each fiscal year. For additional information about fiscal notes, please visit the [General Assembly website](#).