

Significant Issues

If enacted, Senate Bill 89 would provide a new section of the Technology for Education Act regarding eligibility of private schools:

- Any qualified student or person eligible to become a qualified student attending an accredited private school in any grade from 1st through 12th grade is entitled to the free use of software technology; Kindergarten students in accredited private school will be counted as one half-full time equivalent;
- Software technology shall be distributed to accredited schools as agents for the benefit of students entitled to the free use of software technology; and
- Any accredited private school is responsible for distribution of the software technology for use by students and for the safekeeping of software technology.

Currently, the distribution of funds for instructional materials, Section 22-15-9, allows the allocation of public funds to accredited, non-public school students.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The department indicates that public schools are currently funded through the Technology for Education at \$6,000.0.

The department estimates that an additional \$360.0 is needed to fund school students and non-public school students in FY03.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

According to SDE, the bill would require substantial collaboration between the private school community and the Educational Technology Bureau.

DUPLICATION

Senate Bill 89 duplicates House Bill 364

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The department sites a United States Supreme Court decision in , Mitchell v. Helms, US, 120 S.Ct. 2530, (2000) and an Attorney General Opinion that may conflict with existing policy or programs.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL ?

Students attending accredited private schools will not have the benefit of the use of software technology made available pursuant to the Technology for Education Act.

RS/njw