

BILL SUMMARY
2nd Session of the 52nd Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 2302
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Author:	Representative Banz
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Bill Summary

Research Analyst: Dawn Marks

The subcommittee recommendation to House Bill 2302 clarifies that school district employees qualified to receive the Academic Achievement Award payment are teachers, principals, supervisors, administrators, counselors, librarians or certified or registered nurses at school sites.

The bill would require the State Department of Education to use a three-year average of Academic Performance Index scores when determining which schools qualify for the Academic Achievement Award program. Employees at the top schools in each category will receive payments from the award program, based upon available funding.

The payment for schools earning an average API of 1,500 for the last three years, top schools with the highest overall student achievement and top schools with the highest annual average percentage improvement will be \$2,000 per qualified employee.

Payment for top schools between 1,499 and 1,395 API will be \$1,000, per employee. Payment for schools between 1,394 and 1,275 will be \$500, per employee. Payment for schools between 1,274 and 1,155 will be \$250, per employee.

Any school that qualifies for more than one award will receive the award with the highest monetary amount. Payments shall be made first in the top categories and next to the lower categories if funding is available.

Employees should have worked at the school for at least eighty-five days of the last school year used to calculate the three-year average to be qualified for payment. Employees who are assigned to more than one school shall receive payment on a prorated basis. A superintendent shall not be eligible to receive a payment.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Analyst: Nicole Barnes

The Subcommittee Recommendation for HB 2302 contains a number of provisions related to the Academic Achievement Award (AAA) Program, including the addition of Gold, Silver and Bronze standards by which teachers earn specific bonuses at any school that achieves a certain score, modification of award amounts, changing methodology by which scores are measured, and modifying the number of sites eligible for Top Score and Top Growth Award. The measure

also modifies the date by which the State Board of Education must provide the awards to teachers from January 31 to March 31.

Fiscal Analysis

The Group divisions for schools that attain the highest overall student achievement and the schools that attain the highest annual improvement are as follows:

Group 1: 0-135 ADM;
Group 2: 136-235 ADM;
Group 3: 236-345 ADM;
Group 4: 346-505 ADM;
Group 5: 506 or more ADM.

Awards will be calculated in the following manner:

Highest Achieving, as measured by the average of the last three reported API Scores:
-\$2,000 to every certified employee in each first place school in each group.

Highest Annual Improvement, as measured by the average of the last three years' percentage improvement in API Scores:
-\$2,000 to every certified employee in each first place school in each group.

The State Department of Education estimates an average of 27 teachers per school site. When the number of teachers (27) is multiplied times the monetary value of the awards (\$4,000) and the number of size groups (5), the total cost comes out to \$540,000.

To determine the number of teachers eligible for the perfect 1,500 API score bonus, one would multiply the number of school sites that averaged 1,500 when regular students were tested (7 in 2009) times the number of teachers at each site (27) times the value of the bonus (\$2,000), for a total of \$378,000. The same process would follow for those averaging at least 1,395 when All Students were tested (80 sites x 27 teachers x \$1,000 = \$2,160,000), those averaging at least 1,275 (421 sites x 27 teachers x \$500 = \$5,683,500) and those averaging at least 1,155 (546 sites x 27 teachers x \$250 = \$4,299,7500). Total cost of the perfect score, Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards in FY-10 would equal \$12,521,250.

Combining all Highest Achieving, Highest Annual Improvement, perfect, Gold and Silver Awards brings the total impact to \$13,061,250. Current expenditures on the AAA Program total \$4,962,340; the difference would total \$8,098,910 for FY-11. However, the measure makes the number of available awards based on the amount of funding provided, with priority given first to Highest Achieving and Highest Annual Improvement schools. Thereafter, Perfect Score awards are distributed, then Gold awards, etc.

Following the process described above, the current appropriation of \$4,962,340 would represent enough to provide awards to the Highest Achieving, Highest Annual Improvement, Perfect Score, and all Gold schools, with enough remaining to fund approximately 140 Silver schools.

Long Term Fiscal Considerations

None

Fiscal Analysis Reviewed By:

Janice Buchanan

House Fiscal Director