


Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Natwar M. Gandhi
Chief Financial Officer 

DATE: March 19, 2013

SUBJECT: REVISED Fiscal Impact Statement – “Safe Children and Safe
Neighborhoods Educational Neglect Mandatory Reporting Amendment
Act of 2010”

REFERENCE: Bill 18-529 (now Law 18-242) as Enacted on July 30, 2010

This revised fiscal impact statement replaces the statement issued by the OCFO on May 18, 2010.

Conclusion

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2013 through FY 2016 budget and financial plan to implement the Safe Children and Safe Neighborhoods Educational Neglect Mandatory Reporting Amendment Act of 2010, D.C. Law 18-242. All the provisions of the law are being implemented and the Children and Family Services Agency (CFSA) has been able to absorb the cost of implementation using its existing resources.

Background

The legislation was passed subject to the inclusion of its fiscal effect in the District’s budget and financial plan on July 30, 2010. At the time, the bill was estimated to have a fiscal impact of approximately \$2.8 million annually for CFSA.¹ According to the fiscal impact statement, CFSA required additional staff to handle an expected increase in the number of educational neglect referrals made to the agency as a result of the legislation’s requirement that any student age 5 to 13 with 10 or more cumulative absences must be referred to CFSA.² Since enactment, it has become current practice for DC Public Schools (DCPS) to refer to CSFA students who are ages 5 to 13 with 10 or more cumulative absences. This reporting change has had cost implications for CFSA, which

¹ See the Fiscal Impact Statement for Safe Children and Safe Neighborhoods Educational Neglect Mandatory Reporting Amendment Act of 2010, Bill 18-529, issued on May 18, 2010.

² D.C. Official Code 4-1321.01 (a-1) and (a-2)

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 18-529, "Safe Children and Safe Neighborhoods Educational Neglect Mandatory Reporting Amendment Act of 2010" As enacted on July 30, 2010

the agency was able to absorb using available vacancies and other resources.³ Therefore, the agency does not require additional resources to comply with law.

Financial Plan Impact

Funds are sufficient in the FY 2013 through FY 2016 budget and financial plan to implement the Safe Children and Safe Neighborhoods Educational Neglect Mandatory Reporting Amendment Act of 2010, D.C. Law 18-242. The CFSA has been able to absorb the cost of implementation using its existing resources.

³ According to the CFSA Director Brenda Donald's testimony at the February 12, 2013 hearing on the Attendance Accountability Amendment Act of 2013, Bill 20-72, CFSA used 20 vacancies to handle the increase in educational neglect referrals.