



DOAA

Georgia Department
of Audits & Accounts

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

January 13, 2025

Honorable Marvin Lim
State Representative
611-B Coverdell Legislative Office Bldg.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note
House Bill (LC 61 0004)

Dear Representative Lim:

The bill would require the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to establish a pilot program to provide funding to eligible local educational systems that would increase availability of school counseling and postsecondary preparation services in secondary schools. The bill is intended to increase the graduation rate within the state and increase the percentage of students who continue into postsecondary education. The bill would provide, subject to appropriations, up to \$3 million each school year for grants to school systems. The funding would be available up to five years, beginning with the 2027-2028 school year.

GaDOE indicated there are currently 38 school systems over the mandated 1:450 counselor to student ratio. At 38 systems, this would equate to a grant amount of approximately \$79,000 per system. If additional systems participate, the grant amount would be lower.

Additionally, GaDOE estimates that a specialist position (a certified counselor) would be needed to implement, monitor, and report the results of the pilot program, with salary, benefits, and travel totaling \$165,000 per year.

Respectfully,

Greg S. Griffin
State Auditor

Richard Dunn, Director
Office of Planning and Budget

GSG/RD/mef