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## HOUSE FISCAL AGENCY

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HB4190 AS INTRODUCED

Sponsor  
Committee

Rep. Doug Hart  
EDUCATION

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Completed 2/21/01

### State Fiscal Impact

Cost	Increase
Revenues	None

### Local Fiscal Impact

Cost	None
Revenues	None

HB 4190 would amend the School Aid Act to create two changes to the current Golden Apple Award program. It would 1) limit the award given to any school to \$50,000, and 2) expand the eligibility for a Golden Apple Award from elementary schools offering both grades 4 and 5 to a combination of a school operating grade 5 and one or more other schools that operate grade 4 and promote pupils to the school operating grade 5.

Fiscal Impact: 1) Currently, Golden Apple awards equal \$1,000 per full-time teacher plus \$10,000 per building with a minimum of \$50,000 per building. Most of the Golden Apple awards given out for FY 1999-2000 (the first year of the program's operation) have been in the amount of \$50,000. To exceed this amount, a school building would have to employ over 40 full-time employees, and this is uncommon. Therefore, limiting the award to \$50,000 is expected to have a negligible fiscal impact.

2) There are approximately 250 school buildings that offer grade 4, but not grade 5 OR grade 5, but not grade 4. Most of these schools offer either grades K through 4 (a "k-4") or grades 5 through 8 (a "5-8"). Since HB 4190 would make one award for two or more buildings together, this leaves a possibility of up to 125 additional combined buildings qualifying for awards. These buildings could create a fiscal impact by qualifying for an award based on an improvement in their composite MEAP scores over the course of two years. However, it is unclear how the combined composite MEAP scores of k-4 and 5-8 schools would be calculated. The awards are based on the sum of a school's two-year point changes in the scores of two tests given in fourth grade and two tests given in fifth grade. The point change for each of the four tests are calculated and then the differences are added together to calculate one composite score. However, since a school offering grades 5-8 may have drawn 4th graders from more than one K-4 school, it is unclear which k-4 scores would be used to calculate the 5-8's composite score.

Given this methodological uncertainty, we have done a rough fiscal analysis and estimate that allowing schools to combine to receive a Golden Apple award will have a minor, positive impact on the School Aid Fund. In FY 1999-2000, 8% percent of eligible elementary buildings received awards based on an increase in their composite MEAP score. If this percentage holds true for the additional up to 125 award recipients made eligible under HB 4190, we could expect about 10 additional awards to be made. At a cost of \$50,000 per award, this would create a cost of an additional \$500,000 to the School Aid Fund, and increase of 6.25% over the current \$8 million Golden Apple appropriation.