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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Nava **ORIGINAL DATE** 2/27/2009
LAST UPDATED 3/3/2009 **HJM** _____
SHORT TITLE Include Dyslexia in Disabilities **SJM** 48/aSEC
ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	None		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of SEC Amendment

The Senate Education Committee Amendment to Senate Joint Memorial 48 removes the responsibility from the PED for establishing effective interventions and specialized programs to providing technical assistance to school districts on developing the interventions and programs.

The SEC amendment also makes a technical change to language aligning with the IDEA identifier.

Synopsis of Original Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 48 requests that the Public Education Department include dyslexia in the state definition of disabilities, identify effective interventions for students with dyslexia and to establish certification criteria for specialists who assist these students.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None Noted

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED notes that New Mexico already recognizes dyslexia as a disability, under the disability category – specific learning disability. Subsection (B) (2) of 6.31.2.7 NMAC defines a “child with a disability” to be a child who meets all the federal requirements which includes dyslexia under the definition of “specific learning disability.” As a result, in New Mexico, a student with dyslexia would be considered a child with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

PED already offers an endorsement in the area of reading. The competencies for a reading specialist requires reading specialists to be competent in learning strategies that are considered best practices for teaching students with dyslexia. In addition, the requirements for special education licensure and elementary licensure include specific competencies that are best practices for teaching students with a learning disability that includes dyslexia.

For the past three years, PED’s Special Education Bureau has funded \$3,000.00 annually for the Southwest International Dyslexia Association. The funds were used to provide scholarships to support conference attendance and participation to any New Mexico teacher, parent, or student teacher.

PA/mt