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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Lechuga-Tena/Stapleton **ORIGINAL DATE** 2/10/16 **LAST UPDATED** _____ **HB** 315

SHORT TITLE ABQ School Highland & Manzano Social Workers **SB** _____

ANALYST Fernandez

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Educational Retirement Board (ERB)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 315 appropriates \$200 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department for the Albuquerque Public School district to employ social workers to serve in schools in the Highland and Manzano clusters, including community schools.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2017 shall revert to the general fund.

According to PED, the 2015 Legislature appropriated \$1.3 to support the Social Workers for Middle Schools Initiative. The funding was available for full-time social worker positions for middle schools with a school grade of D or F, at least a 15 percent rate of habitual truancy, and at

least 70 percent of students receiving free and reduced lunch. PED has also coordinated professional development opportunities for these social workers, multiple webinars for social workers and other relevant school and district officials.

The \$1.3 million appropriation is one component of the “below the line” FY16 appropriation to PED in the amount of \$10.5 million for Interventions and Support for Students, Struggling Schools, and Parents including Truancy and Dropout Prevention. The FY17 PED general request was \$13 million of which \$1.75 million was for the Social Workers for Middle Schools Initiative. Included in the HAFC Substitute for HB2 et al, is \$12.5 million for the “below the line” appropriation for Interventions and Support for Students, Struggling Schools, and Parents including Truancy and Dropout Prevention program. Of the total \$12.5 million, at least \$1.3 million should continue to be allocated specifically for Social Workers for Middle Schools Initiative.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to PED, social workers are usually hired by the school district or contracted through a formal agreement with a community agency to provide behavioral/mental health services to students. Social workers can provide in-school services such as case management, individual/group counseling, referrals, crisis intervention, and prevention programs to students. Social workers can support students, parents, teachers and other school staff by addressing a variety of student behavioral health issues, including, but not limited to: depression, anxiety, suicidality, and substance abuse that may impact academic success.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED indicates the department would need to create a process specific to APS that provides the district funding for two specific clusters.

RELATIONSHIP

HB 315 relates to the Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act (see discussion under fiscal impact.)

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