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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR: Stewart M. DATE TYPED: 3/18/03 HB 61/aHAFC

SHORT TITLE: Extended Kindergarten Pilot Project SB _____

ANALYST: Segura

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY03	FY04	FY03	FY04		
			See Narrative		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 3, SB 485

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

State Department of Education (SDE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HAFC Amendment

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee The amendment strikes the appropriation and appropriation language. The amendment does not change the original intent of the bill.

Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 61 creates a three-year pilot project to extend the kindergarten year by four months for participating students to narrow the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and other students. The bill appropriates \$1,000.0 to the State Department of Public Education.

Significant Issues

According to SDE, Kindergarten Plus programs would address the literacy, numeracy and cognitive and social skills development of kindergarten students by providing forty instructional days, beginning approximately two months earlier and ending approximately two months later than other students.

The pilot project would be conducted in the Albuquerque, Gallup-McKinley, Gadsden, and Las Cruces public school districts.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

House Bill 61 appropriates \$1,000.0 from the general fund and is recurring.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The SDE would establish eligibility and application requirements and procedures and criteria for evaluating applications. High poverty schools within those districts would be eligible to apply for funding through a competitive process.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Senate Bill 845 and House Bill 3 contain an appropriation of \$8,000.0 to fund the fourth year of the five year plan to provide Full-Day Kindergarten in New Mexico.

SDE indicates that the Full-day Kindergarten Literacy Readiness Program (FDK) is providing the critical foundation that many children need for future success. First and second year analyses of program results indicate schools are making encouraging gains in meeting kindergarten New Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards in reading. Schools are reporting encouraging gains in pre-and post assessments, and children in the aggregate are better equipped to enter first grade.

SDE points out that the FDK program is an optional program for parents. Some parents may have a concern about the amount of time their children spend in school which could impact the intent of the legislation, namely, to address the achievement gap and the literacy, numeracy, and cognitive and social abilities of kindergarten children. Research indicates that time is a necessary but an insufficient condition for improving achievement. The crucial issue is how time is used, with quality of instruction being the key.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. How will this program and appropriation impact the current phase-in of Full-Day Kindergarten?

RS/njw/lis