

- The number who lied to their parents rose from 83% in 1992 to 93% in 2002.

From 1995 to 1998, New Mexico was funded for the Improvement of Education: Partnerships in Character Education to establish a pilot using CHARACTER COUNTS! as the delivery vehicle for character education. The pilot project provided communities around the state with a model of school and community partnerships for addressing character development throughout all learning environments. As a result of the successful pilot projects, interest in establishing similar programs throughout New Mexico has increased and currently over 300 schools and communities have developed and implemented character education programs. Most of these programs are using CHARACTER COUNTS! as a framework for their program.

CHARACTER COUNTS! uses practical and explicit strategies to build partnerships with communities (e.g. youth organizations, business, civic organizations, local government and schools) and often the partnerships have produced changes within these communities. For example, many communities around the state have met to develop a statewide network to coordinate efforts and resources to support character education.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$400.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2004 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The SDE will establish guidelines for awarding funds and monitoring the CHARACTER COUNTS! programs.

RELATIONSHIP

Relates to SB 567, Importance of Character in Schools and HB 684, School Programs Promoting Character.

DW/yr