



prepared to teach students in those subjects. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

### Significant Issues

PED indicates that National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP) scores for New Mexico's 8th-grade students in math and science are below the national average. Further, that New Mexico's middle school teachers must have deep content knowledge and effective pedagogical skills to be competent instructors.

To this end, Northern New Mexico Community College (NNMCC) has partnered with the Northern New Mexico Math and Science Academy (MSA) to conduct professional development for middle school teachers. PED offers the following background information with respect to MSA:

- The MSA program was started in 2000 by the Northern New Mexico Council for Excellence in Education (NNMCEE). This bill would fund the sixth year of this professional development program.
- MSA focuses on standards-based education using research-based concepts and instructional strategies.
- MSA emphasizes assessment and data analysis.
- The MSA goal is to increase student achievement by improving teacher practice.
- Funding for the MSA teachers comes from the legislature and private and corporate donations.
- Evaluators have found that student achievement has increased steadily for the students of teachers in the program.
- More than 70 teachers are participating this year at 14 sites in five districts.

PED adds that the middle school teachers program consists of intensive training during a three-week summer institute; biweekly site-based meetings after school; cognitive coaching and mentoring four to five times a year; development of individual reflective portfolios; and biweekly online discussions with the whole MSA community.

This initiative was not included in the CHE's *2005-2006 Higher Education Funding Recommendation*.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$260,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Northern New Mexico Community College will retain oversight of this program.

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

Relates to the appropriation for Northern New Mexico Community College in the General Appropriations Act.

Duplication of HB621 in that HB621 also seeks to appropriate \$260,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of Northern New Mexico State School for expenditure in FY06 to provide a program to train middle school teachers to improve their skills, technical knowledge and teaching techniques in science, mathematics and technology so that middle school teachers are better prepared to teach students in those subjects.

**BFW/lg**