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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Kernan DATE TYPED 03-03-05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE ENMU Kindergarten Teacher Development SB 898

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$2,000.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the appropriation to Eastern New Mexico University in the General Appropriations Act.

Relates to SB32, HB429

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

New Mexico Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

New Mexico Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 898 – Making an Appropriation to Eastern New Mexico University for Professional Development Opportunities for Kindergarten Teachers – appropriates \$2,000,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of Eastern New Mexico University for expenditure in FYs 06 and 07 for the purpose of providing web-based and face-to-face professional development for kindergarten teachers. The appropriation shall be used to fund opportunities for kindergarten teachers to implement effective early literacy programs that produce students capable of becoming proficient readers by the third grade. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY07 shall revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues

PED indicates that kindergarten teachers play a vital role in the development of children. What children learn and experience during their early years can shape their views of themselves and

the world and can affect their later success or failure in school, work and their personal lives.¹ Kindergarten teachers must be knowledgeable in current research on child development and early acquisition of literacy skills. Meeting the professional development needs of teachers is challenging, particularly in the more rural areas of the state where districts do not have sufficient resources. This legislation provides kindergarten teachers in the eastern part of the state with the means to achieve the needed expertise. Using telecommunication capability in addition to face-to-face interactions will provide kindergarten teachers with increased access to critical professional development.

PED adds that the research is clear that kindergarten success is a major predictor of success in subsequent years, of students reading at grade level at the end of third grade, of students staying in school and graduating. It is the initial cornerstone of our educational system, and the first step in closing the achievement gap. Professional development is extremely important in helping kindergarten teachers provide developmentally appropriate learning activities for literacy development that address the needs of all children.

CHE observes that this request was not in the list of priority projects submitted by Eastern New Mexico University to the commission for review. Accordingly, the request was not included in the commission's funding recommendation for FY06.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

PED notes that this legislation supports the department's performance measure that 4th and 8th grade children will demonstrate proficiency in language arts/reading on the statewide criterion-referenced tests.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$2,000,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund allocated for expenditure in FYs 06 and 07. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY07 shall revert to the general fund.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to the appropriation to Eastern New Mexico University in the General Appropriations Act.

Relates to SB32 in that SB32 seeks to appropriate \$10 million from the general fund to the Public Education Department for the purpose of funding reading enhancement in grades one through three in the public schools.

Relates to HB429 in that HB429 seeks to appropriate \$2.5 million from the general fund to the teacher professional development fund for the purpose of funding teacher professional development

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

CHE suggests – assuming that funding will continue beyond FY06 – that consideration might be given to requiring the university to submit a plan for program evaluation, including specific pro-

¹ *Teachers – Preschool, Elementary, Middle and Secondary*. U.S. Department of Labor.
<http://stats.bls.gov/oco/pdf/ocos069.pdf>

gram goals and criteria for assessing program effectiveness to the Legislative Finance Committee and the Commission on Higher Education by October 1, 2005. Further that the university should also submit a program evaluation to the Legislative Finance Committee and the Commission on Higher Education by June 30, 2008 detailing the benefits to the State of New Mexico from having this program implemented for a three-year period.

BFW/yr