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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Stewart DATE TYPED 2/20/05 HB 676

SHORT TITLE Albuquerque Art-Based At-Risk Mentoring SB _____

ANALYST Baca

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$100.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

Relates to SB836 and SB926
Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 676 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY06 for the provision of art-based mentoring to students at-risk of dropping out within the Albuquerque Public School district.

Significant Issues

According to the PED website, the Albuquerque Public Schools district (APS) covers, 1,178 square miles and provides instruction to an estimated 93,338 students during the 2004-04 school year. Approximately 16.3 percent of these students, or 15,200, are classified as being at the poverty level. Numerous studies suggest a direct relationship between a student's socio-economic status and being at-risk of dropping out. Admittedly, students of all socio-economic levels can be classified as at-risk students, and they all need incentives to stay in school. These incentives may include activities that generate student interest in activities such as art with these activities being reinforced by a role model, or mentor, to whom students can relate.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The activities proposed by this bill can contribute to the PED's goal of decreasing student drop-out rates and to providing more activities that can contribute to a student's success in school.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand 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

The art-based monitoring program will be administered by PED with existing staff and may contract with APS for the implementation of the program.

RELATIONSHIP

HB676 relates to SB836, Grant County Youth Mentoring Program and to SB926, Youth Mentoring Program.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The PED analysis notes:

- According to a 2002 U.S. Department of Education publication, New Mexico had the 5th-highest high school dropout rate in the nation at 6.0% (the national rate at that time was 4.8%). The PED's last published dropout rate for New Mexico is 4.5% from school year 2002-2003. New Mexico's dropout rate has been steadily decreasing from high rates such as 8.7% in 1994-1995.
- According to the 2002-2003 Dropout Report, APS had a 4.1% dropout rate.
- Factors contributing to high school dropout are complex and multi-faceted. They include teenage pregnancy, poor academic performance, poor attendance, history of changing schools frequently, history of discipline referrals and low educational and occupational aspirations. Truancy is a major risk factor for dropouts. One national study indicates that 80% of dropouts were chronically truant before dropping out. Additionally, Hispanic, Native American and male students are more likely to dropout of school.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?

If this bill is not enacted, the art-based mentoring activities will no be available to students in with the APS district?

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. What activities are currently available within the APS district for at-risk youth?
2. What is the estimated number of at-risk youth with whom this program will work?
3. Will this program's activities be confined to any particular area within the district?

LB/yr