

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 129

48th Legislature, 1st Session, 2007

Short Title: Middle School Teacher Science & Math Training

Sponsor(s): Representatives Nick L. Salazar, Jeanette O. Wallace and Debbie A. Rodella

Analyst: Peter van Moorsel

Date: January 18, 2007

Bill Summary:

HB 129 appropriates funds to the Board of Regents of Northern New Mexico State School 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.

Fiscal Impact:

\$250,000 is appropriated from the General Fund for FY 08. The bill contains a reversion clause.

During the 2006 legislative session, the Legislature appropriated \$250,000 to the Northern New Mexico State School for science, math, and technology professional development for middle school teachers.

Issues:

- The Math and Science Academy (MSA) describes its program as an on-going project geared toward the development of quality teaching and learning to support student achievement. It is a collaborative effort, developed jointly by the Northern New Mexico Council on Excellence in Education (NNMCEE) and local school districts (Chama, Española, and Mora), the Northern Network for Rural Education, the University of California and the Department of Energy's Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL). The program is based on a model of school reform that emphasizes professional collaboration and research-based approaches to teaching and learning, and uses formative evaluation as a guide for on-going program development and refinement. The project was initially introduced at the middle school level, in an effort to provide middle school teachers with opportunities through which to strengthen instructional practices and increase student learning. It is offered to teachers in the Chama, Española, Pojoaque, Mora, and Taos school districts.
- A March 2005 evaluation report from the University of California indicates that teachers participating in MSA show an improved understanding of content areas and standards, an increased knowledge of instructional techniques, and greater confidence in teaching the content areas. Through the University of California, the Center for Research and Education Testing measures program effectiveness by examining student performance as a result of the professional development received by their teachers. In addition, the Higher Education Department's bill analysis identifies new and continuing teachers participating in MSA and completing their master's degree through New Mexico State University as a sign of the program's success.

- During the 2005 interim, the LESC heard a presentation of the recommendations of a three-day New Mexico Partnership for Mathematics & Science Education Town Hall that was held in November 2005. The Town Hall focused attention on mathematics and science education needs for the 21st century economy. A central issue was the realization that New Mexico must either increase proficiency of its students in math and science or face having to export jobs and import skills.

Related Bills:

HB 54 *NMSU Space Consortium & Outreach Program*

HB 111 *Science Education & Teacher Outreach Program*

HB 220 *Mathematics & Science Education Act*

SB 29 *Science Education & Teacher Outreach Program*

SB 40 *NMSU Space Consortium & Outreach Program*

SB 140 *Middle School Teacher Science & Math Training* (identical)