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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Salazar ORIGINAL DATE 1/27/2007
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 129
SHORT TITLE Middle School Teacher Science & Math Training SB _____
ANALYST McOlash

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 140.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 129 appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of Northern New Mexico State School for expenditure in FY 2008 to provide a middle school teacher training program to improve skills, technical knowledge, and teaching techniques in science, mathematics, and technology. The program will better prepare teachers to teach students in these subjects.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2008 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED Analysis

Northern New Mexico College has partnered in the past with the Northern New Mexico Math and Science Academy (MSA) to conduct professional development for middle school teachers.

- The MSA program was started in 2000 by the Northern New Mexico Council for Excellence in Education (NNMCEE).
- 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.
- Evaluators have found that student achievement has increased steadily for the students of the teachers in the program.

The program consists of intensive training during a three-week summer institute; biweekly site-based meetings after school; cognitive coaching/mentoring four to five times a year; development of individual reflective portfolios; and biweekly on-line discussion with the whole MSA community.

The proposal of \$250,000, for what appears to be additional funding, was not submitted to the New Mexico Higher Education Department by NNMC and is not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY08. However, NNMC received a recurring appropriation of \$250,000 for this purpose in FY07 and the Department recommends continued funding for this program.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The new and continuing teachers participating in the MSA and completing their master's degrees through NMSU are performance measures. The program also contracts with an external evaluator, the Center for Research and Education Testing through the University of California. This evaluator measures program effectiveness by examining student performance as a result of the professional development received by their teachers.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The New Mexico Math and Science Academy (MSA) is offered to teachers in the Chama, Espanola, Pojoaque, Mora, and Taos School Districts. Teachers participate in 200 hours of collaboration and training time each year and may enter a Master's of Teaching Program through New Mexico State University (NMSU).

MSA is a program of the Los Alamos National Laboratory Education Office and the National Laboratory Foundation. Additional support is received from participating districts, higher education partners, and corporate sponsors. The state appropriated funds would be used entirely for teacher stipends, paying them for their participation beyond their contractual requirements.