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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Miera ORIGINAL DATE 2/13/2007
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 844
SHORT TITLE Albuquerque Community Schools SB _____
ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$975.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates SB 696

Relates to SB 150; SB 694; HB 862; HB865;

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 844 appropriates \$650 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department and \$325 thousand to the University of New Mexico for supporting community schools in Albuquerque.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$975 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2008 shall revert to the general fund.

The LFC remains concerned with funding initiatives outside of the funding formula as it tends to disqualify school funding and diverts funding away from core educational needs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

House Bill 844 appropriates \$975 from the general fund as follows:

- 500 thousand to the Public Education Department (PED) to replace federal funds for 21st Century Community Learning Centers at Barelás, Kirtland, La Luz and Whitter elementary schools in the Albuquerque Public Schools (APS);
- \$150 thousand to PED for APS to amend its facilities master plan to identify community school facilities at each school site;
- \$175 thousand to the board of regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for the college of education to train APS' community coordinators, principals, other key staff, volunteers and community members;
- \$50 thousand to the board of regents of UNM for students at the college of education to create and maintain a database of existing community schools programs; and,
- 100 thousand to the board of regents of UNM for students at the college of education to provide other services to APS' community schools program.

PED reports that the federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers program supports the creation of community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools. The programs help students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects such as reading and math; offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.

21st Century grants are awarded for five years. Projects receive a 20 percent reduction in funding in year four and a 40 percent reduction in year five. Each grantee is required to implement a financial sustainability plan. The \$500 thousand appropriation would supplement federal 21st Century funding in APS in FY 08, the last year of funding for its grant programs.

PA/csd