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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/3/2007

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE NMSU Regional Education Tech Assistance SB 425

ANALYST McOlash

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$0.0		

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Companion to SB 245.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Higher Education Department (HED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 425 enacts a new section of Chapter 21, Article 8 NMSA 1978 pertaining to New Mexico State University to create the Regional Educational Technology Center at the NMSU's College of Extended Learning. The bill requires the Center to provide technology integration training into teaching and learning; professional dossier creation; use of data to drive instruction to improve student learning outcomes; internet safety, online teaching and learning and technical assistance; faculty development in integrating technology and distant learning tools; and implementing the NM Learning Network.

The services provided shall be available to pre-kindergarten through college throughout the state.

The RETA Center shall prepare an annual report for the Legislature.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The fiscal impact for SB425 is indeterminate. However, RETA has been funded an average of \$500,000 non-recurring dollars annually since 2003, and \$400,000 in FY07.

The Executive recommendation includes \$2,500.0 for the Teacher Professional Development Fund.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Initially, Gadsden Independent School District was awarded a Technology Innovation Challenge Grant on behalf of a consortium that includes New Mexico's 89 school districts, high-tech businesses, non-profit organizations, and the following professional institutions:

- New Mexico State University's College of Education
- New Mexico State Department of Education
- New Mexico Council on Technology in Education
- U.S. Department of Education
- Center for Children and Technology

The partners were chosen for their potential to collaborate in innovative teacher preparation and professional development programs that will enable teachers to improve student learning through the integration of technology with curricula.

In an evaluation report compiled by the PED in FY 05, RETA provided professional development services to 2,231 educators representing 77 public schools and districts, four BIA schools, one private school and two institutes of higher education through its statewide network of 60 instructors and three Regional Resource Centers.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The program has been and will continue to be administered by NMSU. Senate Bill 425, however, creates a formal organization at this institution.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

A companion, Senate Bill 245 appropriates \$600,000 to NMSU for the regional Educational Technology Assistance (RETA) Program.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The PED states that RETA has an established record of quality professional development products that have supported New Mexico educators over the years. RETA has been defined as a project/initiative and has been funded through the Teacher Professional Development Fund, managed by the Public Education Department's (PED), the past three years and prior to that received other legislative appropriations through the PED. This approach makes funding RETA vulnerable each year. By placing the RETA Center into statute, funding for the work of the cen-

ter becomes more established. This provides an institutional route for funding this initiative within NMSU's budget.

BM/YR