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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Sanchez, B. ORIGINAL DATE 2/10/2007 LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____
SHORT TITLE School Principals Character Counts Program SB 704
ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$120.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to appropriations in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 704 appropriates \$120 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department for the purpose of providing character counts leadership training for public school principals and local superintendents.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$120 thousand 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.

Currently more than \$10 million is contained in the funding formula for professional development statewide. In addition, the General Appropriations Act contains funding for the teacher professional development fund which could be used for this training.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED notes that the department applied for and was awarded a federal grant under the Partnerships in Character Education in August 2004. The New Mexico Character Education Partnership (NMCEP) brings together the PED, Albuquerque Public Schools and New Mexico school districts/charter schools in a project to build statewide leadership for sustainable character education in New Mexico schools and communities. The partnership funds and supports 14 districts and the charter schools in three-year projects to establish character education in schools and communities in the following core values: trust, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. Project leadership councils guide local projects and ensure the involvement of all members of school and community populations.

PA/mt