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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/20/07

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Southern NM Parent-Child Education Program SB 855

ANALYST Weber

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$500.0	Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Human Services Department (HSD)
 Children Youth and Families (CYFD)
 Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 855 appropriates \$500 thousand from the general fund to the Human Services Department for the purpose of funding a parent-child education program for approximately 150 families in Chaparral, Anthony, Dona Ana and Sunland Park in order to prepare children from birth to age three for future school success.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500 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.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

CYFD reports that it funds over 75 comprehensive early childhood programs, including PreK, which focus on the total development of the child (including school readiness). The programs

are also required to have a parent component.

PED contributes that among the consistent components of successful parent-child education programs are the following:

- Teaching parents to be the primary teachers and full partners in their child's education
- Preparing children for success in school and life
- Adult literacy education that leads to economic self-sufficiency
- Community resource awareness so that parents are able to help themselves
- Home visits to provide one-to-one guidance on more effective parenting and home teaching skills
- Transportation and other support services to help families participate on a consistent basis
- Regular attendance by participating families.

Research has shown that student performance is enhanced when parents are actively involved with the school in their child's education. Research produced by the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory's National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools examines the impact of different family and community connections on student achievement. (<http://www.sedl.org/connections/resources/readiness-synthesis.pdf>). This study finds evidence that when schools, families and community groups work together to support learning, children have a tendency to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Others studies have found that students with involved parents, no matter what their income or background, were more likely to do the following:

- Earn higher grades and test scores and enroll in higher-level programs
- Be promoted, pass their classes and earn credits
- Attend school regularly
- Have better social skills, show improved behavior and adapt well to school, graduate and go on to postsecondary education.

HSD inquires regarding the efficiency of making the appropriation to that agency. The program described in SB 855 is educational, rather than medical, in nature; therefore, the appropriation and services would not be appropriately managed by the HSD Medical Assistance Division (MAD). It would be more fitting that the appropriation contained in SB 855 be given to the Public Education Department (PED) or Children, Youth & Families Department (CYFD).

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Since other agencies are already engaged in programs of this nature should the appropriation be made to CYFD or PED?

MW/mt