

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: SB 326

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: Strengthening Quality in Schools Initiative

Sponsor(s): Senator Cynthia Nava and Others

Analyst: Peter van Moorsel

Date: January 29, 2008

Bill Summary:

SB 326 appropriates funds to the Public Education Department (PED) for the Strengthening Quality in Schools (SQS) initiative.

Fiscal Impact:

\$810,000 is appropriated from the General Fund for FY 08. The bill contains a reversion clause.

Since FY 05, SQS has been funded \$2.24 million from the Teacher Professional Development Fund, including \$540,000 in FY 08.

CS/HB 2 et al., *General Appropriation Act of 2008*, appropriates \$2.0 million for the Teacher Professional Development Fund.

Issues:

The mission of the SQS program is to accelerate the improvement of student achievement and system performance in New Mexico schools, create an integrated education system, and to lead selected statewide and local initiatives to provide challenging, engaging, and relevant learning opportunities.

SQS reports that since its implementation in FY 93, it has received support from the Governor's Business Executives for Education (GBEE), Sandia National Laboratories (SNL), and legislative appropriations. SQS is now in its 7th phase of training. In school year 2006-2007, SQS served 4,000 educators in 200 schools in 33 districts. According to Sandia National Laboratories:

- SQS is a reform initiative established by the GBEE in 1992 to provide the expertise needed to develop a world class, quality education system for New Mexico schools.
- SQS uses total quality management principles and provides training, tools and support to improve student performance regardless of poverty levels, language differences, and other demographic challenges.
- Success is identified through the use of the Baldrige framework, a system approach for advancing both student and system performance.
- Special attention is given to the support of PED's Educational Plan for Student Success and the three-tiered teacher licensure system.

Related Bills:

SB 323 *Regional Educational Technology Assistance*

SB 328 *Continue Re: Learning Program*