

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/04/08

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Community Service Learning Opportunities SB 324

ANALYST Escudero

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates To: SB 329

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 324 appropriates \$250.0 to the Public Education Department (PED) to support a service-learning regional center network statewide. The purpose of the regional center network is to support teachers and community educators in incorporating community service learning into a standards-based education system by providing coordinated training, technical assistance and project support.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY09 shall revert to the general fund.

The PED would be the fiscal agent for these funds and would be responsible for developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) and review and establish the contract and monitor the implementation of the funds. (See Administrative Implications below)

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to PED, this legislation is requesting funding to support a regional center network statewide that would support teachers and community educators in incorporating community service-learning into a standards-based education by providing coordinated training, technical assistance and project support.

New Mexico has supported service-learning since the middle 1990's with federal grant monies applied for through the Public Education Department and since 2003, service learning has received a total of \$410,000 through direct legislative appropriations or allocations made by the PED from the Teacher Professional Development Fund.

This request for funding would begin to formulate a state directive for service-learning that would use the knowledge and work of these past years and apply them to provide coordinated training, technical assistance and project support statewide in a coordinated fashion to ensure a consistent program and delivery of services.

The need for this legislation is further supported by the 2007 SJM 51 report that was submitted to the Legislative Education Study Committee on January 14, 2008. In the report the issues identified within service-learning that hamper it from being a fully viable are concerns such as multiple definitions of service-learning, how to equitably award academic credit to high schools students, how to align community activities in an equitable manner, etc. Through the regional center approach these issues and concerns would be addressed and statewide consistency would be an outcome.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

There is no specific PED performance measure related to this legislation. However, this bill does support the on-going PED funding through the professional development fund to better serve schools and districts in the area of service-learning

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

There are implications for administrative impact to the PED with this legislation. The PED would need to develop a RFP, following all of the state guidelines for procurement of these services, follow up with the contractor on implementation, and meet timelines associated with the legislation. The costs of this work to PED could be: 80 hours of Ed Adm A @\$25.50 for a total of \$2,652; monitoring of project activities 1,000 miles at .32 per mile is \$320; and 4 days per diem @ \$85 per day for a total of \$340. Total of PED costs: \$3,312.00.