

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SB 289

**50th Legislature, 1st Session, 2011**

**Tracking Number:** .184441.1

**Short Title:** Appropriation to School Leadership Institute

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Gay G. Kernan

**Analyst:** Ally Hudson

**Date:** February 4, 2011

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**Bill Summary:**

SB 289 appropriates funds to the New Mexico School Leadership Institute (NMSLI) for expenditure in FY 12 and subsequent fiscal years for operating expenses and matching funds to leverage private funding for the institute's public-private partnership initiatives.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$200,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to NMSLI for FY 12 and subsequent fiscal years. Unexpended or unencumbered funds do not revert to the General Fund.

**Fiscal Issues:**

According to an analysis by the Higher Education Department (HED), although the department served as the "flow through" agency for the 2010 appropriation of \$200,000 via an intergovernmental agreement with the University of New Mexico (UNM), SB 289 does not include a reference to HED nor its role.

**Substantive Issues:**

The analysis by HED cites research indicating that, among all school-related factors that contribute to what students learn, leadership is second only to classroom instruction. Therefore, as evidenced by high turnover, the effect of leadership is most significant in areas of greatest need. HED data illustrate that "between 1994 and 2004, 51 percent of New Mexico's schools had three or more principals [and] New Mexico leads the nation in the number of schools that require restructuring (19.9 percent)."

HED's analysis further indicates that, over a two-year period, NMSLI has received \$860,000 in funding from the New Mexico Legislature, Central New Mexico Community College, Wallace Foundation, and the US Department of Education (USDE). Additionally, NMSLI is partnered with Albuquerque Public Schools and UNM in a five-year, \$3.7 million USDE leadership grant through which the institute receives \$85,000 annually.

To conclude, HED's analysis states that NMSLI has established the following goals for FY 11:

- establish an executive committee;

- establish a NMSLI Partnership Board;
- establish a system for communicating NMSLI's mission, vision, and progress;
- continue to provide services in each of the five NMSLI programs;
- design and implement a virtual portal;
- develop and implement an evaluation process for all NMSLI programs and lines of service;
- establish partnerships with the Educational Leadership Institutes in Arkansas, Georgia, and New York;
- train school districts and principals to plan and manage leader succession, progression, and performance;
- provide financial training for principals and superintendents; and
- investigate and implement the most appropriate not-for-profit corporate structure.

### **Background:**

The School Leadership Institute was one of six recommendations made by a broadly representative work group in response to Senate Joint Memorial 3, *School Principal Recruitment & Mentoring*, which the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) endorsed in 2008. This joint memorial requested that the Office of Education Accountability (OEA), the Public Education Department (PED), and HED, in collaboration with school districts and institutions of higher education, develop a plan to enhance the recruitment, preparation, mentoring, evaluation, professional development, and support for school principals and other school leaders.

The recommendation to develop and implement the NMSLI included supporting a collaborative framework for strengthening the preparation, mentoring, and professional development of school leaders through several specific programs: a licensure program for aspiring principals, mentoring for new principals, intensive support for principals in schools in need of improvement, support for aspiring superintendents, and mentoring for new superintendents.

The LESL has heard progress reports about this leadership institute each interim since 2008. Among other points, the presentation in 2010 reviewed:

- the development of a business plan for the institute;
- the recruitment of principals for certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards;
- assisting PED in applying for School Improvement Grants for selected districts;
- the recently established website and the activities of the Principal Mentor Network; and
- a recent survey of principals that identified areas of inadequate preparation.

In addition, legislation endorsed by the LESL in both 2009 and 2010 has contributed to the development and implementation of the NMSLI.

- Although SB 124 (2009), *Create School Leadership Institute*, did not pass, an appropriation of \$200,000 to establish the School Leadership Institute was included in the *General Appropriation Act of 2009*. With additional funding from the Wallace Foundation, the leadership institute was established (housed at the University of New Mexico) and a director was hired.

- Enacted in 2010, SB 85, *School Leadership Institute* (Laws 2010, Chapter 65) adds a new section to the higher education statutes to create the School Leadership Institute, administratively attached to HED. This legislation requires the institute to provide “a comprehensive and cohesive framework for preparing, mentoring and providing professional development for principals and other public school leaders”; and it prescribes the programs that the institute must offer.

Finally, the NMSLI Executive Committee includes public school superintendents, deans from colleges with education leadership programs, and state agency representatives from PED, HED, and OEA.

**Related Bills:**

None as of February 4, 2011.