

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 304

50th Legislature, 1st Session, 2011

Tracking Number: .183265.2

Short Title: Full-Service Community Schools Act

Sponsor(s): Senators Cynthia Nava and Mary Kay Papen

Analyst: James Ball and David Harrell

Date: March 17, 2011

Bill Summary:

SB 304 adds a new section to the *Public School Code* called the *Full-Service Community Schools Act* to authorize the creation of a full-service community school program in any public school. The purpose of the program is to partner with federal, state, and local entities, as well as private community-based organizations, to provide educational service programs that “improve the coordination, delivery, effectiveness, and efficiency of services provided to children and families, including wide-ranged school-based health care, extended learning hours, and family engagement and support services.”

SB 304 further provides that a full-service community school shall:

- assess community resources in terms of the effective delivery of core services on site;
- establish an evaluation process to measure outcomes in terms of both quality and quantity; and
- provide a core set of services that include:
 - extended learning experiences such as before- and after-school programs and summer programs;
 - school-based or school-linked health care; and
 - family engagement and support.

Finally, SB 304:

- creates the Full-Service Community Schools Fund, administered by the Public Education Department (PED);
- requires PED, subject to the availability of funding, to award grants “to a public school or a group of public schools that meets department eligibility requirements”;
- prescribes the contents of the grant application; and
- specifies that grants not be awarded if they would “supplant funding and other resources that have been used for purposes similar to the full-service community schools program.”

Fiscal Impact:

SB 304 does not contain an appropriation; and the bill says that the [Full-Service Community Schools Fund] “shall not be transferred to any other fund at the end of a fiscal year.”

Substantive Issues:

According to the analysis by the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), SB 304 relates to, duplicates and conflicts with existing statute that establishes the Family and Youth Resources program.¹ In this program, any school with 80 percent of students eligible for the free and reduced lunch program may request a grant from PED. The purpose of the Family and Youth Resources program is to assist students and families to access social and health care services at school through public and private agencies to meet non-academic needs of the students and families.

The CYFD analysis also notes that the Juvenile Justice Education program is accredited by PED and must comply with all rules and regulations specific to schools, including school district wellness policies. It is not clear from SB 304 if the department's Juvenile Justice Education schools will have access to funds to establish coordinated full-service community schools.

Background:

The PED analysis of SB 304 states that there are currently at least five schools that can be considered full-service community schools in that they have school-based health clinics and they provide extended learning opportunities and provide family engagement and support services. These schools, according to PED are supported and serviced by Citizen Schools New Mexico and Elev8 New Mexico.

During the 2010 interim, the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) heard a presentation by the Director of Elev8 New Mexico. An initiative of the New Mexico Community Foundation, Elev8 New Mexico says that it provides enhanced learning opportunities and community engagement to participating middle schools: Wilson Middle School, Grant Middle School, and the Native American Community Academy in Albuquerque; Gadsden Middle School in Anthony; and Laguna Middle School in the Pueblo of Laguna.

- This LESL testimony discussed the key components of Elev8 New Mexico:
 - extended learning opportunities before and after school designed to support increased academic achievement by offering a diverse choice of relevant, structured learning opportunities that are engaging and connected to the classroom;
 - comprehensive school-based health centers that provide students and families with easily accessible age-appropriate preventive, physical, behavioral, and oral health services regardless of a student’s ability to pay;

¹ Enacted in 2003, the *Family and Youth Resource Act* provides for a family and youth resources program to be created in any public school in the state. The purpose of such a program is to provide an intermediary for students and their families at public schools to access social and health care services. The act also provides for a resource liaison; creates the Family and Youth Resource Fund; provides for grants from the fund; and prescribes contents of the grant application, which are very similar to those in SB 304.

- family engagement services that encourage parents to become full partners with the school and increase involvement with their child's education; and
 - support services and resources located on school campuses and designed to promote economic stability, good health, and continuing education.
- Also according to this testimony, community schools:
 - enhance students' ability to succeed on their pathway either to college or a career;
 - healthy children miss fewer school days and do better in school; and
 - students who participate in extended learning activities improve learning and reduce risky activities.

Related Bills:

None as of March 17, 2011.