

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SJM 36

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

**Tracking Number:** .185713.2

**Short Title:** Instructional Support Providers Study

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** March 10, 2011

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**Bill Summary:**

SJM 36 requests that the Public Education Department (PED) expand the membership of the Related Services Advisory Council (RSAC) to allow for representation of all professions represented among instructional support providers (ISPs). The joint memorial further requests that the RSAC:

- develop and formalize, in collaboration with the leadership of the teachers' unions, an interdisciplinary process to identify and report aggregate outcome data on the effectiveness of ISPs using PED's data system and statewide policies on assessments, service delivery, and workload of ISPs;
- examine appropriate standardized measurement instruments for data collection;
- examine regulatory and statutory changes that define evidence-based protocols for services performed by ISPs;
- provide quarterly reports to PED on issues related to ISPs; and
- report its findings and recommendations, including necessary statutory changes, to the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) by October 15, 2011.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Legislative memorials do not contain appropriations.

**Technical Issues:**

While the title of SJM 36 requests PED to study the effectiveness of ISPs, the work that is outlined in the joint memorial and the task of presenting a final report to the LESC are assigned to the RSAC.

**Substantive Issues:**

According to the Legislative Finance Committee Fiscal Impact Report (FIR),

- ISPs include: educational assistants, school counselors, school social workers, school nurses, speech-language pathologists, psychologists, physical therapists, physical therapy assistants, occupational therapists, marriage and family therapists, occupational therapy assistants, recreational therapists, signed language interpreters, educational, alcohol and

drug abuse counselors, substance abuse associates, and others who are employed to support the instructional program of a school district or charter school.

- In 2007, PED formed the RSAC to:
  - advise the department's special education and licensure bureaus on concerns relating to licensure and service delivery; and
  - provide technical assistance in the development of policy and state rules.
- The RSAC's vision is to seek to improve the quality and appropriate delivery of instructional support services in New Mexico.
- The RSAC membership does not currently represent all of the varied professions that are instructional support providers, and the council does not examine the effectiveness of instructional support providers in New Mexico.

**Related Bills:**

None as of 3/10/2011.