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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/04/11
 LAST UPDATED 03/07/11 **HB** _____

SPONSOR Nava

SHORT TITLE Full-Service Community Schools Act **SB** 304

ANALYST Hanika-Ortiz

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12	FY13		
	\$1.0 - \$1,000.0		Recurring	Full-Service Community Schools Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)
 Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 304 enacts a new section of the Public School Code that states a “full-service community school” program may be created in any public school in the state. The purpose of the program is to partner with federal, state and community-based organizations to provide onsite core services including before- and after-school and summer programs, school-based health care, and family engagement and support services. The bill provides for an ongoing evaluation process to measure quality and outcomes.

SB 304 creates a new “full-service community schools fund” to receive appropriations, gifts, grants, donations and earnings from investment.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill creates a new “full-service community schools fund” and provides for continuing appropriations. The LFC has concerns with including continuing appropriation language in the statutory provisions for newly created funds, as earmarking reduces the ability of the legislature to establish spending priorities. PED will administer the new fund and will determine eligibility requirements for the granting of any funds to public schools.

PED reports minimal fiscal impact to the department in administering the fund.

Private foundations are currently administering much of the funding directed to these community school programs. The ability of the new fund to collect revenues will largely be dependent upon how aggressive the public schools are with pursuing private foundation grants and what state or other funds will be available. The General Fund may be required to make a bigger contribution in the future if/when private foundation or SIG funds are no longer available at the same level for this purpose.

PED notes that the current Title 1 School Improvement Grant (SIG) fund allows for community school programs and all SIG recipients are implementing one or more of the services as described in the bill. New Mexico received more than \$28 million in SIG funds to improve education delivery at the lowest achieving schools over a three year period.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In New Mexico, there are currently five schools implementing the full-service community school model (supported by Citizens Schools New Mexico and Elev8 New Mexico) including Grant and Wilson Middle Schools in Albuquerque, The Native American Charter Academy, Laguna Middle School and Gadsden Middle School. These schools include three core services, before and after school programming, family and youth engagement and school-based health centers that provide comprehensive primary care, behavioral health and oral health services.

Full-service community schools also help connect parents with economic relief programs, financial and adult education and other resources. PED notes that full-service community schools contribute to the following:

- Improved grades and/or test scores
- Higher attendance
- Lower behavioral/discipline problems
- Reduced dropout rates
- Improved communication between families and schools / teachers
- Increased parent participation in children’s learning
- Increased emphasis on project-based learning connected to the community
- Greater resources due to more community partnerships.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Full-Service Community Schools usually have a site coordinator, or share a site coordinator. The

purpose of the site coordinator is to relieve the principal and/or assistant principal of the responsibilities of coordinating programs and activities. More than one site can share a coordinator depending upon the size of the school.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED will be required to administer the fund.

Adding new school-based health centers would require staff support and oversight from DOH.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Key Funder for *Elev8* is The Atlantic Philanthropies by way of a New Mexico private foundation. The Elev8 initiative is being implemented in New Mexico, Chicago, Baltimore, and Oakland, with schools, local nonprofits and community partners working to provide integrated service delivery in public middle schools. These local initiatives were selected after considering 35 American cities in 22 states. They were chosen by The Atlantic Philanthropies based on criteria that included socio-economic need and disparity, health profiles, academic performance and neighborhood crime data.

Citizen Schools New Mexico partners with middle schools to expand the learning day. Key Funders for Citizen Schools New Mexico include PED, City of Santa Fe, United Way of Central New Mexico, Santa Fe Community Foundation, McCune Charitable Foundation, Hestia Giving Circle of Santa Fe, Daniels Fund, PNM Resources, Inc. and Fidelity Investments.

School-based services and programs are often viewed as supplemental school activities and, therefore, expendable. As a result, policy makers are less inclined to provide financial support for these services and programs in a funding crunch. This perception of expendability can jeopardize the sustainability of these efforts. Insufficient funding can result in factors that lower program quality, such as restrictions on hiring staff, low staff wages, and limited opportunities for staff training.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The Public School Code would not be changed to include a full-service community school program and the full-service community school fund would not be created.

AHO/bym:mew