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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Nava **ORIGINAL DATE** 01/26/12
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE Expand School Community Service Learning **SB** 127

ANALYST Chabot

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 127 appropriates \$100.0 thousand from the general fund to the PED for the purpose of supporting a regional center network throughout the state to support teachers and community educators to incorporate community service learning into standards-based education by providing coordinated training, technical assistance and project support.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100.0 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2013 shall revert to the general fund. Per LFC letter dated January 16, 2012, appropriations for public education will grow approximately 3 percent per year through FY 15.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED assesses the planning and implementation of service learning concepts through contract or agreement with another agency will likely involve annual oversight to include travel and per diem expenses, distribution of materials, training costs, and incidental expenses related to establishing a regional center network system. Districts may experience expense for additional staff hours, travel, per diem, and substitute teacher costs.

In 2007, the New Mexico legislature enacted a measure requiring that service learning be offered as an elective in New Mexico public high schools for elective credit for students in grades 9-12, thus all high schools must offer service learning as an elective credit but students are not required to take the course/credit to graduate.

According to PED school budget bureau, federal funds for this purpose ended in 2008 are no longer received by PED. According to the NM Commission for Community Volunteerism, service learning dollars were cut from the federal budget for federal FY 11.

PED provides the following information about the importance of community service learning. “According to the Corporation for National Community Service, service learning integrates meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility and strengthen communities.

Identified beneficial outcomes of service learning include:

- potentially increases one’s sense of self worth as students learn that they can have a positive effect on authentic social challenges, problems and needs;
- provides students an opportunity to use skills and knowledge acquired in a school setting in real-life situations;
- enhances support in developing problem-solving skills, the ability to work as a team member and planning and implementing activities;
- provides opportunities for the community and young people to build and maintain positive relationships.”

PED states the following districts and schools previously received this funding through an application process for service learning: Gadsden Independent School District, Silver Consolidated Schools, East Mountain Charter High School, Las Vegas City Schools, Santa Fe Public Schools, and Taos Charter School; however, PED has not budgeted service learning since 2008. Previously, the PED contracted through Children, Youth, and Families Department (CYFD) and its Commission for Community Volunteerism, for service learning professional development.

The department is unsure if this appropriation will adequately support a regional center network.

GAC/amm