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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/20/14
 SPONSOR Candelaria LAST UPDATED 01/28/14 HB _____
 SHORT TITLE Assess Role of School P.E. in Child Obesity SJM 10
 ANALYST Armstrong

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
NFI			

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)
 Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)
 Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Senate Joint Memorial 10 requests that the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) form a task force to evaluate the feasibility of requiring 150 minutes of physical education per school week for each student in public elementary schools. The joint memorial asks that the task force consist of representatives from elementary schools; the NM Association for Health, Physical Education, and Dance; the NM Athletic Directors Association; the NM Coalition of School Administrators; experts in exercise physiology; health care professionals; and the LESC. SJM 10 asks the task force to review similar physical education programs established in 24 other states, develop a plan to fund and implement such a requirement, and report to the LESC by October 1, 2014.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

No fiscal impact. However, PED analysis states:

“[T]he fiscal implications for the PED and public schools and state charters could be significant in FY16 as SJM 10 requires the task force to develop a plan for funding and implementing weekly multi-hour mandatory physical education in elementary schools at the start of the 2015-2016 school year.

Currently, approximately \$16 million is contained in the state equalization guarantee base for elementary physical education programs in New Mexico. It is generally agreed among stakeholders that this represents about 50 percent of the amount needed to fully fund an elementary physical education program in all elementary schools across the state.”

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

When children and adolescents participate in at least sixty minutes of physical activity each day, multiple physical and cognitive health benefits result. Regular physical activity builds healthy bones and muscles, improves muscular strength and endurance, reduces the risk for developing chronic risk factors, improves self esteem, and reduces stress and anxiety. Evidence indicates that physical activity can also improve academic achievement, including grades and test scores, and affect cognitive skills and attitudes. (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *The Association Between School Based Physical Activity, Including Physical Education, and Academic Performance*. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, 2010.)

Physical Education in New Mexico is a required, instructional program, K-12, for all students (22-13-1 and 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978). Physical education may be integrated at the middle and elementary school level, and a 1-credit physical education course is a high school graduation requirement. Moreover, NMAC 6.29.1.11, subsection B, paragraphs 3 and 4, requires instruction in the area of physical education, but does not specify the amount of time or the qualifications of the instructor.

According to PED analysis, the task force would need to consider the length of the school day and year in relation to the implementation of one hundred fifty minutes of required physical education instruction per week because PED rule currently requires five and one-half hours of school-directed programs, excluding lunch, per day.

JA/ds