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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Stapleton ORIGINAL DATE 2/13/15
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 267

SHORT TITLE ABQ School Black Student Union Program SB _____

ANALYST Chavez

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY15	FY16		
	\$30.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Office of African American Affairs (OAAA)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 267 appropriates \$30 thousand from the general fund to the PED to fund the black student union (BSU) program of Albuquerque Public Schools (APS).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$30 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY16 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

PED notes the presence of population specific clubs within school has the potential to increase feelings of safety, engage students in appropriate social and emotional learning, decrease drop-out rates, and increase academic success. According to APS, more than 3,500 of the students in the district are African-American, and APS currently features BSUs at 11 of its 13 high schools and none of its middle schools.

PED cites research that shows when racial minority students report feeling unsafe in the

classroom, their math and reading test scores drop below that of their non-minority peers. This effect has been documented specifically for African American students. Conversely, environments where students feel safe and supported have been shown to increase overall academic success and limit truancy, and are less likely to engage in substance abuse and violence.

OAAA notes APS and PED have submitted their budget requests, and that the BSU program request should be made with the original budget submittals.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

PED notes BSUs could provide a space for black students to be supported as such organizations bolster social and emotional learning that may help Albuquerque Public Schools increase the graduation rate of its black students from its current 62.7 percent.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB 267 would require PED to develop and issue a request for information (RFI) to APS. PED would need to budget funds, allocate funding, request the submission of budget adjustment requests and monitor expenditures for reimbursement. The agency notes this can be done with existing resources.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

PED notes President Obama signed an Executive Order on July 28, 2012 instructing schools nationwide to promote the academic success of African American students. One of the methods to promote well-being and graduation among these youth, according to the order, is to “enhance the educational and life opportunities of African Americans by fostering positive family and community engagement in education”.

ALTERNATIVES

The LFC and the executive recommendations include funding in recurring initiatives for after-school programs. PED notes that the BSU program could benefit from participation in this type of targeted funding.

KC/aml