

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 129

52nd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2016

Tracking Number: .202884.1

Short Title: Española School Partnerships

Sponsor(s): Senators Richard C. Martinez and Carlos R. Cisneros

Analyst: Robin Shaya

Date: January 29, 2016

Bill Summary:

SB 129 appropriates \$200,000 from the General Fund to the Public Education Department (PED) to provide start-up funding for the Española Public School District (EPSD) to develop and implement community-based partnerships that provide services such as counseling and life and job skills training for EPSD students in grades 7 through 12.

Fiscal Impact:

The bill appropriates \$200,000 from the General Fund to PED for expenditure in FY17. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY17 shall revert to the General Fund.

Substantive Issues:

According to PED, school-community partnerships are part of a coordinated school health approach to create a healthy and effective learning school environment that supports students both academically and emotionally, providing accessible resources and services to meet student needs related to health, wellness, and academic success. PED also notes school-community partnerships provide an ideal opportunity for schools to address student issues such as behavioral health related to depression, anxiety, suicide, and substance abuse that may impact academic success, and can address a variety of student needs related to education and workforce development.

Background:

In the 2001 interim, the LESC established the LESC Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Education Reform to continue to emphasize the importance of education reform issues and to conduct further study of sources of sustainable funding for education reform in New Mexico. In the 2002 interim, the Ad Hoc Subcommittee continued its consideration of education reform issues, including funding.

Recommendations from the LESC Ad Hoc Subcommittee for Education Reform formed the basis for an LESC-endorsed education reform package during the 2003 legislative session which was enacted in *Laws 2003, Chapter 153*. In part to address the achievement gap for at-risk

students in the context of an accountability system based on student standardized test scores, the reforms included the creation of the *Family and Youth Resource Act*.

The *Family and Youth Resource Act* was established to forge mutual long-term relationships with public and private agencies and community-based, civic and corporate organizations to help students attain high academic achievement by meeting certain non-academic needs of students and their families, including notable provisions that:

- create the nine-member Family and Youth Resource Advisory Committee including cabinet secretaries from four separate departments and defining its duties;
- provide for the creation of Family and Youth Resources programs in any public school in the state with a purpose to provide an intermediary for students and their families at public schools to access social and healthcare services;
- allow for grants, subject to availability of funding, to a public school or group of public schools that meets PED eligibility requirements, including having 80 percent more of student eligible for Free and Reduced Priced Lunch (FRL), to operate a Family and Youth Resources program; and
- create the Family and Youth Resource Fund administered by PED and appropriated to PED to carry out the purposes of the *Family and Youth Resource Act*.