

LFC Requester:	
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AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS - 2026 REGULAR SESSION

WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, UPLOAD ANALYSIS TO
AgencyAnalysis.nmlegis.gov and email to billanalysis@dfa.nm.gov
(Analysis must be uploaded as a PDF)

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}

Date Prepared: _____ *Check all that apply:*
Bill Number: SB234 Original Correction
 Amendment Substitute

		Agency Name	
	Nicole Tobiassen, Linda Trujillo,	and Code	CYFD - 690
Sponsor:	<u>Candy Spence Ezzell</u>	Number:	_____
Short	<u>FOSTER CHILD SCHOOL</u>	Person Writing	<u>Kathleen Hardy</u>
Title:	<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	Phone: <u>505-660-8508</u>	Email <u>Kathleen.hardy@cyfd.nm.gov</u>

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
	1,200.0	Recurring	General

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		

(Parenthesis () indicate revenue decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total						

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:
 Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: This bill appropriates \$1,200.0 from the state general fund to the Public Education Department for expenditure in FY2027 and subsequent fiscal years for the Albuquerque public school district to provide transportation to and from school for foster children.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill appropriates \$1,200.0 from the state general fund to the Public Education Department for expenditure in FY2027 and subsequent fiscal years. Unexpended balances will not revert.

Mileage for transporting a foster child is generally included in the basic foster care maintenance payment, and additional mileage can be reimbursed for specific pre-approved needs, such as maintaining the child in their school of origin. By providing specific, dedicated funding for the purpose of transporting children to and from school, this bill relieves CYFD of a portion of that expense generally, and reduces the burden on individual foster parents specifically.

For FY2025, CYFD spent \$1,300.0 on school transportation costs.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Under federal law (Every Student Succeeds Act, 2015, 20 USC 6301) and the New Mexico Foster Child and Youth Bill of Rights, children in foster care have a right to remain in their school of origin unless it is determined to be in their best interests to change schools. School districts are required to provide transportation for foster students to and from their school of origin. Additionally, 6.41.4.9 NMAC requires local education agencies to develop and implement procedures as to how this transportation will be provided, arranged, and funded, and further requiring local education agencies to provide transportation promptly and in a cost-effective manner.

This appropriation is specific to the Albuquerque Public Schools. While APS is the largest school district in the state, only 40% of the children in CYFD foster care as of December 2025 live within the APS district.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

CYFD has performance measures concerning placement stability which may be positively affected by this bill.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Any administrative implications which result from CYFD working with APS to ensure these monies are efficiently and appropriately spent will be absorbed by existing resources.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None identified.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None identified.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None identified.

ALTERNATIVES

None proposed.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Status quo.

AMENDMENTS

None proposed.