

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

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August 24, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Education Study Committee

FR: Kevin Force

RE: COMMITTEE REQUEST: PARTICIPATION OF BUREAU OF INDIAN EDUCATION (BIE) HIGH SCHOOLS AND TRIBAL COLLEGES IN THE NEW MEXICO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM

During the July 2011 interim meeting of the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC), the committee heard testimony about the inclusion of Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) high schools and tribal colleges in dual credit programs. In the committee discussion, a member inquired about the funding per pupil afforded to BIE school students by the federal government in comparison with per pupil funding in New Mexico public schools.

An LESK staff review of federal funding of BIE schools¹ indicates that, to determine the amount of funding allocated by the BIE to schools within its system, the value of one Weighted Student Unit must be determined by:

- calculating the number of WSUs for each BIE school;
- dividing the total school appropriation by the total number of WSUs from every BIE school.

¹ See, generally, 25 CFR 39, *The Indian School Equalization Program*.

Currently, according to BIE staff, the value of one WSU is about \$5,312. In comparison, the FY12 initial unit value in New Mexico is \$3,585.97. However, while the *Indian School Equalization Program* is similar in many respects to the New Mexico public school funding formula and State Equalization Guarantee, there are several notable differences, including:

- the BIE appropriation includes money for instructional materials, while in New Mexico instructional materials are funded via a separate appropriation;
- the BIE appropriation includes all nutrition while New Mexico funds nutrition operational costs, such as breakfast programs, separately; and
- the BIE process factors in residential programs, while on the other hand, New Mexico does not fund residential programs in public schools.

Another member posed several questions about student cohorts taking dual credit, including:

- How many students actually complete the dual credit courses they've taken?
- How many students who participate in a dual credit program go on to attend college?
- How many of them complete college?

However, requests for information to HED staff on these questions are unanswered as of August 18, 2011.