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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/3/2006

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Regional Educational Technology Assistance SB 488

ANALYST Earp

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$800.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 488 appropriates \$800,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU) for the Regional Educational Technology Assistance program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$800,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This proposal was not included among the special program funding requests submitted by NMSU to the Higher Education Department (HED) for review. Consequently, this proposal has not been included in the HED fiscal year 2007 funding recommendations to the Legislature.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMSU would bear administrative responsibility for managing the funds provided through this legislation.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HED reports that the RETA Initiative started as a pilot program in 1995-96 with a grant from Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) to assist New Mexico school districts with technology planning and implementation with the goal of developing a statewide cadre of educators to support each other locally and regionally.

In 1996-97, funding was secured from a federal Technology Literacy Challenge Grant (TLCG) which flowed through the former State Department of Education (SDE), now the Public Education Department (PED). This funding continued through 1997-98.

As the TLCG funding was coming to an end, the RETA program partnered with the Gadsden Independent School District in 1998 and applied for a federally funded Technology Innovation Challenge Grant (TICG) from the U.S. Department of Education. The application was successful. The Gadsden School District, serving as the local education agency, was awarded a five-year grant for \$8,700,000 which funded the RETA program from 1998-2003.

With the TICG funding about to end, legislation was sponsored during the 2003 Legislative session and RETA received a \$500,000 General Fund appropriation for FY04 that flowed through the PED's Curriculum, Instruction, and Learning Technologies (CILT) Division. For the next two fiscal years, RETA received an annual \$500,000 General Fund appropriation that flowed through PED.

The goals of the RETA program are to:

- Provide professional development for K-12 teachers integrating technology with their curricula to improve student learning;
- Partner with school districts, regional education cooperatives, and post-secondary institutions to develop innovative teacher preparation and professional development programs; and
- Expand regional resource centers at post-secondary institutions statewide

RETA's partners include a consortium comprised of New Mexico's 89 public school districts, New Mexico State University's College of Education; the Public Education Department, the New Mexico Council on Technology in Education, the Center for Children and Technology, and the U.S. Department of Education.

Currently, RETA has three regional resource centers located at the following campuses: New Mexico State University in Las Cruces (main center), Western New Mexico University in Silver City (satellite) and Northern New Mexico College in Espanola (satellite).

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Why is the appropriation for this program proposed to be made to NMSU rather than PED as has occurred in the past two years?

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