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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/25/2007

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Regional Educational Technology Assistance SB 245

ANALYST McOlash

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$600.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 243 and SB 244.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico State University – Regional Educational Technology Assistance (RETA)
Public Education Department (PED)
Higher education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 245 appropriates \$600,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of NMSU for expenditure in FY 2008 for the Regional Educational Technology Assistance (RETA) Program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$600,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2008 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

From 1998-2003 RETA was funded as a Technology Innovation Challenge Grant from the US Department of Education receiving \$8.7M. Starting in FY 2003, RETA has received legislative professional development funding through the NM Public Education Department as follows:

- 2003-2004 - \$500K
- 2004-2005 - \$535K
- 2005-2006 - \$500K
- 2006-2007 - \$400K
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RETA FY2007 funding of \$400,000 from the Teacher Professional Development Fund (TPDF) administered by the Public Education Department.

RELATIONSHIP

The PED notes that SB 245 is related to SB 243 (Strengthening Quality Schools (SQS) at PED) and SB 244 (Re: Learning - ENMU). The RETA, SQS, and Re: Learning projects are part of a larger group of professional development service providers.

PED also notes a relationship to the Executive recommendation for \$2,500,000 for the TPDF.

The Legislative Finance Committee recommended a total of \$2,500,000 for the entire TPDF.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

RETA services include development and delivery of customized workshops and courses for both face-to-face and online delivery, onsite coaching using data to improve teaching and learning, development of standards-aligned web-based curriculum, customized web site creation, and conference workshops & presentations. NMSU graduate and undergraduate credit is available for most RETA professional development.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. What processes and procedures are in place at the Division of Quality Assurance and Systems Integration in PED to evaluate, fund, and monitor professional development programs?
2. Is RETA included in the recommendations for funding the Teacher Professional Development Fund or in the “Special Projects Expansion” in HB 7?

BM/mt