

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: SB 173

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: School Character Education Programs

Sponsor(s): Senator Bernadette M. Sanchez and Others

Analyst: James Ball

Date: January 21, 2008

Bill Summary:

SB 173 makes an appropriation to support existing character education program in public schools.

Fiscal Impact:

\$250,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause.

Issues:

According to PED, New Mexico has received a total of almost \$4.0 million in federal funding for character education over the last 12 years. PED is currently in the last year of a four-year grant that will end on July 31, 2008. Schools and districts statewide have implemented many fine character education programs over the years. Most recently, many have introduced *Pursuing Victory with Honor* as part of grant activities in cooperation with the New Mexico Activities Association sportsmanship objectives. By fostering good character through teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling the "Six Pillars of Character" trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship schools and communities provide an essential component of student's education. PED believes that it is important to continue this program statewide.

Related Bill:

SB 141 *Las Cruces Youth Dance Programs*