

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill No:** SB 238

**48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008**

**Short Title:** Grant & Socorro County Dance Education

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Howie C. Morales

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** January 21, 2008

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**Bill Summary:**

SB 238 makes an appropriation to support dance education in Grant and Socorro counties.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$52,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) for FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause.

**Issues:**

According to CYFD, evidence suggests that youth who are involved in activities such as sports, music, and drama help build a sense of self-worth and self-respect. They consistently show lower rates of substance use and gang involvement. They may also demonstrate healthier functioning on such indicators as academic achievement, psychological adjustment, and improved quality and quantity of interactions with their parents.

According to the Public Education Department (PED), movement, choreography, storytelling, valuing one's own and others' cultures can be enhanced through dance and performing arts programs. Learning through the arts for students creates interest, discipline, focus and promotes learning and skill development.

The New Mexico Content Standards for the Arts make a foundation for this learning along with other Content Standards through:

- demonstration of an understanding of the dynamics of the creative process;
- observation, discussion, analysis, and making critical judgments about artistic works;
- increased awareness of diverse peoples through the performing arts;
- connections and parallels among the arts, health and physical education disciplines as well as science, math, language arts, social studies, modern, classical and native languages, and career technology; and
- contributions to the local community by sharing learning in movement and dance.

**Related Bills:**

\*SB 34 *New Mexico School for the Arts Act*  
SB 141 *Las Cruces Youth Dance Programs*  
SB 194 *Santa Fe Dance Festival*  
HB 53 *Santa Fe Performing Arts School Programs*  
HB 92 *Santa Fe Dance Education Programs*  
HB 226 *African-American Performing Arts Center Act*