

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: SB 327

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: Fiesta Educativa Parent Conference & Outreach

Sponsor(s): Senator Cynthia Nava and Others

Analyst: Eilani Gerstner

Date: January 29, 2008

Bill Summary:

SB 327 appropriates funds to the Public Education Department (PED) for Gadsden Independent Schools for the Fiesta Educativa parent conference and outreach activities.

Fiscal Impact:

\$15,000 is appropriated from the General Fund for expenditure in FY 09. This bill contains a reversion clause.

For FY 06 and FY 07, the Legislature appropriated a total of \$12,700 to fund Fiesta Educativa initiatives in Gadsden Independent Schools (\$5,700, after sanding, for FY 06 and \$7,000 for FY 07).

Issues:

According to the Fiesta Educativa website, this initiative was established in 1978 to inform and assist Latino families in obtaining services and in caring for their children with special needs. Among its goals, Fiesta Educativa strives to:

- help families gain knowledge, access key resources, and understand their fundamental rights;
- influence the advancement and rehabilitative potential of Latinos with special developmental needs;
- increase the consciousness of professionals about the unique cultural characteristics and needs of Latino children and their families; and
- expand and develop culturally sensitive programs and services.

According to the PED analysis of SB 327:

- the Fiesta Educativa is an outreach program for parents of special needs children in Gadsden Independent Schools;
- the program is conducted through a conference that provides education for parents of students with special needs, screenings for children who may need early intervention, and booths with information from service providers for students with special needs; and
- all materials and services are offered in English and Spanish.

Related Bills:

None