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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Barreras ORIGINAL DATE 02/06/08
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 604
SHORT TITLE Los Lunas Schools Graduation Prep Counseling SB _____
ANALYST Escudero

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$75.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 604 appropriates \$75.0 to the Public Education Department (PED) for a pilot program at Los Lunas Public Schools in graduation counseling aimed at high school seniors and juniors. The purpose of this bill is to ensure that students are on track toward graduation in terms of their course taking and the corresponding credit hours needed to graduate

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$75.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY09 shall revert to the general fund.

This appropriation can be implemented by the PED with existing staff and minimal fiscal impact.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to PED, the New Mexico team that participated in Leadership Training Institutes conducted through The Wallace Foundation for states last year learned of such a model and pilot being implemented in Georgia. Anecdotal evaluation is that this model appears to help juniors

and seniors stay in school, although this may be a little too early to assess. Los Lunas' school leadership team was part of the state team lead by the Secretary of Public Education, and advocates "graduation prep counseling" to stem the tide of students dropping out in their last two years of high school.

The dropout data for 2006-2007 uses the 40th day student count factored and corrected for duplicates -- students leaving to be home schooled, to go to another school within the public school system in the state and having left who subsequently pass the GED. Using this formula, the PED's Data Collection & Reporting Bureau reports 12.9% dropout for juniors and seniors in Los Lunas high schools. Dropout numbers of juniors and seniors stand at 131 out of a junior/senior student base of 1,011.

This school district has a college readiness/high school redesign initiative in place. Changes relative to a Career Technical Academy for the 11th and 12th Grades are just underway.

Juniors and seniors need special attention during the critical transition between postsecondary education and the workforce. Success in postsecondary life and work hinges a great deal on high school graduation.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HB 604 aligns to priorities in the PED's strategic plan for 2005-2010, namely:

- student achievement and

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to HB 602 with identical provisions for another school district.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

As stated by PED, the Next Step Plan, implemented in school districts since 2004, replaced the previous 4 Year Plan. Despite regional trainings to build capacity in advisement, full implementation with fidelity has not been achieved in the state. If the pilot program envisioned in HB 604 is a different model from traditional counseling/advisement programs, it would be interesting to gauge its success in increasing graduation rates and overall access to postsecondary education and work

PME/jp