

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill No:** HB 213

**49th Legislature, 1st Session, 2009**

**Short Title:** NMHU Technical Assistance Center

**Sponsor(s):** Representatives Richard D. Vigil and Thomas A. Garcia

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** January 26, 2009

---

**Bill Summary:**

HB 213 makes an appropriation for a statewide technical assistance center at New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) to develop programs, provide guidance to New Mexico schools, and to extend the capacity of the Public Education Department (PED) to help school districts achieve adequate yearly progress (AYP).

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$800,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents at NMHU for FY 10.

HB 213 contains a reversion clause.

**Issues:**

According to PED, the legislation does not provide any specific details regarding the scope and outcomes for the center. The Higher Education Department (HED), however, points out that the Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations (CESDP) at NMHU currently delivers many of the services described in general terms in HB 213. In addition, the CESDP hopes to expand services in the coming academic year that align with the purposes of HB 213, by:

- providing intensive school-wide professional development to five pilot schools on academic language acquisition, research-based strategies, sheltered instruction, and cultural competency;
- providing schools with technical assistance to use data to guide instructional planning and support implementation of the Educational Plan for Student Success;
- providing support and technical assistance to school and district leadership addressing teacher practices, student achievement, and cultural competency;
- partnering with PED to offer support, training, and materials to schools to enhance their efforts in reaching out to families and community members;
- developing an observational protocol and training materials;
- making all replicable training materials accessible online through CESDP, NMHU, and PED websites; and
- evaluating the program and making modifications as needed.

NMHU submitted this request to HED for review. The department is neutral on recommending funding for this project for FY 10.

**Background:**

The CESPD has focused in the past on:

- improving educator access to resources, information, current education research, and professional development services that help districts improve student learning, close achievement gaps, and sustain school improvement;
- providing frameworks and guidance to schools in their activities to involve families and communities in student learning; and
- extending PED’s capacity to implement the provisions of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB) and help districts and schools achieve AYP.

HED states that the CESDP already has established partnerships in middle schools in the following school districts:

- Santa Rosa;
- Clovis;
- Portales;
- Bernalillo;
- Rio Rancho; and
- Santa Fe.

A provision of both state law and NCLB, AYP is a prescribed degree of improvement, primarily in student achievement, that schools are expected to make each year – not only for their entire student populations but also for certain subgroups of students: economically disadvantaged students, major racial or ethnic groups, students with disabilities, and English language learners. Schools that fail to make AYP for two consecutive years face a series of increasingly prescriptive sanctions in the school improvement cycle until they make AYP for two consecutive years. The ultimate goal is that all students, including those in all the subgroups, will be proficient in reading and math by school year 2013-2014.

**Related Bill:**

HB 214 *NMHU Ben Lujan Leadership Institute*