

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number: HB 151**

**49th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2010**

**Tracking Number: .181011.1**

**Short Title: Jefferson Middle School Rock & Rhythm Band**

**Sponsor(s): Representatives Danice Picraux and Gail Chasey**

**Analyst: James Ball**

**Date: February 4, 2010**

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**Bill Summary:**

HB 151 makes an appropriation to cover the costs associated with the purchase of instruments for a rock and rhythm band at Jefferson Middle School in the Albuquerque Public Schools.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$8,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for FY 11.

Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

**Fiscal Issues:**

Separate appropriations to specific schools or school districts for operational expenditures circumvent the Public School Funding Formula, which provides operational funds for all school districts, and they may compromise the equity of the formula.

**Substantive Issues:**

According to PED, musical performance directly relates to the PED Arts Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards and alternative assessment methods that support learning.

**Background:**

According to a YouTube internet posting of June 14, 2009, Jefferson Middle School's Rock and Rhythm Band music classes provide 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with a hands-on group musical experience. Created as an alternative to the standard music classes, such as orchestra, band, and chorus, the band was designed for students who love music but have no experience, interest, or abilities in the traditional programs or simply have difficulty meeting the cost and educational requirements of those programs. The YouTube posting says that the program is the only one of its kind in New Mexico. In seven years, the program has grown from 30 students in two classes to 180 students in six classes. The program has earned much local recognition, including a feature story on local television news in Albuquerque.

Apparently the program has become so popular that the December 2009 Jefferson Middle School Newsletter reports that there is even an adult version of the Rock and Rhythm Band made up of teachers and parents.

**Related Bill(s):**

None as of 2-4-2010.