

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SB 82

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

**Tracking Number:** .180821.1

**Short Title:** Minority Math, Engineering & Science Program

**Sponsor(s):** Senators Cynthia Nava and Mary Jane M. García

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** February 1, 2010 (revised)

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**FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**

**Bill Summary:**

SB 82 makes an appropriation to the Higher Education Department (HED) for the minority mathematics, engineering, and science achievement program.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$150,000 in non-recurring funds is appropriated from the General Fund to HED for FY 11.

Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

HB 3a, the *Education Appropriation Act*, includes an appropriation of \$150,000 to the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology for the New Mexico Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement (NM MESA) program.

**Fiscal Issues:**

The Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) states in its analysis of SB 82 that the FY 11 budget request from HED includes \$1.1 million for NM MESA while the Legislative Finance Committee recommendation reduces NM MESA funding by \$71,600 from that level. The DFA analysis suggests that SB 82 would restore the amount of the proposed cut and provide funds for some expansion.

According to the HED analysis, a funding and program expansion request for the minority program (NM MESA) was submitted to the department by the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMIMT) for \$478,800. HED recommends flat funding for all existing programs for FY 11.

NMIMT has received the following appropriations for NM MESA in the past few fiscal years:

- \$150,000 in FY10;
- \$255,000 in FY 09; and
- \$215,000 in FY 08.

### **Substantive Issues:**

The Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) heard testimony on NM MESA in the 2009 interim. Presenters reported that:

- 82 percent of past participants had enrolled in college;
- 55 percent had graduated from college; and
- of the students who graduated from college, 88 percent graduated with a bachelor's degree or higher in engineering, education, or business.

Testimony to the committee also explained how the project is funded. NM MESA indicated that 79 percent of the funding comes from the Legislature, 14 percent from federal agencies, and the rest from donations from corporations and foundations. In addition, through memoranda of understanding school districts pay participating teachers \$2,000 per year and provide up to nine release days and NM MESA covers the costs for teachers' food, transportation, and supplies to participate in activities, events, and competitions.

### **Background:**

According to HED, New Mexico MESA is a nonprofit organization that is part of a national initiative promoting educational enrichment for pre-college students from historically underrepresented ethnic groups. This pre-college program prepares students for college majors and careers in mathematics, engineering, science or technically related fields. NM MESA is coordinated through seven regional offices, each staffed by a regional coordinator.

According to testimony to the LESC, the national organization of MESA was founded in 1970 at the University of California, Berkeley and NM MESA was founded in 1982. The mission of the program is to empower and motivate New Mexico's culturally diverse students with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) enrichment. NM MESA provides:

- academic competitions (regional and statewide);
- field trips;
- college visits and counseling;
- scholarships; and
- teacher professional development.

This testimony also noted that NM MESA serves over 5,000 students in 39 school districts, one pueblo, and 135 schools statewide; and that 61 percent of NM MESA students are Hispanic, 12 percent are Native American, 2.0 percent are African-American, and 25 percent are other ethnicities.

### **Related Bills:**

HJM 21 *Math and Science Teacher Yearly Development*