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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/26/10

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Educational Research & Reform Consortium SJM 23

ANALYST Pava

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY10	FY11		
	NFI	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Finance & Administration (DFA)
 Office of Educational Accountability (OEA)
 Higher Education Department (HED)
 Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Joint Memorial 23 requests that the OEA, PED, HED cooperate with local and national research entities, public school districts, charter schools, institutions of higher education, teachers, faculty, the business community and philanthropy to study the feasibility of forming a consortium to study the long-term effects of school reform and present a report to the Legislative Education Study Committee and the Governor by 11/15/10.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no appropriation or fiscal impact. Existing staff would participate in the proposed study group although PED has a 1/5/10 vacancy rate of 22% that is anticipated to increase.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Since 2005, the legislature has appropriated \$14,700.0 to PED to develop the student teacher accountability reporting system. Despite meaningful advances, achievement gaps among ethnic groups persist. NM high school graduation rates are among the lowest in the nation. Many schools struggle to improve and maintain student achievement. While there is a body of

educational research demonstrating effective strategies for improving student achievement, there is little science on which to base the broader effort to effect permanent, system-wide school reform. Fostering systemic change that produces consistently excellent public schools statewide may require a multi-disciplinary effort supported by a wide-range of researchers and resources.

HED indicated the following:

Pursuant to the issues outlined in SJM23, collective educational research can be an effective way to address systemic challenges. There is a collaborative relationship between PED and HED, but different policy objectives and incompatible data sharing and matching systems can be problematic. The reconciliation of diverse professional environments may also play an important role in the creation and success of a research consortium.

PED indicates the following:

NM's 18-month College and Career Ready Policy Institute (CCRPI) developed an action plan presented to LESC 12/09. It will be posted on the PED website 2/28/10. It outlines a research consortium similar to the SJM 23 proposal. It was developed by representatives from a variety of state agencies, school districts, institutions of higher education, business and industry. The idea was loosely modeled on the Consortium on Chicago School Research. The need for the research consortium includes issues outlined in SJM 23, as well as in-depth research on high school and university assessments.

OEA indicated the following:

Extensive education reforms have been put into place over the last seven years. '08 had Standards Based Measures of Readiness for Graduation and in '09 was the Alternative School Accountability Pilot; American Indian Post Secondary Education Act; Teacher Licensure Math Requirement; and The New Mexico Leadership Institute.

Individual studies (such as the OEA evaluation of NM PreK) have addressed program effectiveness, yet neither PED, HED nor OEA have the staff capacity to examine all of these initiatives. This bill is an opportunity to develop strong public-private partnerships to study the long-term effects of education reform. It would leverage the capacity of NM universities, the national labs, and business partners such as Innovate-Educate New Mexico together with educational funders to create a plan for funding and long-term strategic research.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SJM 23 is related to Governor Richardson's Making Schools Work Task 1.4: Increase the Level of Educational Excellence for All Students.

PED noted that research and reform might positively impact student achievement as measured on the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment and cohort graduation rate. It might also help educators to reduce the achievement gap.

This joint memorial would support the PED Race to the Top Initiatives, such as outlining research necessary for standards and assessments, great teachers and leaders, turning around lowest performing schools, as well as the use of P-20 data warehouse data.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The OES would be able to participate in this memorial with existing staff. Additional time would be needed for consortium members to meet, discuss, and develop strategies which would support long-term school reform. HED currently lacks the appropriate staffing and budgetary resources to fulfill the requests outlined in SJM23.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

If SJM 23 is adopted and a consortium is developed to determine findings and recommendations, what would be the impact of these findings? How would the State of NM implement the recommendations?

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The proposed Educational Research and Reform Consortium could build upon P-20 inter-agency, district, institutions of higher education, business and industry collaborations formed through P-20 Data Warehouse Council, NM CCRPI, and the Race to the Top application team.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

A public-private partnership for education reform research will not be studied and collaborative educational research to support long-term school reform would be restricted. School reform and effective strategies might not be discovered nor developed.

CP/mew:svb