

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 566

50th Legislature, 1st Session, 2011

Tracking Number: .184474.1

Short Title: HED Approp to Support School Leadership Inst.

Sponsor(s): Representative Ray Begaye

Analyst: James Ball

Date: March 1, 2011

Bill Summary:

HB 566 makes an appropriation to the Higher Education Department (HED) for expenditure in FY 12 to assist with basic operating costs of programs offered by the School Leadership Institute (SLI).

Fiscal Impact:

\$200,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to HED for FY 12. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

According to the analysis of HB 566 by the Public Education Department (PED), over a two-year period, the SLI has received \$860,000 in funding from the Wallace Foundation, the Legislature, Central New Mexico Community College (CNMC), and the US Department of Education (USDE).

Fiscal Issues:

PED also notes in its analysis of HB 566 that:

- two sources of public funding that support the SLI, the FY 10 HED appropriation and the CNMC project for Leadership Charter, will end on June 30, 2011; and
- the PED funds allocated for working with 11 persistently lowest-achieving schools will conclude in December 2011.

The appropriation in HB 566 will allow the SLI to have public funds to leverage private funds through June 30, 2012.

Substantive Issues:

HED's analysis of HB 566 notes that a 2010 report of the Southern Regional Education Board states that improving schools requires three essentials:

- district vision;
- district and state support; and
- principal leadership.

The SLI mission is to “assist in recruiting, preparing, mentoring, and supporting strong leaders for New Mexico schools, and to provide professional development and support for school principals and other educational leadership” as a response to reports on the impact of leadership in school performance.

HED also states that research indicates that leadership is second only to classroom instruction among all school-related factors that contribute to what students learn in school. This evidence suggests that leadership is a key to the successful implementation of large-scale reform. Leadership effects are most significant in areas of greatest need as evidenced by high turnover. Between 1994 and 2004, 51 percent of New Mexico’s schools had three or more principals.

The SLI has partnerships with the New Mexico Coalition of School Administrators, the New Mexico School Superintendents Association, Albuquerque Public Schools, and the University of New Mexico (UNM), as well as relationships with PED, HED, the Wallace Foundation, and the USDE.

Background:

SLI was one of six recommendations made by a broadly representative work group in response to SJM 3, *School Principal Recruitment & Mentoring*, which the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) endorsed in 2008. This joint memorial requested that the Office of Education Accountability (OEA), PED, and HED, in collaboration with school districts and institutions of higher education, develop a plan to enhance the recruitment, preparation, mentoring, evaluation, professional development, and support for school principals and other school leaders.

The recommendation to develop and implement SLI included supporting a collaborative framework for strengthening the preparation, mentoring, and professional development of school leaders through several specific programs: a licensure program for aspiring principals, mentoring for new principals, intensive support for principals in schools in need of improvement, support for aspiring superintendents, and mentoring for new superintendents.

The LESC has heard progress reports about this leadership institute each interim since 2008. Among other points, the presentation in 2010 reviewed:

- the development of a business plan for the institute;
- the recruitment of principals for certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards;
- assisting PED in applying for School Improvement Grants for selected districts;
- the recently established website and the activities of the Principal Mentor Network; and
- a recent survey of principals that identified areas of inadequate preparation.

In addition, legislation endorsed by the LESC in both 2009 and 2010 has contributed to the development and implementation of SLI.

- Although SB 124 (2009), *Create School Leadership Institute*, did not pass, an appropriation of \$200,000 to establish the SLI was included in the *General Appropriation Act of 2009*. With additional funding from the Wallace Foundation, the leadership institute was established (housed at UNM), and a director was hired.

- Enacted in 2010, SB 85, *School Leadership Institute* (Laws 2010, Chapter 65) adds a new section to the higher education statutes to create the School Leadership Institute, administratively attached to HED. This legislation requires the institute to provide “a comprehensive and cohesive framework for preparing, mentoring and providing professional development for principals and other public school leaders”; and it prescribes the programs that the institute must offer.

Finally, the SLI Executive Committee includes public school superintendents, deans from colleges with education leadership programs, and state agency representatives from PED, HED, and OEA.

Related Bills:

SB 289 *Appropriation to School Leadership Institute*