

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 86

51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014

Tracking Number: .195225.1

Short Title: School Enrichment Programs

Sponsor(s): Representative Christine Trujillo

Analyst: Travis Dulany

Date: January 30, 2014

Bill Summary:

HB 86 makes an appropriation for after-school and summer programs that provide expanded academic and enrichment learning opportunities for public school students and requires the Public Education Department (PED) to establish criteria to prioritize awards to programs that:

- are aligned with educational plans for student success and the Common Core State Standards;
- provide academic enrichment;
- help students meet state standards in core academic subjects;
- increase opportunities for physical activity and improve student nutrition; and
- collaborate with and leverage existing community partnerships and resources that have demonstrated effectiveness.

HB 86 further specifies that a portion of each award, as determined by PED, is to be used to:

- support professional development for after-school and summer program staff; and
- support an evaluation process focused on student outcomes and family satisfaction.

Fiscal Impact:

\$2.0 million is appropriated from the General Fund to PED for expenditure in FY 15 and FY 16. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 16 shall revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

According to PED, after-school funds in New Mexico are provided through a federal 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) grant from the US Department of Education. PED reports that the funding provides awards for school year 2013-2014 for 22 sites; however, funding is not adequate to fulfill all the applications that the department received for after-school programs in the first and second funding cycles (see “Background,” below).

PED also notes that the Legislature provided state funding for after-school enrichment in FY 08, FY 09, FY 10, and FY 11. In FY 08, \$2.0 million was appropriated for after-school programs,

with the amount decreasing each succeeding fiscal year to \$144,000 in FY 11. PED reports that state funding for after-school enrichment was eliminated in FY 12.

Finally, according to PED, after-school programs, as funded through both federal and state funds in previous years, require \$50,000 per program. Therefore, if enacted, HB 86 could potentially add up to 40 funded sites for after-school enrichment programs depending on the programs' capacity and students served.

Substantive Issues:

According to PED:

- quality after-school programs may produce connections with individuals or activities that are healthy and supportive of positive growth and development of life skills;
- those who attend programs that emphasize healthy relationship and behaviors are less likely to engage in risk-related relationships and behaviors;
- teenagers who do not participate in after-school programs are nearly three times more likely to skip classes than teenagers who do participate in the programs;
- after-school programs could promote relationships with supportive adults as well as positive peer-bonding opportunities within the school;
- after-school programs can serve as an important resource for families, especially those with working parents, and provide parents with assurance that their children are being supervised in an educational environment (see "Background," below);
- according to the US Department of Justice, violent crimes by juveniles occur most frequently in the hours immediately following the close of school on school days, and after-school programs may reduce juvenile crime by keeping kids safe and occupied between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on school days; and
- the department, in conjunction with the New Mexico Afterschool Alliance, hosts an annual Fall Into Place Afterschool Conference that provides professional development and technical assistance on the implementation of quality after-school programming.

Background:

Since at least 2003, the Legislature has funded multiple public school initiatives under the broad category of "extended learning opportunities." Appropriations totaling approximately \$21.4 million, including appropriations to PED and sometimes other state agencies, have supported after-school initiatives statewide. Testimony to the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) during the 2013 interim focused on the variety of federal funds that complement these state-level appropriations.

During the August 2013 meeting of the LESL, the superintendent from Chama Valley Independent Schools reported concerns about the district's after-school program. He explained that many families have relocated to Chama in order to provide their children with an education in a community that supports and cares about its students, but many of the parents are employed outside of Chama and travel as far as Santa Fe and Los Alamos on a daily basis. For many years, the Chama superintendent testified, the district had been able to provide after-school programs for these students by applying for, and directly receiving, federal 21st Century grant funds; however, these funds now flow directly to PED. He reported that the district recently applied to PED for continued funding; however, the district's application was denied. In an effort to

continue after-school programs, the district redirected federal Title I funds to support these programs. He emphasized, however, that Title I program initiatives would have to be reduced, and the superintendent recommended that the Legislature consider providing an appropriation to support after-school programs statewide in future years.

Also during the 2013 interim, LESC staff and representatives from PED discussed two of the largest sources of federal funding for after-school programs – the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) and the 21st CCLC – further explained below:

- Authorized by the *Child Care and Development Block Grant Act* and the *Social Security Act*, the CCDF assists low-income families in obtaining child-care so they can work or attend training and/or education; and it seeks to improve the quality of child-care and promote coordination among early childhood development and after-school programs. For federal FY 13, New Mexico was awarded nearly \$40.0 million from the CCDF.
- Authorized under Title IV, Part B, of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*, as amended by the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, the 21st CCLC seeks to:
 - create community learning centers that provide academic enrichment opportunities for children, particularly students who attend high-poverty and low-performing schools;
 - meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects;
 - offer students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and
 - offer literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children.

Among other points from PED testimony:

- in New Mexico, the 21st CCLC program is the only federal funding source exclusively dedicated to before-school, after-school, and summer-learning programs;
- of nearly 160,000 eligible children in New Mexico, just over 8,700 attend a 21st CCLC program due to a lack of federal funding;
- of the 65 applications for 21st CCLC funding (32 in the first round and 33 in the second), PED awarded grants to 22 programs; and
- the applications for 21st CCLC funding were scored on nine categories by an evaluation committee comprising 15 individuals, and evaluations were based on a 1,000 point rubric and the A-F school grading system.

LESC staff also identified other federal programs that can complement state-level appropriations for after-school programs – among them Title I, the Social Services Block Grant, Impact Aid, nutrition assistance programs administered by the US Department of Agriculture, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families. Also available is foundation funding, such as the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation’s Pathways Out of Poverty program, which supports initiatives that promote learning beyond the classroom, especially for traditionally underserved children and youth as a strategy for improving public education. From this foundation, PED has received two grants for \$225,000 each to support the advancement of the New Mexico Statewide After School Network – one grant for the period from October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013; and the other for October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2016.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

HB 3 *Education Appropriation Act*

HB 21 *After-school Club Teacher Development*

SJM 11 *Vision for High-Quality Education in NM*