

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SB 173

**52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015**

**Tracking Number:** .197882.1

**Short Title:** Grades 4-10 Web-Based Math Program

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Carlos R. Cisneros and Representative Roberto “Bobby” Gonzales

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** February 12, 2015

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**Bill Summary:**

SB 173 makes an appropriation to contract for a research-based, interactive, web-based program to address the proven drop in student mathematics performance between the fourth and tenth grades that:

- provides game-based technology solutions;
- includes an adaptive software solution to address student ability levels;
- provides an opportunity for teacher development and curriculum sharing; and
- includes story-based components to enhance student recall.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$400,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY 16. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

**Background:**

The bill provisions may be referencing the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) 2013 State Snapshot Report on New Mexico fourth and eighth grade students in mathematics indicating that:

- the percentage of fourth grade students who performed at or above NAEP proficient level was 31 percent; and
- the percentage of eighth grade students who performed at or above NAEP proficient level was 23 percent.

***NAEP Design and Administration***

The National Assessment Governing Board (NAGB) is a bipartisan 26-member board created by Congress in 1988 and appointed by the US Secretary of Education that independently sets policy for NAEP and develops assessment frameworks and test specifications for the test.

***Target Population and Sample Size***

- According to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), NAEP is designed to test representative samples of students from each state in each subject area, rather than

the entire population of students in a state or the nation. For the math assessments, students in each state are selected to take the test, by a statistical process designed to achieve a random but representative sample of state's students. According to NCES, in 2013, the following students took the math NAEP test:

- fourth grade: 3,700 students in 150 schools; and
  - eighth grade: 3,400 students in 120 schools.
- Participation in NAEP is voluntary for students, schools, and school districts, but not for a state that wishes to continue receiving Title I funds. Therefore, if a sufficient percentage of students from a participating school do not take the test, those results may not be accepted and a new school may be substituted.

***Students with disabilities and English language learners***

- NCES states that NAEP endeavors to assess all students selected in a sample, including those with disabilities and English language learners. The decision to exclude a student from the test is made by school staff or the parent.
- NAEP allows some testing accommodations; but they may not be the accommodations specified in a student's individual learning program. Accommodations for English language learners do not include reading tests in any language other than English.

**Committee Referrals:**

SEC/SFC

**Related Bills:**

None as of February 12, 2015.