

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 95

52nd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2016

Tracking Number: .202959.1

Short Title: Las Cruces School ENLACE Partnership Program

Sponsor(s): Senator William P. Soules

Analyst: Heidi L. Macdonald

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Bill Summary:

SB 95 appropriates \$110,000 from the General Fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY17 for Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) to support the Engaging Latino Communities for Education (ENLACE) partnership program.

Fiscal Impact:

The bill appropriates \$110,000 from the General Fund to PED for expenditure in FY17. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY17 shall revert to the General Fund.

The FY16 appropriation to the Higher Education Department (HED) includes \$1,001,300 to fund postsecondary institutions' ENLACE programs. The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) and executive recommended flat funding for this program for FY17.

Substantive Issues:

At LCPS, the ENLACE program has operated at Mayfield High School and Las Cruces High School since 2000, and next school year, the program will be implemented at Centennial High School and Oñate High School. LCPS hopes ENLACE will become a part of the curriculum at additional high schools in the school district as well. ENLACE allows students to conduct and present research projects at conferences, and participate in school and community activities. The program also offers opportunities for schools to meet the needs of multi-cultural, multi-lingual, and low-income students in the classroom and to narrow the achievement gap, and increase graduation and transition rates into higher education.

HED supports several programs that increase opportunities for college preparation, access, retention, and graduation, one of which is ENLACE. ENLACE works to increase student success in middle and high school, reduce dropout rates, encourage participants to take more Advanced Placement courses, increase achievement in academic areas such as math and science, increase overall GPA and graduation rates, assist students in successfully entering college, and track students from high school into college and the workforce. Public colleges and universities throughout the state that participate in ENLACE include Santa Fe Community College (SFCC), University of New Mexico (UNM), New Mexico State University (NMSU), Clovis Community College, and San Juan College (SJC). ENLACE activities in New Mexico include culturally

relevant activities to increase literacy, parental involvement, peer mentoring, partnerships, college awareness, access, retention, and success. ENLACE also provides student leadership development, academic intervention in schools, and summer “Bridge” programs.

Background:

ENLACE was created as a pilot project in 1999 by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to increase access and success in education. New Mexico was awarded funding to support three original sites based at NMSU, SFCC, and UNM. Additional funding was provided in 2001 to eventually expand ENLACE New Mexico to five regions leading to additional partnerships with Clovis Community College, Eastern New Mexico University, New Mexico Highlands University, Northern New Mexico College, and SJC. The ENLACE Statewide Collaborative focuses on student access and success, family and community engagement, leadership and professional development, and policy development. ENLACE provides coaching, mentoring, and tutoring to increase retention and to promote graduation at elementary, middle, and high schools. ENLACE is also involved in a variety of student success initiatives to increase retention and to promote graduation in higher education. Additionally, there is an ENLACE legislative internship, an ENLACE Ambassador Program, and a variety of other collaborative leadership and professional development initiatives involving students, families, and community leaders.

Hispanic Student Achievement Data

The 2013-2014 Hispanic Education Status Report (HESR) provides student achievement data and related statistics for Hispanic students statewide, including academic proficiency rates, attendance rates, graduation rates, bilingual and multicultural program information by type and number, and postsecondary enrollment and completion rates.

On average, across the state of New Mexico in the 2013-2014 school year, academic proficiency rates for Hispanic students lagged behind those of non-Hispanic students. For example, in reading, 44.5 percent of Hispanic students were proficient while 55.9 percent of non-Hispanic students were proficient. In math, 35.8 percent of Hispanic students were proficient while 48.5 percent of non-Hispanic students were proficient. With regard to four-year graduation rates, in 2013, Hispanic students graduated at a rate of 67.9 percent compared to 70.3 percent for all students.