

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 135

52nd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2016

Tracking Number: .202636.2

Short Title: Arts Education Standards

Sponsor(s): Senator Cisco McSorley

Analyst: Robin Shaya

Date: January 26, 2016

Bill Summary:

The bill amends section 22-2C-3 NMSA 1978 of the *Public School Code* to require PED to adopt academic content standards in arts for first through 12th grade students. Specifically, the bill requires standards in dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts that are based on nationally recognized standards.

Fiscal Impact:

The bill does not include an appropriation. The fiscal impact to school districts and charter schools is unclear; if new content standards adopted by PED require different arts programming, professional development, or other supports than are currently offered by public schools, the bill could negatively impact school district and charter school budgets.

At a Glance:

- Current law only requires PED to adopt academic content and performance standards for mathematics, reading and language arts, science, and social studies, but the department may choose to adopt standards in other subject areas.
- PED has adopted standards for arts education, but those standards have not been updated since 2009, and it is unclear whether they still reflect nationally recognized standards.
- Academic content and performance standards need to be academically challenging to meet or exceed any applicable federal requirements.

Substantive Issues:

While the bill does not specifically require PED to adopt a specific set of art standards, PED must adopt standards that are nationally recognized. The National Core Arts Standards (NCAS) were developed by the National Coalition for CORE ARTS Standards (NCCAS), a consortium of public school arts teachers and administrators, representatives from state departments of education, university arts educators, and public and professional arts organizations.

The NCAS are designed to improve the teaching and learning of the arts in America's schools, thereby improving the education of all students. To accomplish this goal, the standards have been written mindful of the realities faced by urban, suburban, and rural school districts. Key

among those realities is increased attention to accountability for instruction and achievement and how the arts contribute to the habits of thought and skills needed by students in the 21st Century for success in school and beyond.

Related Bills:

None as of January 26, 2016.