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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
53rd Legislature, 1st Session, 2017

Bill Number	<u>*SB32</u>	Sponsor	<u>Kernan</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.204673.3</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SEC/SFC;HEC/HAFC</u>
Short Title	<u>K-3 Plus Eligibility</u>		
Analyst	<u>McCorquodale</u>	Original Date	<u>1/27/17</u>
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FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

*Senate Bill 32 (*SB32) amends the Public School Code to allow students in grade-specific schools that feed into K-3 Plus-eligible schools and participating schools to apply for a K-3 Plus program. The bill also adds new language requiring the Public Education Department (PED) to prioritize funding to school districts and charter schools that participate in K-3 Plus maintain the same teacher and student cohort for the school year. In addition, the bill repeals Section 22-2-20 NMSA 1978, which established the Kindergarten Plus Pilot Project, which converted into K-3 Plus in 2012.

The bill includes an emergency clause.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill does not carry an appropriation but would expand K-3 Plus funding opportunities for public schools not previously eligible for an award within the annual appropriation. The House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bill 2 includes \$23.7 million for K-3 Plus in FY18. According to initial FY17 awards, K-3 Plus served 18,949 students in 272 schools in 51 school districts and seven charter schools representing 18 percent of the total student population of 104,743 in kindergarten through third grade.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

*SB32 would allow all students in a feeder pattern to participate so long as one school in the feeder pattern is eligible and participating in a K-3 Plus program. A feeder pattern refers to those school districts with separate kindergarten or kindergarten and first grade schools that feed students into an elementary school. Currently, there are 13 school districts in New Mexico with schools that may be eligible for K-3 Plus funding (see **Table 1**, page 2).

Table 1 New Mexico School Districts with Grade Specific Schools

School District	Grades	Schools with A Specific Grade
Artesia Public Schools	Kindergarten	Grand Heights Early Childhood
Bloomfield Schools	Kindergarten and First through Third Grade	Bloomfield Family Learning Center and Central Primary
Carlsbad	Kindergarten	Early Childhood Center
Espanola Public Schools	Kindergarten	Dixon Elementary and Los Ninos Elementary
Estancia Municipal Schools	Kindergarten and First Grade	Estancia Lower Elementary and Van Stone Elementary
Hatch Valley Public Schools	Third through Fifth Grade	Rio Grande Elementary
Hobbs	Kindergarten	Booker T Washington Elementary
Las Vegas Public Schools	Kindergarten	Las Vegas City Early Childhood
Lovington Municipal Schools	First, Second and Third Grade	Lea Elementary, Ben Alexander Elementary, and Jefferson Elementary
Mora Independent Schools	Kindergarten	Holman Elementary
Portales	Kindergarten and Third through Fourth	Brown Early Childhood Center and Valencia Elementary
Raton Public Schools	Kindergarten through Second Grade	Longfellow Elementary
Ruidoso	Kindergarten	Nob Hill Early Childhood Center

Source: LESC

The K-3 Plus program provides 25 extra school days for high-needs students to get a jump-start on the year’s curriculum. K-3 Plus is designed to increase quality instructional time that includes interventions using the state’s response to intervention framework (RTI). To have curriculum continuity, students should remain with the same teacher and student cohort for the rest of the school year for the state to realize improved student achievement gains. This has not always been possible for varying reasons including availability of teachers and this may have impacted gains made by students in the program. Because of this, new language in the bill requires PED to prioritize funding to school districts and charter schools that participate in K-3 Plus and maintain the same teacher and student cohort for the school year.

Research-Based Support for K-3 Plus

Utah State University (USU) received funding through the federal Investing in Innovation Fund grant program administered by the U.S. Department of Education (ED) to evaluate the effectiveness of New Mexico’s K-3 Plus program. The study is referred to as the Start Smart K-3 Plus Project and was designed as a randomized controlled trial because comparing students from K-3 Plus-eligible schools with non K-3 Plus eligible schools would result in selection bias due to different percentages of English learners (ELs), free- and reduced-priced lunch (FRL) students; and parent and student motivation.

Dr. Damon Cann, Project Co-investigator and Statistical Lead for USU summarized three key takeaways from the study: (1) when controlling for selection bias, K-3 Plus has clear achievement boosting prospects; (2) these gains are not maintained through the school year for all students, but appear to be maintained for some students; and (3) continued research and evaluation of the program can help determine whether adjustments to the program like maintaining the same teacher through the end of the year and addressing language development can improve effectiveness.

CONSEQUENCE OF NOT ENACTING THE BILL

Students in 13 school districts in New Mexico may miss the opportunity to make gains in their academic proficiency in an extended school year program.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files

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