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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
53rd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2018

Bill Number	<u>HM42</u>	Sponsor	<u>Garcia Richard</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.209631.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>HEC</u>
Short Title	<u>Wellness Education Task Force</u>		
Analyst	<u>Force</u>	Original Date	<u>2/13/18</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Memorial 42 (HM42) requests the Public Education Department (PED) to convene a wellness education task force to study the feasibility of increased funding for student and educational staff well-being. HM42 goes on to request the task force study potential changes to PED rule pertaining to school district wellness policies that could facilitate a well-rounded education for students, as well as to review possible changes to law pertaining to the funding of school district wellness policies. The task force is to include representatives from the governor's office, PED, the New Mexico School Boards Association, and the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC). The task force is to report findings and recommendations to LESC and the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) by October 1, 2018.

FISCAL IMPACT

Legislative memorials do not carry appropriations.

PED indicates an indeterminate cost associated with the convention and facilitation of the task force. PED also notes school districts and state-chartered charter schools receive federal funding to support nutrition and nutrition education through the U.S. Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs. School districts and state-chartered charter schools are eligible to apply for federal funding to support nutrition education, physical activity, school safety, and health education through the U.S. Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Center grants, and have been eligible, in previous years, to apply for state legislative funds for Afterschool and Summer Enrichment Programs that support student well-being. School districts and state-chartered charter schools also receive funding through the state equalization guarantee (SEG) to support health education, health services, and physical education. The Human Services Division Medicaid in the Schools Program further supports the provision of health services.

PED notes there is no available funding at either the state or federal level to support staff wellness in schools.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

PED indicates it has developed and implemented a “Wellness Policy Guidance Document Manual” and “Guide to District/Charter Rubric.” In conjunction with the Department of Health (DOH), it has also developed a Wellness Policy Action Plan and a Wellness Policy Assessment Plan in order to assist school districts and state-chartered charter schools in complying with Part 6 of 6.12 NMAC (School District Wellness Policy), which requires schools to submit their wellness plans to PED every three years for review and approval. PED collaborates with DOH on regional and statewide training for the implementation of a wellness policy that supports nutrition education, physical activity and education, health education, behavioral health, school safety, health services, and staff wellness, and professional development. PED’s guidance is aligned with the federal Health, Hunger-Free Kids Act, and the Richard B. Russel National School Lunch Act.

Despite current efforts on student wellness, according the 2015 New Mexico Youth, Risk, and Resiliency Survey (YRRS), New Mexico youth are on par with or doing worse than United States youth as a whole on a host of health and wellness issues, including: depression; suicidal ideation and attempts; tobacco, drug, and alcohol use; sexual activity; nutrition and diet; physical activity; obesity; asthma; and dental health.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED, noting its collaboration with DOH to provide school wellness-related trainings, indicates the requirements of HM42 may be duplicative of recent and current efforts by two state agencies to address the same issue.

RELATED BILLS

HB62, NM-Grown Produce in School Meals, which appropriates \$600 thousand for purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables grown in New Mexico for school districts, charter schools, and juvenile detention centers.

HJM4, Study Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax, which requests LFC to conduct a study of the potential benefits to revenue and public health of a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages.

SB106, NM-Grown Produce in School Meals, which duplicates HB62.

SJM6, Study Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax, which duplicates HJM4.

SM82, Study Minimum Recess Requirements, which requests LESC and PED to study minimum appropriate recess times requirements for public school elementary school-aged children.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- LFC
- PED

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