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**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**BILL ANALYSIS**  
**54th Legislature, 1st Session, 2019**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<u>HB71</u>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Thomson</u>
<b>Tracking Number</b>	<u>.211394.1</u>	<b>Committee Referrals</b>	<u>HHHC/HAFC</u>
<b>Short Title</b>	<u>School-Based Health Center Funding</u>		
<b>Analyst</b>	<u>Terrazas</u>	<b>Original Date</b>	<u>1/23/19</u>
		<b>Last Updated</b>	<u>2/25/19</u>

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## **BILL SUMMARY**

### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 71 (HB71) would appropriate \$3.5 million to the Department of Health (DOH) to fund school-based health centers.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill appropriates \$3.5 million from the general fund to DOH for expenditure in FY20. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bill 2 appropriates \$1.5 million for school-based health centers.

According to the Human Services Department (HSD), depending on its use, the appropriation may be eligible for federal Medicaid matching funds at a rate of 50 percent federal financial participation. The department currently leverages about \$2 million federal financial participation for school-based health centers from the DOH general fund appropriation. Funds can be matched with Medicaid federal financial participation to the extent they are being used to support the Medicaid program or Medicaid-eligible beneficiaries, such as increases access to care.

According to DOH, an additional FTE would be required to assist with additional administrative requirements, including contracting, invoicing, and site visitation, and training needs for new school-based health center operations. The department estimates the additional work would require 0.5 FTE for a financial specialist and 0.5 FTE for a nurse, or a total of approximately \$54,515 in additional salaries and benefits recurring annually to support this activity.

## **SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

School-based health centers are comprehensive primary healthcare centers located in elementary, middle, and high schools that provide physical, behavioral, and, in some cases, oral healthcare

services. Most school-based health centers are targeted to students in low-income communities. According to the New Mexico Alliance for School-Based Health Care, a nonprofit advocacy organization that supports school-based health centers in New Mexico, there are 73 school-based health centers serving students in all grade levels. Of those 73 school-based health centers, DOH funds 48, the majority of which serve high school students (see Attachment). DOH indicates school-based health centers funded by the department during the 2017-2018 school year received 56,566 visits, serving 18,609 patients. Of those visits, 61 percent were for primary care, including well-child exams, sports physicals, illness and injury, and reproductive health; 35 percent were for behavioral health; and four percent were for oral health. Of those school-based health centers, 32 were open three days or fewer a week and 13 offered services during the summer.

A 2016 systematic review by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found school-based health centers improve educational and health outcomes and that the benefit of school-based health centers exceed cost. Studies showed school-based health center operation cost ranged from \$16,300 to \$659,684. Benefits included healthcare cost averted, such as averted cost associated with hospitalization and unintended pregnancy, and productivity and other loss averted, such as averted cost associated with travel cost and school time.

According to the New Mexico Alliance for School-Based Health Care, the average operating cost for a school-based health center operating two to three days a week is \$160 thousand per year. The New Mexico Alliance for School-Based Health Care also indicates every dollar spent on school-based health centers returns \$7.01 to New Mexico.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

DOH indicates the appropriation carried in the bill could potentially double the number of school-based health centers the department would oversee, which would increase the department's administrative burden.

## **OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The primary care capital fund, created through the Primary Care Capital Funding Act, maintains an account for appropriations, loan repayments, gifts, grants, donations, and interest earned on investment of the account for loans to school-based health centers. Money in the fund does not revert at the end of the fiscal year. A school-based health center is eligible to receive a loan or contract for services for a capital project under the Primary Care Capital Funding Act if it operates in a public school district and meets DOH requirements or if it is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- LESC Files
- Department of Health (DOH)
- Human Services Department (HSD)

**DT/mc/mhg**

**School-Based Health Centers Funded by the New Mexico Department of Health**

	<b>City</b>	<b>School or School District</b>
1	Albuquerque	East San Jose Elementary School
2	Albuquerque	Emerson Elementary School
3	Albuquerque	Albuquerque High School
4	Albuquerque	Highland High School
5	Albuquerque	Manzano High School
6	Albuquerque	RFK Charter High School
7	Albuquerque	Native American Community Academy
8	Albuquerque	Grant Middle School
9	Albuquerque	Van Buren Middle School
10	Albuquerque	Washington Middle School
11	Albuquerque	Wilson Middle School
12	Anthony	Gadsden High School
13	Bayard	Cobre High School
14	Bernalillo	Bernalillo High School
15	Carlsbad	Carlsbad High School
16	Chaparral	Chaparral High School
17	Cuba	Cuba Independent Schools
18	Española	Española Valley High School
19	Española	Carlos Vigil Middle School
20	Fort Sumner	Fort Sumner Municipal Schools
21	Gallup	Gallup McKinley High School
22	Las Cruces	Centennial High School
23	Las Cruces	Rio Grande Preparatory Institute
24	Las Vegas	Sierra Vista Elementary School
25	Las Vegas	Robertson High School
26	Las Vegas	West Las Vegas Middle School and West Las Vegas High School
27	Lordsburg	Lordsburg High School
28	Mescalero	Mescalero Apache Schools
29	Mora	Mora Independent School District
30	Peñasco	Peñasco Independent School District
31	Pojoaque	Pojoaque High School
32	Pojoaque	Pojoaque Middle School
33	Quemado	Quemado School District #2
34	Raton	Raton High School
35	Roswell	Goddard High School
36	Roswell	Roswell High School
37	Roswell	Mesa Middle School
38	Ruidoso	Ruidoso High School
39	San Jon	San Jon Municipal Schools
40	Santa Fe	Capital High School
41	Santa Fe	Santa Fe High School
42	Santa Rosa	Santa Rosa High School

	City	School
43	Santa Teresa	Santa Teresa High School
44	Silver City	Silver High School
45	Socorro	Socorro High School
46	Taos	Taos High School
47	Taos	Taos Middle School

Source: New Mexico Alliance for School-Based Health Care