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

Bill Number	<u>HB79</u>	Sponsor	<u>Gonzales</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.211291.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>HEC/H AFC</u>
Short Title	<u>Community Schools Act Implementation</u>		
Analyst	<u>Terrazas</u>	Original Date	<u>1/25/19</u>
		Last Updated	<u>2/26/19</u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 79 (HB79) would appropriate \$400 thousand to the Public Education Department (PED) to implement the Community Schools Act.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill appropriates \$400 thousand from the general fund to PED for expenditure in FY20. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

While the House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bill 2 (HB2/HAFCS) does not appropriate funds specifically for community school support, the bill appropriates funds for strategies associated with the community school model, including \$62.5 million for extended learning time, \$2.7 million for extended learning time transportation, \$1.5 million for school-based health centers, \$1.45 million for parent and family engagement, and nonrecurring \$40 million for *Martinez* and *Yazzie* lawsuits compliance initiatives. In addition, House Bill 5 includes community schools as an allowable use of at-risk funding and HB2/HAFCS includes an additional \$113.2 million in at-risk funding.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Under New Mexico's Community Schools Act, a community school initiative may be created in any public school in the state and must adhere to a core set of strategies meant to improve student outcomes. The Community Schools Act allows a school district, a group of public schools, or a public school to apply to PED for grants to implement a community school initiative. However, since the bill's enactment, the Legislature has not appropriated funds to specifically support the Community Schools Act and PED has not used its Title I set-aside funds for low-performing schools or multiple special appropriations to award grants pursuant to the Act.

The Coalition for Community Schools defines a community school as a place and a set of partnerships between the school and community resources with an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement. Community schools are a place-based strategy in which schools partner with local public and private agencies to address issues that reflect students’ needs and priorities. The community school model combines integrated student supports, extended learning time and opportunities, family and community engagement, and collaborative leadership and practice.

In New Mexico, there are 39 community schools across three school districts working with three lead partner agencies responsible for overseeing and supporting the implementation of community schools. There are 28 community schools in Albuquerque Public Schools partnered with the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Community School Partnership, one community school in Las Cruces Public Schools partnered with the Las Cruces Partnership for Community Schools, and 10 community schools in Santa Fe Public Schools partnered with Communities in Schools of New Mexico.

A 2018 Legislative Finance Committee report, *Results First: Education Interventions*, found community schools can increase academic achievement, improve student attendance, and reduce disparities in achievement. After completing a systematic review of 143 community school research studies, the Learning Policy Institute, a national education research organization, found there is enough evidence to support the community school approach as an evidence-based intervention under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

The U.S. Department of Education provides grants through the Full-Service Community Schools Program for local educational agencies to implement full-service community schools, which provide comprehensive academic, social, and health services for students, students’ family members, and community members that will result in improved educational outcomes for children. Grants are awarded to provide assistance to full-service community schools to improve the coordination and integration, accessibility, and effectiveness of services for children and families.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED indicates the department would need to develop a process for allocating the funds appropriated in HB79 and for monitoring the expenditures and program.

RELATED BILLS

HB134, Pre-K in Community Schools Act, adds early childhood education and voluntary prekindergarten as essential components of a community school initiative and allows federal Title I funds to be used to invest in community schools statewide.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Public Education Department (PED)

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