

LESC bill analyses are available on the New Mexico Legislature website ([www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov)). Bill analyses are prepared by LESC staff for standing education committees of the New Mexico Legislature. LESC does not assume any responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

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

<b>Bill Number</b>	<u>SB194</u>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Cisneros</u>
<b>Tracking Number</b>	<u>.212182.1</u>	<b>Committee Referrals</b>	<u>SEC/SFC</u>
<b>Short Title</b>	<u>School Media Literacy Program</u>		
<b>Analyst</b>	<u>Force</u>	<b>Original Date</b>	<u>1/30/19</u>
		<b>Last Updated</b>	<u></u>

---

---

**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 194 (SB194) appropriates \$400 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY20 for a media literacy program for public school teachers for the 2019-2020 school year. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

SB194 appropriates \$400 thousand from the general fund to PED.

**SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

Media literacy has become an essential 21<sup>st</sup> Century skill; students must not only be able to navigate through the myriad media offerings and platforms to which they are exposed every day, but they must also be able to make critical judgements about content. The term “fake news” is heard daily. Online scams, “clickbait,” personal information security, and the necessity of accomplishing online tasks and executing digital forms have become everyday issues that all media consumers must address in order to become better “digital citizens.” According to the Center for Media Literacy (CML), fundamental skills for being media literate include being able to distinguish fact from opinion, being able to conduct close analysis and deep deconstruction of media messages, skills for filtering information and for lifelong learning.

CML notes media literacy connections to all curricular levels have been identified for state educational standards and the Common Core State Standards recognize the importance of multimedia instruction. Media literacy addresses methods of accessing, understanding, manipulating, and using digital platforms and information.

PED notes media experts have identified several ways teachers can help students, such as evaluation of sources and their credibility, teaching students how to draw strong conclusions, and pushing students to greater creativity. Acknowledging that, while professional development for

public education teachers may be funded through local initiatives, PED notes that scheme would likely result in a lack of uniformity throughout the state. The department recommends Common Sense Education as a classroom program that provides training for teachers, parents, administrators, and students. Employing Common Sense Education would also avoid PED having to create a program internally. The Common Sense Website includes monthly professional development webinars, expert advice, case studies and a video library.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) notes PED has various methods of media literacy, and DoIT may be asked to provide PED with technical assistance.

### **RELATED BILLS**

HB400, School Media Literacy Advisory Committee, which creates the Media Literacy Advisory Committee to advise PED on issues of medial literacy in school.

SB103, Digital Training and Education Programs, which appropriates \$650 thousand from the general fund to PED for expenditure in FY20 for digital media education and training programs statewide.

### **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- LESC files
- Public Education Department (PED)
- Department of Information Technology (DoIT)

**RKF/sgs**