



**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATION BUDGET (dollars in thousands)**

	<b>FY24</b>	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>	0	0	0	0	Non-recurring	

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

**SECTION III: NARRATIVE BILL SUMMARY**

House Memorial 11 is requesting the Public Education Department to convene a work group to study ways to assist school districts and charter schools with strategies to reduce absenteeism in public schools.

The work group will be looking at identifying barriers to attendance and root causes to attendance and absenteeism and looking at providing recommendations for implementation with the results from the study.

The task force would study the results of literature searches on best practices and innovative local-level approaches to identifying barriers to student attendance and root causes of student chronic absenteeism in public schools; gather and analyze statewide absence-related data as collected and reported pursuant to the Attendance for Success Act; gather and analyze data and comments from education stakeholders, including school personnel, students, parents and other family members and local community and civic organizations in various communities statewide; and based upon the research, data collected analyzed and input from education stakeholders, identify and recommend strategies to reduce absenteeism. The strategies should focus on helping school districts and charter schools develop and implement at a local level a range of approaches for identifying, sometimes on a case-by-case basis, student barriers to attendance and root causes of chronic absenteeism, as well as suitable corrective or mitigating measures.

The HM also requires PED to submit a report summarizing best practices for identifying barriers to attendance and root causes of chronic absenteeism found through the work group's research; make recommendations for a uniform and consistent approach for the implementation of strategies to address absenteeism at a local school and community level; recommendations and suggested tools to assist schools in identifying root causes of student absenteeism on a local school level and, when practicable, on a case-by-case basis; recommendations on ways to enhance the abilities of schools acting together with students, parents, family members and local communities to address barriers to school attendance, including root causes, in an approach that reduces chronic absenteeism in a meaningful way; and any other findings or recommendations of the work group.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is currently no fiscal impact for CYFD as CYFD is not listed as a member of the task force.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

New Mexico's public schools have been experiencing an increased rate of absenteeism, including an increase in chronically absent students. According to PED data, there is an alarming 40% chronic absenteeism rate for the 22-23 school year. Although, the memorial does not indicate that CYFD be an agency assigned to this task force, it should be noted that CYFD could assist and can provide staff to assist. CYFD could likely provide helpful data to the work group related to the juvenile justice and protective services-related implications of school absenteeism. The Juvenile Justice Probation Offices, handle students reaching tier 4 under the Students for Success Act. For the first five months of this fiscal year, approximately 250 such referrals have been received by the Juvenile Probation Offices in the Districts where the child has been chronically absent. CYFD's Juvenile Justice division is working with the schools and students in an attempt to correct school attendance behavior and could provide insight into the root causes of chronic absenteeism.

#### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

CYFD is not part of the task force and, accordingly, cannot assess what potential impact the HM will have on the Department's performance. However, based on CYFD's own analysis of chronic absenteeism, further studies will reveal that more families need the support and services that will be offered by CYFD's Family Services division.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Appropriate CYFD staff can be and should be assigned to this work group to assist in this effort.

#### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

None

#### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

#### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

None.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

None identified.

#### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Status quo.

#### **AMENDMENTS**

None.