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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
56th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2024

Bill Number	<u>SB209</u>	Sponsor	<u>Soules</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.227532.3</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SCC/SEC/SFC</u>
Short Title	<u>Las Cruces School Services</u>		
Analyst	<u>Davalos</u>	Original Date	<u>1/30/2024</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 209 (SB209) requests \$4.26 million for the Las Cruces Public School District to connect individuals and families to 10 vital services through a one-stop shop to improve access to services and reduce adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). The one-stop would provide the following:

- Parenting support from birth through young adulthood;
- Training for the future workforce in trauma and maltreatment; and
- Developing cooperative protocols among state agencies and other organizations to improve access to services and reduce ACEs.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill appropriates \$4.26 million from the general fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY25 through FY28. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY28 shall revert to the general fund.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). ACEs are defined as 10 potentially traumatic experiences that fall into the categories of abuse, neglect, and other household challenges that occur before a child reaches their 18th birthday. [A hallmark 1998 study](#) revealed the connection between four or more ACEs and an increased risk of unhealthy behavior, such as smoking cigarettes, and disease. In the United States, ACEs are unfortunately common. [Nationally, more than half of adults have reported one ACE, and 13 percent of adults have reported four or more ACEs.](#) In New Mexico, the prevalence of children with one or more ACEs significantly outpaces the nation, as data from [the Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative](#) shows 49 percent of children in New Mexico have at least one ACE compared with 39.8 percent of children nationally. However, survivors of trauma can recover, and [research suggests](#) early interventions like those proposed in SB209 can mitigate long-term consequences of trauma.

New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department notes that research shows that efforts to prevent early childhood adversity may be more successful by increasing public and professional understanding of the connection between early childhood adversity and poverty, including structural barriers that minimize the likelihood of moving out of poverty.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department (ECECD)

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