

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 542a

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .192892.1

Short Title: Community Schools Act

Sponsor(s): Representatives Rick S. Miera and Antonio “Moe” Maestas

Analyst: James Ball

Date: March 13, 2013

AS AMENDED

The Senate Floor amendment requires that a school district bear any administrative costs associated with the establishment and implementation of a community school within a district.

Original Bill Summary:

HB 542, known as the *Community Schools Act* (CSA), is intended to:

- provide a strategy to organize the resources of a community to ensure student success while addressing the needs of the whole student;
- encourage partnerships between federal, state, and local entities with private community-based organizations to improve the coordination, delivery, effectiveness, and efficiency of services provided to children and families; and
- coordinate resources, in order to align and leverage community resources and integrate funding streams.

Among its other provisions, HB 542:

- establishes requirements for the creation of community schools;
- identifies specific strategies that must be provided at community schools;
- sets forth eligibility criteria for community schools to seek grants; and
- specifies how funds from whatever source may be used by community schools.

Fiscal Impact:

HB 542 does not contain an appropriation.

Substantive Issues:

According to the Department of Health (DOH), a community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and other community resources. In order to improve student learning, support stronger families, and build healthier communities, a community school provides an integrated focus on:

- academics;
- health;
- social services;
- youth and community development; and
- community engagement.

As these partnerships grow, non-academic barriers to learning success are decreased and school performance is enhanced. Full-service community schools contribute to:

- improved grades and higher test scores;
- improved attendance;
- decreased behavioral and discipline problems;
- reduced dropout rates;
- improved communication between families, schools, and teachers;
- increased parent participation in children’s learning;
- increased emphasis on project-based learning connected to the community; and
- greater resources for schools due to more community partnerships.

DOH further reports that a 2007 study found that the school-based health center (SBHC) component alone can provide prevention as well as early identification and harm-reduction services for the entire community by following the strategies of the coordinated school health program model. A review revealed that students in schools with a SBHC had greater satisfaction with their learning environment and that health promotion interventions used by the SBHC improved health attitudes, behaviors, and overall academic performance.

Background:

According to DOH, there are already several New Mexico schools implementing the community school model. These schools currently provide at least three of the core strategies specified in HB 542:

- extended learning opportunities;
- family and youth engagement and support services; and
- SBHCs that provide comprehensive primary care, behavioral health, and oral health services.

DOH further states that, of all the SBHC visits provided in school year 2011-2012, 61 percent of the students served were minority adolescents.

Committee Referrals:

HEC

Related Bills:

HJM 38 “Community Schools Day”
 SB 179aa Community Schools Act (Identical)