

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 179aa

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .190553.4

Short Title: Community Schools Act

Sponsor(s): Senator Cisco McSorley

Analyst: James Ball

Date: March 6, 2013

AS AMENDED

The Senate Finance Committee amendments require that a school district bear any administrative costs associated with the establishment and implementation of a community school within a district.

(While the Senate Education Committee amendments made SB179a identical to HB 542, the Senate Finance Committee amendments create a difference between the two bills.)

The Senate Education Committee amendments:

- **remove some redundant language and replace terminology related to the three basic components of a community school; and**
- **add language emphasizing the collaborative nature of community schools.**

(The amended language makes SB 179a identical to HB 542.)

Original Bill Summary:

SB 179, known as the *Community Schools Act* (CSA), is enacted 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, including:
 - wide-ranging school-based healthcare;
 - extended learning hours for students; and
 - family engagement and support services; and
- coordinate resources, helping to align and leverage community resources and integrate funding streams.

Among its other provisions, SB 179:

- establishes requirements for the creation of community schools;
- identifies specific services 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:

SB 179 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. It has an integrated focus on academics, health, social services, youth and community development, and community engagement that leads to improved student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities. As these partnerships grow, non-academic barriers to learning success are decreased and school performance is enhanced.

DOH further reports that a 2007 study found that 36 of 49 community schools surveyed reported academic gains since converting to the community school model. In addition, community schools report improvements correlated with supporting academic achievement, including:

- 19 schools showed improved attendance rates;
- 11 had fewer suspensions and discipline problems; and
- 12 reported higher rates of parental involvement.

Background:

According to DOH, there are currently five New Mexico schools implementing the community school model:

- Grant and Wilson middle schools in Albuquerque;
- The Native American Charter Academy;
- Laguna Middle School; and
- Gadsden Middle School.

These schools currently provide three of the core services specified in the CSA:

- before- and after-school programming;
- family and youth engagement; and
- school-based health centers that provide comprehensive primary care, behavioral health, and oral health services.

Of all the school-based health center (SBHC) visits provided, 33 percent were primary care and 37 percent were related to behavioral health. In addition, students received:

- sports physicals;
- immunizations;
- lab tests;

- family planning services; and
- oral healthcare.

Forty-one percent of the students seen were Hispanic, 39 percent Anglo, and 18 percent Native American.

According to the Human Services Department, SBHCs currently serve 61 communities in 30 counties statewide. HSD provides the federal match for the Medicaid certified SBHCs. These services and funding can provide a solid base for the healthcare component of the CSA.

Committee Referrals:

SEC/SFC/HEC/HCPAC

Related Bills:

SB 19a *Office of School and Adolescent Health*

SB 47 *School-Based Health Centers*

HB 542 *Community Schools Act*