

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 580

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .192649.1

Short Title: Study Standardized Test Costs & Effectiveness

Sponsor(s): Senator Linda M. Lopez, Representative Rick Miera, and Others

Analyst: LaNysha Adams

Date: March 2, 2013

Bill Summary:

SB 580 appropriates money from the General Fund to the Board of Regents at the University of New Mexico (UNM) to fund a study of the number and costs of standardized assessments and their effectiveness, including:

- the number and kinds of assessments currently required;
- the per-student cost of assessments;
- the amount and percentage of instructional time used to prepare students to take assessments;
- the amount and percentage of time spent by students taking assessments; and
- the ways that assessment data are used to improve instruction and reduce the achievement gaps that exist among groups of students, including:
 - English language learners;
 - students with disabilities;
 - economically disadvantaged students; and
 - students from different racial and ethnic backgrounds.

Fiscal Impact:

\$200,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents at UNM for expenditure in FY 14. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 14 will revert to the General Fund.

Substantive Issues:

According to the UNM bill analysis:

- the costs of new assessments based on the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) have yet to be determined;
- the Public Education Department (PED) currently provides guidelines for administering the Standards-based Assessments, which average about 5.7 days of testing, not including make-up days;
- the Standards-based Assessments average does not include the time taken for professional development and other activities that teachers and principals use for

interpreting test results and planning for instruction. The Standards-based Assessments average also does not include:

- district short-cycle testing;
 - student retakes of the high school graduation exam;
 - ACCESS for English Language Learners;
 - the National Assessment for Educational Progress; and
 - other testing that interrupts instruction; and
- the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) estimates that since 1999, the Legislature has appropriated \$28.5 million dollars to PED to develop assessments, including \$24.2 million through FY 10 for test development, \$1.8 million to administer the 11th grade assessments to 10th graders in FY 12, and \$2.5 million for statewide formative assessments for grades 4-10 in FY 13.

The UNM bill analysis also states that the LESC and the Legislative Finance Committee estimate that current statewide assessments costs total about \$10.8 million per year, and that about \$3.9 million is included in the State Equalization Guarantee for public schools to cover the costs associated with required assessments.

In 2012, the Fordham Institute released a report, *Putting a Price Tag on the Common Core: How Much Will Smart Implementation Cost?* The authors of this report found that:

- the national price tag for implementing the CCSS could range from \$3.0 billion to \$12.1 billion depending on how the CCSS are implemented;
- implementation costs for New Mexico could range from \$69.9 million new dollars to a savings of \$5.0 million depending on how the CCSS are implemented; and
- the top three expenses for implementation include instructional materials, student assessments, and professional development.

Background:

The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a consortium of 24 states working together to develop a common set of K-12 assessments in English and math. In September 2010, the U.S. Department of Education announced that PARCC would receive approximately \$186 million through the Race to the Top grant competition to support the development and design of the next-generation assessments system. PARCC selected the Florida Department of Education to serve as its fiscal agent. PARCC selected Achieve, Inc. a nonprofit education reform organization that was created in 1996, to serve as its project management partner.

In October 2010, New Mexico became the 39th state to adopt the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) as a result of state-led efforts coordinated by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers to develop common standards across states K-12 in English language arts and mathematics. The CCSS:

- “are a clear set of shared goals and expectations for the knowledge and skills students need in English language arts and mathematics at each grade level to ultimately be prepared to graduate college and career ready”;

- insist that instruction in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language be a shared responsibility within the school; and
- emphasize the teaching of informational texts because the reading framework of the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) requires an increasing proportion of informational texts, compared to literary texts, on its assessment as students advance through the grades.
 - For example, on the fourth grade NAEP reading assessment, the distributions of informational passages compared to the literary passages are equal.
 - However, on the 12th grade NAEP reading assessment, 30 percent of the passages are literary, and 70 percent of the passages are informational.

During school year 2014-2015, New Mexico students will be tested on the CCSS through assessments provided by PARCC.

Committee Referrals:

SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

- HB 111 *Education Dept. Pays for Standards Tests*
- CS/HB 112 *Data in School Accountability Reports*
- HB 215 *Remove School AYP & Funding Incentives*
- *HB 513 *Certain School Tests As Competence*
- HJM 29 *LESC A-F School Grading System Study (Identical to SJM 34)*
- HJM 30 *Study Uses of Standardized Test Scores*
- SB 183a *Replace GED Terms With Equivalency Diploma*
- SB 370 *School Rating Modified Assessment Formula*
- SB 587a *State Schools Grades Council*
- SJM 34 *Study A-F School Grading System (Identical to HJM 29)*