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## F I S C A L   I M P A C T   R E P O R T

SPONSOR Trujillo, L/Romero ORIGINAL DATE 2/14/19 LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 447  
SHORT TITLE Track Children Between School & CYFD SB \_\_\_\_\_  
ANALYST Klundt \_\_\_\_\_

### **ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY20	FY21	FY22	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	\$250.0	\$50.0	\$50.0	\$350.0	Recurring	General, CYFD
	\$92.5	\$92.5	\$92.5	\$277.5	Recurring	General, PED
	\$120.0	\$200	\$150.0	\$470.0	Recurring	General, DoIT

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Children Youth and Family Department (CYFD)

Public Education Department (PED)

Department of Information Technology (DoIT)

### SUMMARY

House Bill 447 (HB 447) requires the Children Youth and Family Department (CYFD) and Public Education Department (PED) to jointly develop a system to be used by both agencies to track children under the age of 18 who “move between public schools and [CYFD] services”. PED shall ensure that their student identification number system will stay unique to only one child and will never be reassigned to another child. This unique ID number will be used on all records, forms, transcripts and databases pertaining to the student.

PED and CYFD will collaborate to develop a tracking system that will be used by PED, CYFD, and public schools while considering other appropriate users. The taskforce established by this bill for the systems development shall be appointed by the secretaries of PED and CYFD, and shall consist of representatives from those agencies in addition to social workers, children’s court judges, juvenile probation officers, and parole personnel. This task force shall collaborate with system analysts and IT departments to develop the tracking system.

The tracking system will provide real-time data and allow for cross checking (1) Student ID numbers assigned by PED, (2) unique individual identification numbers assigned by CYFD, and (3) any other individual identification number used by CYFD. The task force will report to the legislative education study committee with its design and implementation recommendations by December 1, 2019.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no appropriation contained in this bill. CYFD preliminary review of the bill's requirements suggests a fiscal impact of \$250 thousand for initial implementation, presuming use of an existing software package and modifying as necessary, with an annual \$50 thousand for licensing and maintenance. CYFD also stated the agency has not specifically budgeted for a project of this size, or for the ongoing licensure and maintenance thereof.

PED reported the expansion of the current ID system to additional users would require funds for user licenses and training, which in the past has cost \$60 thousand, a onetime fee by Unique ID vendor. Costs associated with developing standard operating procedures, technical workflows, and redeveloping data systems to accommodate this requirement were estimated at \$17.5 thousand for Homeschool data system, and \$15 thousand for work development of SOPs and workflows.

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) reported operating fiscal impacts including \$120 thousand for a system analyst FTE beginning in FY20 plus a one time \$80 thousand for professional services system development in FY21 and \$30 thousand annually there after for ongoing database support and licensing.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Currently, New Mexico students are issued a unique ID number established upon their first enrollment into public education; and CYFD Juvenile Justice Services (JJS) education already has the capacity to retrieve that unique ID number and access pertinent education records, including all previous school enrollments and prior history of special education or ELL services.

In addition to JJS, there are five other state-supported schools: UNMH, School for the Blind, School for the Deaf, NMCD, and Sequoyah. If the purpose of the bill is to track a child's enrollment regardless of the school, expansion of the entities involved would appear warranted.

Preliminary review of the bill's requirements by CYFD/IT suggests that a modified off-the-shelf package, or modification of currently used software, will be sufficient to meet the requirements of tracking student movement from public schools to JJ Education and back.

CYFD noted concerns however, if the bill's intention is to determine whether a child is missing school, or has been dis-enrolled and not re-enrolled, it will of course be necessary for schools to ensure that they are fully capturing data on student attendance. Schools are already expected to report students with excessive absence pursuant to the truancy statutes.

PED noted, "The inclusion of the Department of Information Technology may not be required as the both departments have current systems and data sharing agreements in place to meet the requirements of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). In addition, the CYFD early childhood

programs use the same ID system for PreK as the PED, which could be leveraged as part of the solution. Current frequencies by which PED collects data may be prohibitive.”

However, the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) stated the Task Force members should include as a full member a designee from DoIT. Advisory membership keeps the technical voice at arm’s length when full discussion should engage members representing all impacted departments, including DoIT. As the enterprise service provider, it is critical that application development consider the network on which it will reside and any security issues which could arise.

DoIT also noted CYFD’s Comprehensive Child Welfare Information Systems (CCWIS) Modernization Project is a certified project in its initiation phase that will create a data model that could support this initiative alongside PED. The additional dataset from CYFD, addition of CYFD as an end-user, and additional reporting capabilities would have additional cost implications. CYFD and PED may be able to better approximate these costs.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

PED noted this bill needs to be a connection to the Bureau of Indian Education and private schools where students may enroll but who may not notify the school where the student dis-enrolled. The task force should include representatives of these organizations. Another technical issue requires a re-design of the Home-School database managed by the PED. There are students who may be reported to this system but due to the limited nature of the data collected there do not have a student ID. For full coverage within the state, it is recommended that the acquisition of a state student identification be required in order to report a child as homeschooled to the homeschool database. This would require a re-write of the Homeschool System as well as process changes.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

PED recommended the task force should convene to identify and enact ways to enhance the current data sharing work to include the safety of all students. The task force should expand to include Bureau of Indian Education and private schools. In addition, the system developed by the task force should consider home schooled students.

PED also noted section C calls for the creation of a tracking system. However, within existing systems that are available to each agency and through collaboration or ideally, interoperability, the task force may develop a tracking process that would meet the intent of the bill.

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