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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
55th Legislature, 1st Session, 2021

Bill Number	<u>SB341</u>	Sponsor	<u>Neville</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.219628.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SEC/SFC</u>
Short Title	<u>Leg. Approp For Comm Schools Fund</u>		
Analyst	<u>Juliani</u>	Original Date	<u>2/12/2021</u>
		Last Updated	<u>2/24/2021</u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 341 (SB341) amends the Community Schools Act to make the community schools fund subject to appropriations by the Legislature, instead of making a direct appropriation to the Public Education Department (PED) to distribute to grant awardees.

FISCAL IMPACT

SB341 contains no appropriation. However, the bill would change the structure of the community schools fund, whereby funds to support community schools initiatives would be subject to appropriation by the Legislature.

SB341 makes community school funds subject to appropriations by the Legislature. House Appropriations and Finance Committee substitute for House Bills 2 and 3 contains a \$10 million transfer to the community schools fund contingent on enactment of legislation in the 2021 regular session authorizing the Legislature to appropriate funding annually. The bill also reflects the recommendations from the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) on the funding of community schools. Enactment of SB341 would result in increased legislative control over use of these funds, without changing the manner in which PED implements the program and awards community school grants.

Analysis from the Public Education Department (PED) indicated the bill's giving the legislature appropriation authority over the community schools fund could limit the amount of money PED uses to fund community school initiatives, regardless of the balance in the fund.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Community Schools in Statute. The Community Schools Act, enacted in 2013, allows a school district, a group of public schools, or a public school to apply to PED for grants to implement a community school initiative allowing schools to organize community resources and address the needs of the whole child. In 2019, the Legislature amended the 2013 Community Schools Act to

identify a community school as “a public school that partners with families and the community, including tribal partners, nonprofit community-based organizations and local businesses, to provide well-rounded educational opportunities and supports for student success.”

The Act requires implementation of a framework aligned with community school best practices, reflected in the following four key pillars:

- Integrated student supports;
- Expanded and enriched learning time and opportunities;
- Active family and community engagement; and
- Collaborative leadership and practices.

The community schools model is based on a belief that programs which successfully build both non-academic and academic skills improve student outcomes. This approach, recognizing the opportunity gap and its impact on communities, provides the means to ameliorate the effects of educational disparities through programs that expand opportunities for students and their families.

Community School Grant Recipients			
School District	School Name	FY20	FY21
Albuquerque Public Schools	Duranes Elementary School	\$50,000	\$150,000
Albuquerque Public Schools	Eugene Field Elementary School		\$150,000
Albuquerque Public Schools	Governor Bent Elementary School	\$50,000	\$150,000
Albuquerque Public Schools	Hawthorne Elementary School	\$150,000	\$150,000
Albuquerque Public Schools	Los Padillas Elementary School	\$150,000	\$150,000
Albuquerque Public Schools	Mahogany Community School	\$30,000	\$150,000
Albuquerque Public Schools	Manzano Mesa Elementary School	\$139,200	\$150,000
Albuquerque Public Schools	Native American Community Academy	\$50,000	\$150,000
Albuquerque Public Schools	Robert F Kennedy Charter School Mountain	\$150,000	\$150,000
Albuquerque Public Schools	Rudolfo Anaya Elementary School		\$150,000
Aldo Leopold Charter School	Aldo Leopold Charter School	\$22,000	
Central Consolidated School District	Dream Dine Charter	\$50,000	
Cimarron Municipal Schools	Eagle Nest School	\$49,500	\$150,000
Cuba Independent Schools	Cuba High School		\$50,000
Cuba Independent Schools	Cuba Middle School		\$50,000
Cuba Independent Schools	Cuba Elementary School	\$50,000	\$50,000
DEAP	DEAP	\$50,000	
Espanola Public Schools	Carlos Vigil Middle School	\$50,000	\$150,000
Hobbs Municipal Schools	Southern Heights Elementary School	\$50,000	
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	Lake Arthur High School	\$15,000	\$50,000
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	Lake Arthur Middle School	\$15,000	\$50,000
Lake Arthur Municipal Schools	Lake Arthur Elementary School	\$15,000	\$50,000
Las Cruces Public Schools	Lynn Community Middle School	\$150,000	\$150,000
Las Cruces Public Schools	MacArthur Elementary School	\$50,000	\$150,000
Penasco Independent School District	Penasco Elementary School	\$50,000	\$150,000
Raices Del Saber Xinachtli Community School	Raices Del Saber Xinachtli Community School	\$50,000	\$150,000
Roswell Independent School District	Sierra Middle School	\$50,000	
Roswell Independent School District	University High School	\$50,000	
Santa Fe Public Schools	Cesar Chavez Elementary School	\$150,000	\$150,000
Santa Fe Public Schools	Santa Fe High School	\$50,000	\$150,000
Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools	Santa Rosa High School	\$50,000	\$150,000
South Valley Preparatory School	South Valley Preparatory School		\$150,000
Taos Municipal Schools	Enos Garcia Elementary School	\$50,000	\$150,000
Taos Municipal Schools	Vista Grande High School	\$50,000	\$150,000
Taos International School	Taos International School	\$13,900	\$150,000
Truth or Consequences Municipal Schools	Arrey Elementary School	\$50,000	\$150,000
Truth or Consequences Municipal Schools	Hot Springs High School	\$50,000	
Statewide Total		\$2,000,000	\$3,900,000

Source: LESC Files

Community School Initiatives in New Mexico. PED’s community school grants are to be used to establish, operate, and sustain the community school framework pursuant to the Community Schools Act, Section 22-32-4 NMSA 1978. Community schools working to scale their programs to full implementation are eligible for a one-time planning grant of up to \$50 thousand to conduct a needs assessment and establish a site-based team. Schools currently implementing school-wide community school criteria are eligible for an annual implementation grant of \$150 thousand each year for three years. The General Appropriation Act of 2020 provided PED with \$4 million for community school initiatives, a \$2 million increase from FY20. However, solvency measures enacted during the June 2020 special session decreased the appropriation to \$3.3 million.

Annually, the community schools initiatives program has received many more applications that it is able to fund. For FY20, PED received 111 applications from 119 schools in all regions of the state, representing approximately 12 percent of New Mexico public schools. In FY21, the department received 43 applications, all of which were for three-year implementation grants. PED was able to supplement its FY21 state funding for community schools with a federal school improvement grant to award a total of \$3.9 million to fund 26 implementation grants, 16 of which were awarded to school districts having completed their initial planning grant, six to school districts continuing their implementation grant, and four to new applicants. PED prioritized funding underperforming schools identified as needing improvement, and made no new planning grant awards for FY21. Currently, 37 community schools are operating in 19 school districts and charter schools throughout the state. In FY20, these schools served 11,363 students.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED would maintain its administrative functions in defining and implementing rules and procedures for awarding community school funds through a competitive grant program. PED’s analysis noted no administrative implications from SB341.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Recent Changes to Community Schools. In 2018, PED amended the state’s plan specifying how it will use federal funding from the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA) to allow any school identified as needing “comprehensive support and improvement” or “targeted support and improvement” under ESSA to use the community schools initiative as part of an evidence-based intervention. In 2019, the Legislature amended the 2013 Community Schools Act to identify a community school as “a public school that partners with families and the community, including tribal partners, nonprofit community-based organizations and local businesses, to provide well-rounded educational opportunities and supports for student success.” The 2019 amendment also specified community schools include “culturally and linguistically responsive instruction, programs and services and restorative practices that focus on building and maintaining relationships” and “the use of research- and evidence-based strategies and best practices that support students, families and communities in ensuring student success.” The Community Schools Act also encourages federal, state, local, and tribal governments to work with community-based organizations to improve the coordination, delivery, effectiveness, and efficiency of services provided to students and families.

In addition, these amendments required PED to appoint a New Mexico Coalition for Community Schools to support implementation. This group includes representatives from the New Mexico affiliates of the National Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers, as well as leaders of organizations, such as the ABC-Community School Partnership in Albuquerque and

Bernalillo County, the Las Cruces Partnership for Community Schools, and Communities in Schools of New Mexico in Santa Fe. PED worked with the coalition to establish a detailed rule to implement the program, develop applications, and define an awards process to ensure that funded community schools meet the statute’s definition of community schools.

Community Schools Eligibility. PED grants for community schools initiatives are available to a school district, a group of eligible public schools, or a single eligible public school that has a demonstrated partnership with the local community. Current PED guidance states a public school must meet any of the following criteria to be eligible:

- A public elementary or secondary school where at least 40 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, pursuant to the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act; or
- A public elementary or secondary school identified as a school for comprehensive support and improvement (CSI) or targeted support and improvement (TSI) under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965; or
- A public elementary or secondary school identified by the state as in need of additional support.

RELATED BILLS

Relates to House Bill 117, General Appropriations Act of 2021, which calls for a one-time \$10 million transfer to the community schools fund contingent on enactment of legislation in the 2021 regular session authorizing the Legislature to appropriate funding annually.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Public Education Department (PED)

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