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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
56th Legislature, 1st Session, 2023

Bill Number	<u>SB400</u>	Sponsor	<u>Soules</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.224844.1</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SEC/SFC</u>
Short Title	<u>Middle & Junior High School Redesign</u>		
Analyst	<u>Hathaway</u>	Original Date	<u>2/16/23</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 400 (SB400) appropriates funding to the Public Education Department (PED) to redesign middle and junior high schools statewide.

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill appropriates \$2.5 million from the general fund to PED for expenditure in FY24 and FY25. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY25 shall revert to the general fund.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Defining School Redesign. School redesign refers to a process of reimagining the school experience to ensure school systems are meeting the needs and interests of students. School redesign is a practice in which schools review and assess their school system (be it how the school day is structured, how students spend time at school, how educators interact with students, or any other facet of the school experience) to determine what they might be able to change to provide high-quality academic learning and foster positive student outcomes.

High School Redesign in New Mexico. While SB400 refers to middle and junior high school redesign, there has been high school redesign in New Mexico in past years. In 2018, PED launched a three-year training initiative to create a high school redesign network and redesign 10 high schools in the state. This included West Mesa High School (Albuquerque), Belén High School (Belen), Bernalillo High School (Bernalillo), Cuba High School (Cuba), Española Valley High School (Española), Rocinante High School (Farmington), Miyamura High School (Gallup), Gilbert L. Sena Charter (Albuquerque), Health Leadership High School (Albuquerque), and Las Montañas Charter High School (Las Cruces). At the time, PED noted the purpose was to reimagine the high school experience to meet the demands of a 21st century economy. Participating high schools were charged with identifying best practices to better serve their students.

As part of this work, New Mexico was included in a redesign collaborative, the [Cross State High School Collaborative](#), which engaged seven states (Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Mexico, New York, and Ohio) and was supported by the Everyone Graduates Center at Johns Hopkins University School of Education, the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), and Civic Enterprises. It is unclear what the final outcomes of the high school redesign process in New Mexico have been.

The provisions of SB400 appear to be similar in purpose, but with a focus on the middle and junior high school grades.

In its analysis of SB400, PED reports that of the 872 schools in New Mexico, 149 of these are middle schools or junior high schools.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Funds would be appropriated to PED. The department noted SB400 does not specify how PED would be required to redesign middle schools and junior high schools statewide, nor what the intended goal is in doing so. PED also notes the bill is silent on how PED would be required to allocate funds, including how to determine eligibility.

PED also indicated the department does not have the capacity to redesign middle schools and junior high schools with current staffing and resources. The department also noted one additional full time employee would need to be funded from the appropriation to accomplish the redesign.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Public Education Department (PED)

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