

Implementation of this bill would require the SDE to develop a contract with an appropriate private nonprofit organization for the establishment of dropout prevention programs to target at risk students.

RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 312 and House Bill 398 require the SDE to establish a "dropout prevention pilot program" at ten public high schools with the highest dropout rates.

Related appropriations in **Senate Bill 307** and **House Bill 82** - Section 7 of these bills makes STUDENT IMPROVEMENT APPROPRIATIONS.--The following amount is appropriated from the general fund to the state department of public education for expenditure in fiscal year 2002:

- A. *four million sixty-three thousand three hundred dollars (\$4,063,300) to pay teachers to teach intensive summer education programs for students in need of assistance.*

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to the SDE, the overall dropout rate for New Mexico declined from 8.7% in 1994-95 to 7.1% in 1997-98. However, in some school districts, and in some schools within districts, the dropout rate increased.

Information for the three counties targeted in this bill are outlined below:

District	1994-95 Dropout Rate	1997-98 Dropout Rate
Bernalillo County		
Albuquerque Public Schools	12.2%	8.8%
Valencia County		
Los Lunas	2.6%	8.8%
Belen	3.9%	13.7%
Sandoval County		
Bernalillo	8.1%	10.8%
Rio Rancho	N/A	4.5%
Cuba	19.8%	5.8%
Jemez Valley	1.9%	14.4%
Jemez Mountain	2.2%	.7%

LG/ar