

The NMSDE analysis states "Funding will provide development experiences that are based on the successful Middle School Academy model. This model is being implemented in several sites in Northern New Mexico and has been evaluated externally. Preliminary results show that teaching practices have changed to meet the learning needs of middle school minority students more effectively. The model addresses the educational needs of minority students in the areas of learning styles, non-traditional assessment methods, content performance-based education and technology integration in the learning process."

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$260.0 from the general fund contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2003 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

No significant implications for SDE or the Commission on Higher Education.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The legislation supports the NMSDE's Performance Measures to provide quality teachers through the use of professional development

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The following is provided for information only. It is not intended as a commentary on the merits of the program\project:

This request for funding was not included in its budget request by the NMSU Board of Regents. Thus, the Commission on Higher Education did not recommend funding for this program.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. In which school districts is the middle school training model currently being implemented?
2. What evidence can be cited that reflects improved student learning as a result of the training provided?
3. Can the source funding the current training be used to provide training for teachers in other middle schools?
4. Is the funding requested intended to continue to provide professional development for middle school districts in Northern New Mexico?

LB/njw