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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Nava DATE TYPED 02-06-05 HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Regional Educational Technology Assistance SB 304

ANALYST Woods

### APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$800.0			Recurring	General

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the appropriation for New Mexico State University in the General Appropriations Act.  
Relates to SB305

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

New Mexico Pubic Education Department (PED)  
New Mexico Office of the Chief Information Officer (CIO)

#### No Responses Received From

New Mexico Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 304 – Making an Appropriation for Regional Educational Technology Assistance – appropriates \$800,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for expenditure in FY06 for the Regional Educational Technology Assistance program. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

### Significant Issues

PED notes that this bill would permit New Mexico State University (NMSU) to continue its Regional Educational Technology Assistance (RETA) program. RETA has provided professional development services and curricular materials on technology integration to New Mexico educators for approximately nine years. The program's goals include:

- the establishment of a network of teachers trained in technology integration;
- supporting the ongoing creation of new, technology-rich curricula; and
- guiding policymakers in supporting technology integration in the state's classrooms.

PED suggests that, for nearly a decade, RETA has been a primary provider of pre-service and in-service technology training for PreK-12 educators in New Mexico. It has employed a variety of outreach strategies to accomplish its aims and has established three regional resource centers and a website at which online resources are available. For at least some school districts, RETA has been the major source of staff training in technology usage and integration.

Further, PED observes that at the state level, RETA has partnered with public television station KNME to produce curriculum modules on New Mexico history and with PED to develop web- and CD-Rom-based materials for use in New Mexico history classes; and has also collaborated with the PED in the implementation of the U.S. Department of Education's Reading First program.

CIO indicates that this program supports regional resource centers at Western New Mexico University, Northern New Mexico Community College, and New Mexico State University. It also offers free:

- professional development work shops to NM teachers (K-12);
- technical instruction, support for the *three tier licensing system*;
- technical workshops for the *Laptop Initiative* (including up to 48hrs of free training per school district);
- Reading First Programs; and
- online professional development courses.

This project was not included in CHE's *2005-2006 Higher Education Funding Recommendation*.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$800,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

NMSU would retain oversight of the program.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

Relates to the appropriation for NMSU in the General Appropriations Act.

CIO indicates a relationship to SB305, an appropriation for the Civic Engagement program, a related program supported by RETA.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

As general background information, PED notes that RETA was initially funded in 1995 through small grants from several local sources, receiving a federal Technology Innovation Challenge Grant from 1998 through 2004. Later, during that same period, RETA was also awarded funding by the New Mexico State Board of Education from its Professional Development Fund allocation. For the current fiscal year, RETA received \$580,000 from professional development funds approved in the General Appropriation Act. PED also offers the following observations with respect to RETA's funding and program relationships:

- The Center for Children and Technology (CTT) completed a fifth-year evaluation report of RETA's Technology Innovation Challenge Grant for the U.S. Department of Education in September 2003. CCT observed that RETA had increased the number of participants in its various training activities every year from 1998 through 2003. It also concluded that RETA had achieved all five goals specified in the initial application for the grant.
- In FY05, RETA received \$580,000 in state funding from the PED through the General Appropriation Act. The money was used primarily to support technology integration workshops for teachers, the development of an online submission mechanism for professional development dossiers and online workshops and courses for New Mexico educators.
- The bill requests \$220,000 more from state funds that RETA received during the current year. In part, this appropriation would take the place of \$8,700.0 awarded over a six-year period through the Technology Innovation Challenge Grant, which ended in 2004. The higher level of state funding would allow the program to expand its outreach services by offering a greater number of workshops both on-site and online. In addition, it would underwrite the costs of materials development and the creation of new courses.

**BFW/njw**