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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/7/06

SPONSOR Begaye LAST UPDATED _____ HJM 5

SHORT TITLE Native American Academic Initiatives SB _____

ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of HJM

House Joint Memorial 5 requests the Indian Education Division of the Public Education Department study successful academic initiatives implemented by other states for reducing the achievement gap between Native American and non Native American students; and for consideration of implementation of the most successful of these initiatives in New Mexico schools with high enrollments of Native American students.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

- There are 23 public school districts with substantial Native American student enrollment in New Mexico.
- During the current school year 2005-2006, the PED/IED has provided resources to 15 schools in seven school districts to develop and implement Exemplary Educational Programs that positively affect Native American students. These projects will add considerably to the knowledge and research about successful academic initiatives for Native American students.

House Joint Memorial 5 – Page 2

- By the end of the current fiscal/school year, districts/schools will be reporting on the first phase of implementing their exemplary educational programs.
- The PED/IED has collaborated with the 23 school districts with substantial Native American student enrollment in developing a statewide Indian Education status report which will include details on the projects funded to increase academic achievement for Native American students.
- The PED/IED is working with the NM Indian Education Advisory Council to determine tribal indicators of success for students and for schools.

Differences in Native American student populations within New Mexico and in other states will have to be factored in for comparison.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HJM 5 states that approximately 11 percent of New Mexico public school students are Native American, making them the second largest minority group, after Caucasian students, in the public schools of the state. It also provides data of reading and math achievement between Native American and white non-Hispanic students in New Mexico. It declares an achievement gap for Native American students. Many other states have lower achievement gaps than New Mexico. HJM 5 requests a study of what educators in other states have done to reduce the achievement gap between Native American and non-Native American students in order to address this issue in New Mexico, opening up an opportunity for educators in New Mexico to implement these other successful methods.

Further, Native American students experience high levels of educational failure and a growing ambivalence toward learning traditional tribal knowledge and skills and often exhibit indifference to formal Western academic learning. Further, improving the quality of education for Native American students, especially with the intent of improving academic performance, presents a complex challenge for schools serving Native communities.

PA/yr