

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 65

48th Legislature, 1st Session, 2007

Short Title: Rural Area Child Literacy Programs

Sponsor(s): Representative Rick Miera and Others

Analyst: James Ball

Date: January 23, 2007

Bill Summary:

HB 65 appropriates funds to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY 08 and FY 09 to provide supplementary literacy programs for children from rural areas of the state at no fewer than 15 school sites. The program will serve children in grades K-8 and sites must be chosen from among places that have previously implemented the rural literacy program. Pre-testing and post-testing assessments shall be administered to the students in order to measure progress.

Fiscal Impact:

\$1.5 million is appropriated from the General Fund. PED may expend the funds in FY 08 and/or FY 09. Unexpended funds shall revert to the General Fund at the end of FY 09.

The General Appropriation Act of 2006 provided \$1.0 million contingent upon the receipt of \$500,000 in matching funds from the selected contractors to be used for this program in schools with a large proportion of Native American students. PED issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for those funds in August 2006.

Issues:

PED selected the Save the Children Foundation as the primary contractor for the rural literacy program in FY 07. The Foundation, in collaboration with the Indian Education Division, identified 11 rural school sites to implement the program. These rural sites are located in four New Mexico school districts and all have at least 65 percent Native American children in the target schools. The schools are:

Grants-Cibola County Schools

- Cubero Elementary
- Laguna-Acoma Middle

Gallup/McKinley County Public Schools

- Crownpoint Elementary
- Crownpoint Middle

Zuni Public Schools

- A:Shiwi Elementary
- Dowa Yalanne Elementary
- Zuni Intermediate
- Zuni Middle

Central Consolidated Schools

- Newcomb Elementary
- Newcomb Middle
- Ojo Amarillo Elementary

Programs include supervised activities that help keep students ready to learn, including the provision of healthy snacks and physical activity and literacy support that promotes student learning in reading and mathematics. Student nutrition needs are coordinated with the school district or tribal student food service programs. Transportation is provided for all students participating in the program. Facility locations are identified in consultation with school districts and tribal education offices. Programs incorporate culturally relevant and indigenous materials and resources. Use of Native languages is strongly encouraged.

Related Bill:

SB 82 *Rural Area Child Literacy Programs* (identical)