

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2-8-2007

SPONSOR Sanchez, M. LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Rural Area Child Literacy Programs SB 82

ANALYST Dearing

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	*\$1,500.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriations Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 82 appropriates \$1.5 million from the general fund to Public Education Department for the purpose of providing integrated in-school, after-school and summer supplementary literacy programs for children in grades K through 8 in several New Mexico counties. The legislation requires that these programs shall have been previously implemented in rural areas, shall serve children in kindergarten through eighth grade and shall include pre-testing and post-testing assessments.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1.5 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. The funds are appropriated for use in FY08 and FY09 and any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY09 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The program was recently initiated at 11 school sites, in four rural districts at the beginning of 2007. The program is intended to improve students' reading comprehension to a level at or above their grade levels. The literacy program components are: after-school and summer programming, in-school literacy support, tutorials, emergent reader modules, school and community impact, CHANGE (Creating Health Active Nurturing Good nutrition Environments), and addressing math.

Language in the legislation requires program expansion to a minimum of 15 schools.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The literacy program coordinators will demonstrate student skill growth through use of the STAR Reading Assessment, the Accelerated Reading Diagnostics and the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

This bill would require the Public Education department:

- To develop guidelines for policies and provide technical assistance to the 15 rural schools
- To issue a request for proposals among New Mexico public (rural) school districts
- To ensure that selected rural schools support the implementation of New Mexico's K-8 Language Arts Content Standards.

DUPLICATES

Senate Bill 82 duplicates House Bill 65.

RELATIONSHIP

The general fund recommendation for FY08 includes \$3 million for these initiatives. Additionally, a \$1 million portion of the recommended amount for the Indian Education program was recommended specifically for a rural literacy initiative program for schools with substantial percentage of Native American students.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Additional materials for rural literacy initiatives would not be funded through the General Fund.