

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: HB 407

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: Belen Teacher Training

Sponsor(s): Representative Elias Barela

Analyst: Pamela Herman

Date: January 31, 2008

Bill Summary:

HB 407 appropriates funds to the Public Education Department (PED) for training and professional development of teachers in Belen.

Fiscal Impact:

- \$50,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to PED for expenditure in FY 09 in Belen. The bill contains a reversion clause.
- HB 407 would appropriate funds to one school district for training and professional development, an operating expense. Funds appropriated to the State Equalization Guarantee to be distributed based on the Public School Funding Formula include approximately \$10.5 million for teacher professional development. Separate appropriations to specific schools or school districts for operational expenditures circumvent the Public School Funding Formula, and may compromise the equity of the formula.
- Federal Title II, Part A funds are available to support a wide range of teacher quality initiatives including professional development. PED states that Belen Consolidated Schools is receiving approximately \$383,300 in Title II, Part A funding for FY 08, which the district uses funds primarily for class size reduction and administrative costs.

Issues:

In the 2007 interim, the LESC heard a presentation regarding the Teacher Professional Development Framework, which was established by the Legislature in 1999 and amended in 2003 to ensure consistence and quality for staff professional development in New Mexico. The presentation included the following information:

- The Framework requires that professional development activities meet standards established by PED and that they be evaluated.
- PED has promulgated rules implementing the statute that reflect national standards for high quality. However, the committee learned that PED does not monitor evaluations of professional development activities to determine their effect on teacher practice or student achievement.

- By a conservative estimate, PED and school districts expended approximately \$45.6 million in funds from all sources for staff professional development activities in FY 07. However, an accurate total is unknown because not all expenses for professional development are identified as such in the public school chart of accounts, hampering accountability for professional development expenditures.
- To respond to these concerns, the LESC endorsed legislation (HB 38, *Annual School Personnel Development Reports*) to amend the Professional Development Framework to require PED, in conjunction with public school districts and charter schools, to provide an annual report to the LESC and the Legislative Finance Committee regarding all professional development activities, regardless of funding source; and to make any changes to the system of accounting and budgeting for all public schools and school districts necessary to fulfill this requirement.

Related Bills:

HB 38 *Annual School Personnel Development Reports*

*HB 418 *Teacher Professional Development*

SB 45 *School Staff Professional Development Limits*