

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: *HB 418

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: Teacher Professional Development

Sponsor(s): Representative Rhonda S. King and Others

Analyst: Pamela Herman

Date: January 31, 2008

Bill Summary:

HB 418 appropriates funds to the Teacher Professional Development Fund.

* The bill contains an emergency clause

Fiscal Impact:

\$5.0 million is appropriated from the General Fund to the Teacher Professional Development Fund for expenditure in FY 08 and subsequent fiscal years. The bill contains a non-reversion clause.

CS/HB 2 et al., *General Appropriation Act of 2008*, contains \$2.0 million for the Teacher Professional Development Fund.

Issues:

- In 2003, legislation was enacted to create the Teacher Professional Development Fund as a source of funds for professional development programs and projects for public school teachers. The fund is administered by the Public Education Department (PED) and is non-reverting. Since FY 05, the Legislature has appropriated \$9.3 million in the *General Appropriation Act* to the fund, which has been distributed by PED, generally as directed by language in the act, as follows:

Teacher Professional Development Fund Allocations	FY 05	FY 06	FY 07	FY 08	4-Yr Total
Re:Learning New Mexico	900.0	800.0	580.0	540.0	2,820.0
Regional Educational Technology Assistance (RETA)	580.0	500.0	400.0	400.0	1,880.0
Strengthening Quality in Schools (SQS)	500.0	600.0	600.0	540.0	2,240.0
Service Learning		70.0	70.0	70.0	210.0
Golden Apple		280.0	225.0	700.0	1,205.0
Center for Border and Indigenous Educational Leadership (CeBIEL)		150.0	125.0	125.0	400.0
Transitions to Teaching/Farmington M.S.	250.0				250.0
Center for Education and Study of Diverse Populations	85.0				85.0
REC #8 for EPSS Training	85.0				85.0
Center for Relational Learning				100.0	100.0
The Wellness Group				25.0	25.0
Total to Fund for Fiscal Year	2,400.0	2,400.0	2,000.0	2,500.0	9,300.0

- The statute requires PED to evaluate the success of each professional development program or project funded and to report its findings to the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) each year. One such evaluation has been provided, in December 2005.

- The LESC has heard testimony regarding the procedures used by PED and the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) to contract with governmental and non-governmental entities for professional development activities paid for out of the fund, and efforts to see that funds are available as early as possible after July 1.
 - In 2007, testimony indicated that, while the process of encumbering funds in a timely manner was improving, it still often takes three or four months. Consequently, professional development contracts are not in place and funds not available until late in the school year, past the time when teacher training activities are often scheduled.
 - HB 3a, *Education Appropriation Act*, included language endorsed by the LESC to authorize PED to expend funds in the Professional Development Fund for two-year contracts. However, the language is not included in CS/HB 2 et al.
- 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. 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*
 SB 45 *School Staff Professional Development Limits*
 SB 143 *Center for Border & Indigenous Leadership*
 SB 323 *Regional Educational Technology Assistance*
 SB 324 *Community Service Learning Opportunities*
 SB 326 *Strengthening Quality in Schools Initiative*
 SB 328 *Continuing Re:Learning Program*