

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: SB 521

48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

Short Title: Gadsden School Meals for Senior Citizens

Sponsor(s): Senator Cynthia Nava and Others

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 3, 2008

Bill Summary:

SB 521 makes an appropriation to serve meals to low-income senior citizens at schools in the Gadsden Independent Schools.

Fiscal Impact:

\$30,000 is appropriated to the Aging and Long-Term Care Services Department (ALTSD) for expenditure in FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause.

According to the FIR on SB 521, funds for this program were not included in the FY 09 budget request from ALTSD.

Issues:

According to the Public Education Department analysis of SB 521:

- senior-citizen volunteers assigned to monitor or tutor school children during the lunch-serving period are categorized as “program adults” under US Department of Agriculture’s guidance for the school food service program and are provided a lunch free of charge; and
- senior-citizen volunteers not assigned by the schools or who are visitors to the school must pay for a meal if they eat in the school cafeteria. The average charge of an adult meal ranges from \$2.25 to \$3.00.

According to the ALTSD analysis of SB 521:

- the department’s nutrition staff would work with the Gadsden school district to implement the project;
- staff currently participates in the Doña Ana County Healthy Kids project, which is funded by the National Governors Association to create a safe, accessible, and adequate infrastructure that expands opportunities to increase physical activity and promote healthy eating for children, youth, and families, including elders. A meal site in the Gadsden school district would compliment this initiative.
- senior-citizens in the Gadsden schools’ attendance area with limited incomes would receive a daily meal to enhance their nutritional status making the project consistent with the statewide initiative to end hunger for all New Mexicans.

Related Bill:

HB 127 *Senior Citizens Programs*