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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/29/2008

SPONSOR Garcia, M.H. LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 301

SHORT TITLE Las Cruces High School Drop-out Prevention SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Aguilar

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$1,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 304, HB 302

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 301 appropriates \$1 million from the general fund to Public Education Department for the purpose of designing a four-year drop-out prevention pilot to be implemented at Las Cruces High School.

The pilot project will provide funding for academic improvement strategies that, proven successful, can be used to lower dropout rates in other school districts throughout the state.

The pilot project will also include an annual evaluation phase that tracks LCHS students and their academic achievement, identifies students at risk of dropping out and relates specific strategies used to keep those students in classes and in school and provides other data sufficient to determine the efficacy of the strategies used.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1 million contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

According to the National Center for School Engagement (National Center for School Engagement, 2008):

- Truancy has been identified as one of the early warning signs of students headed for potential delinquent activity, social isolation or educational failure via suspension, expulsion or dropping out.
- Truancy is considered to be one of the top 10 problems facing schools. 80% of dropouts were chronically truant before dropping out. 90% of youths in detention for delinquent acts were chronically truant.
- If the attendance rate continues to decrease, the graduation rate will be affected. Further, dropout and truancy have been correlated to an increase in juvenile crime.

The underlying issues for dropout and truancy are often associated with social, family and health barriers that prevent students from achieving.

At the three comprehensive public high schools in Las Cruces (NMSBA, 2006-07):

- 56% of the ninth graders and 50% of the 11<sup>th</sup> graders scored at a level below proficient on the New Mexico Standards-Based Assessment (NMSBA) in Reading.
- 65% of the ninth graders and 68% of the 11<sup>th</sup> graders scored at a level below proficient on the New Mexico Standards-Based Assessment (NMSBA) in Math.
- 44% of the students who went on to college in New Mexico needed to take at least one remedial course.

**CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

Relates to HB 302 and HB304. All three bills establish a four-year pilot for dropout prevention in Las Cruces public schools. HB 301 focuses the pilot on academic improvement strategies; HB 302 focuses the pilot on summer intensive instruction; and HB 304 focuses the pilot on extracurricular activities.

PA/bb