

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

SPONSOR Sanchez, B ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/2008  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_  
SHORT TITLE School Character Education Programs SB 173  
ANALYST Aguilar

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 173 appropriates \$250 thousand from the general fund to Public Education Department for the purpose of funding existing character education programs in public schools.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico has received funding under the United States Department of Education's (USDOE) *Secretary's Fund for the Improvement of Education* with three successful grant applications in 1995, 1999 and 2004. The state is currently in its last year of a four-year grant that will end on July 31, 2008. New Mexico has used CHARACTER COUNTS as a vehicle to deliver character education statewide through this grant partnership.

New Mexico has received a total of \$3,996,057.00 in federal funding for this initiative over the last 12 years.

This bill provides funding to continue addressing the building of character in our schools and communities. Schools/districts have been successful at helping to build capacity and by introducing, as part of our grant activities and aligning with the New Mexico Activities Association, the inclusion of *Pursuing Victory with Honor*. By promoting sportsmanship and fostering good character by teaching, enforcing, advocating and modeling the “Six Pillars of Character” -- trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship -- we can improve all schools and communities and reach sustainability.

PA/bb