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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/31/08

SPONSOR Lopez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Summer Literacy Camp Program SB 397

ANALYST Escudero

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to general appropriation act: \$7,163.4 in the public school support request for the Kindergarten-three Plus program

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 397 appropriates \$100.0 to the Public Education Department (PED) for a summer literacy camp program in Bernalillo County

This summer literacy camp offers enrollment to students from any schools in Albuquerque's South Valley. Of 11 elementary schools in the South Valley, three made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). The other eight schools are in the Schools In Need of Improvement (SINOI) process, with three schools being required to write Alternative Governance Plans. Nine of the 11 schools qualify to apply for the K-3 Plus extended school year program funds and could, thereby, offer 25 days of increased instruction in literacy at each site.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY09 shall revert to the general fund.

This appropriation can be implemented with existing PED staff. Therefore, the fiscal implications on the PED are minimal.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to PED, this appropriation continues a program started in July 2007 at Atrisco Elementary for at-risk students from the South Valley of Albuquerque. Current year funds will be used to start the camp in June 2008 for two weeks. This appropriation will fund the camp for an additional four weeks during July 2008.

The legislation, as written, requires no assessment for determining the performance level of each student at enrollment or after the summer literacy program.

- National research supports the implementation of literacy camps in providing maintenance and development of early literacy skills through the summer. The Sterling McDowell Foundation contends that the lack of ongoing instruction over the summer months contributes to the decline in student literacy skills. Its research indicated that shorter programs in three- to four-week blocks, as opposed to six- to eight-week blocks, were more effective.
- Additionally, the Foundation concluded that the summer literacy program was successful in increasing the interest of developing learners, with the fidelity of the curriculum being very important, and that parents' participation seems to influence children's levels of success in obtaining proficiency. Furthermore, most communities across the USA show success with summer literacy programs.
- By offering additional instruction, students are able to maintain current levels of performance and begin the school year better prepared to meet the proficiencies of their new grade level.

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This appropriation is outside the formula for funding school districts.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

According to PED, this appropriation relates to the public school performance measure of percent of elementary school students who achieve the No Child Left Behind Act annual measurable objective for proficiency or above on standards-based assessments in reading and language arts.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

According to PED, the legislation does not identify what curriculum or literacy strategies will be used during this summer camp. Program advocates indicate that data were collected before, after and during the school year for students who participated in the summer literacy program.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to PED, this literacy camp duplicates the K-3 Plus extended school year program funded by the Legislature in FY 08. Atrisco Elementary is eligible to apply. Nine of the eleven schools in Albuquerque's South Valley qualified to apply for the program.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The school district would have to use existing resources to offer a summer literacy camp. K-3 Plus funds are available to the site where the summer literacy camp is proposed and to eight other schools in the Albuquerque South Valley.

PME/bb