

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

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/08

SPONSOR M. J. Garcia LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Las Cruces Schools Truancy Reduction SB 477

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$600.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act
Relates to SB 410

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 477 appropriates \$600.0 from the general fund to the Public Education Department for the Las Cruces public schools, working in partnership with the local regional education initiative, to implement an enhanced truancy process, taking a countywide approach to improving attendance.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$600.0 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

The PED states:

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.
- 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. These barriers negatively impact closing the achievement gap

According to the 2005/2006 PED Student Dropout Report, the dropout rate reported in 2005-2006 for Las Cruces school district was 1.6% (Public Education Department, 2008).

According to the 2006/2007 Las Cruces Dropout Report (2006-2007 Dropout Report):

- Dropout rate reported in 2006/2007 for Las Cruces school district was 1.6%.
- Number of students identified was 172 out of a total enrollment at the 40th day of 10,769.
- Rates reported do not distinguish between students who decide to leave school prematurely and students who transfer without notifying the district.
- The Dona Ana Judicial Detention Center reported 21 dropouts out of a total identified of 51.
- The dropout rate for the Dona Ana Judicial Detention Center is reported at 41.18%.

According to the Juvenile Justice Services Probation Violations (FACTS Bureau, ND):

- In the first six months of fiscal year 2008, 462 juveniles were responsible for 1,591 probation violation charges statewide.
- 172 (39.4%) of the probation violation charges were for truancy.
- In Dona Ana County during the same time period 55 juveniles were responsible for 198 probation violation charges.
- One-in-four, or 15 (27.3%), of probation violations were for truancy.

RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 477 is related to SB 410 which appropriates \$120.0 for the identical purpose.

GH/mt