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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/1/08

SPONSOR Taylor LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE APS Rio Grande Truancy Issues SB 510

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$240.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 510 appropriates \$240.0 from the general fund to the Public Education Department to address truancy issues at Rio Grande High School, two truancy officers (\$120.0), Bernalillo Public Schools, one truancy officer (\$60.0) and Los Lunas Public Schools, one truancy officer (\$60.0).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$240.0 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 goals of the Governor's Dropout and Truancy Prevention Initiative are to decrease truancy and dropout and increase student attendance. In order for students to achieve they must first be present. In addition, the underlying issues for dropout and truancy are oftentimes associated with social, family and health barriers that prevent students from achieving. These barriers do

contribute to the disparities seen in NM diverse cultures that contribute to the achievement gap. Therefore, dropout and truancy prevention programs help to provide supports to students, schools and families to increase academic success and close the achievement gap for all students.

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.

RELATIONSHIP

Relates to House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bill 2 which would appropriate \$1,000.0 to the Public Education Department for truancy and drop out prevention.

GH/nt