

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: SB 317

49th Legislature, 1st Session, 2009

Short Title: Use of Student ID Numbers on Transcripts

Sponsor(s): Senator Cynthia Nava

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FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

Bill Summary:

SB 317 adds a new section to the *Public School Code* to require that the state student identification (ID) number, issued for each public school student pursuant to current statute, be included on the student's transcripts and on General Educational Development (GED) certificates issued by the Public Education Department (PED).

Fiscal Impact:

SB 317 makes no appropriation.

Fiscal Issues:

PED states that it expects that "\$75,000 will be needed to employ an outside contractor each year for two years to document the GED processes and convert as much data as possible. Currently, the GED system uses Social Security Numbers to identify individual student records. The implication of the legislation is that the PED will potentially need to change previously issued GEDs to add the unique student identifier."

However, nothing in the bill states that it is intended to have a retroactive effect. Pursuant to PED rule, any person under 18 years of age who wishes to take the GED test must secure an underage form completed by the local superintendent (or his/her designee) authorizing testing and present it to the local GED Chief or Alternate Examiner. PED indicates that the form should be amended to include the student identifier.

Issues:

In 2007, the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) endorsed legislation that was enacted to require the Higher Education Department (HED), in collaboration with public postsecondary educational institutions, to use the same student ID number issued to a New Mexico public school student for a student enrolled in the public postsecondary institution, including off-campus instructional programs and learning centers. This requirement was imposed to further efforts to develop a statewide pre-kindergarten through post-graduate longitudinal data system that would provide policymakers with valid and reliable data regarding the progress of New Mexico students through the public education system.

According to HED, attempts by institutions to comply with the requirements of the 2007 law have been stymied in part because high schools do not include the PED identification number on students' transcripts. If enacted, HED states that SB 317 would improve statewide longitudinal data-matching efforts by facilitating the capture of state student ID number at some of the state's public postsecondary institutions.

HED identifies this bill as a department priority.

Background:

In 2003, the New Mexico Legislature passed and the Governor signed comprehensive education reform legislation that included a provision requiring the Public Education Department to issue a state ID number for each public school student as part of the state's assessment and accountability system.

Realizing that reliable data are critical to educational research and policy development, the 2005 Legislature included language in the *General Appropriation Act* to establish a comprehensive data warehouse at PED to begin to collect and store student, teacher, course, testing, and financial data in one comprehensive system. In addition, the Legislature has supported the implementation of this comprehensive data warehouse, known as the Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System (STARS), with appropriations of approximately \$14.0 million (including \$2.9 million for FY 09) to PED, including four full-time equivalent positions.

Through legislation endorsed by the LESC, the Legislature implemented additional initiatives directed toward providing New Mexico with a single, unified data system that can exchange information within and across pre-K through postsecondary (P-20) education and allow the state to continue monitoring achievement as students move from place to place through the education pipeline. In particular, the 2007 bill requiring HED to use the PED student ID number also included a measure requiring PED to collaborate with public teacher preparation programs and HED to create a uniform statewide teacher education accountability reporting system (TEARS) to measure and track teacher candidates from pre-entry to post-graduation in order to benchmark the productivity and accountability of New Mexico's teacher work force.

During the 2007 interim, the LESC heard a presentation describing the work of the Data Sharing Task Force, which HED convened in response to a request from the LESC to plan the implementation of a common P-20 student ID. According to staff testimony, the work was to proceed through three phases: (1) extending the student ID system in STARS into higher education; (2) expanding STARS to include higher education data submitted by postsecondary institutions; and (3) adding enhancements, such as a common online application for admission to college and electronic transcribing between P-12 and public postsecondary institutions.

Taking into account the recommendations of the Data Sharing Task Force, the LESC endorsed legislation to support the implementation of the common P-20 student ID during the 2008 Legislature by codifying the requirements for a comprehensive P-20 data warehouse (STARS) at PED that collects, integrates, and reports data from PED, HED, and other agencies; and by appropriating \$3.9 million to PED to integrate the common PED/HED student ID into STARS. However, the bill was ruled not germane.

In fall 2008, New Mexico was accepted along with seven other states to participate in the College and Career Ready Policy Institute (CCRPI), a Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-funded initiative to provide participants with technical assistance in developing high school

accountability systems aligned with the expectations of college and the workplace. Participating state entities include HED, PED, the LESC, the Office of Education Accountability, the Department of Workforce Solutions, and the New Mexico Business Roundtable for Educational Excellence. A key goal in New Mexico's proposal to CCRPI was development of its longitudinal student data system.

Also in fall 2008, PED and HED collaborated in the submission of a proposal for a federal data system grant from the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) for approximately \$9.0 million to continue development and expansion of STARS to include postsecondary data. A decision by IES on the fall round of proposals is still pending.

Related Bills

SB 123 *Administrators in Accountability Reporting*

SB 152a *Require Freshman Year Outcomes Reports*