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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**ORIGINAL DATE** 02/09/09  
**LAST UPDATED** 03/10/09    **HB** 342/aHEC

**SPONSOR** Maestas

**SHORT TITLE** Public School Media Literacy Classes    **SB** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYST** Aguilar

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$0.1 Indeterminate (See Fiscal Implications)	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the SEG Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY09	FY10	FY11	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		\$0.1 Indeterminate (See Fiscal Implications)			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From  
Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of the HEC Amendment

The House Education Committee amendment to House Bill 342 removes the requirement that media literacy be offered as an elective to students in the 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades and includes the option that it may be provided to students in the same grades.

#### Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 342 requires that media literacy be offered as an elective for public school students in grades six through 12 beginning with the 2010-2011 school year.

## **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

HB-342 requires that media literacy be offered as an elective for students in the sixth through twelfth grades beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. Under the provisions of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, highly qualified teachers are required to teach all classes. It is unclear what fiscal impact the provisions of this bill will have on school districts with regard to hiring additional teaching staff as well as finding classroom space for these additional requirements.

PED notes that the provisions contained in this bill would require the Public Education Department (PED) to identify current academic content and performance standards to support this new requirement but it may also be necessary as the revision of standards proceed, that media literacy be included as a component within all appropriate revised standards. The revision of standards is expensive and time consuming and if becomes necessary to revise the standards and benchmarks, considerable expense could be incurred.

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

PED reports that New Mexico has been a leader in the national media literacy movement. In 1993 the New Mexico Media Literacy Project (NMMLP) was established. This project has been an outreach project of the Albuquerque Academy. The project is supported in various ways through grants, donations, sales of products, but does not accept funding from media corporations. The project could and has served as a resource to schools and districts over the years.

PED notes that as defined by the NMMLP, Media Literacy is the ability to critically consume and create media and is an essential skill in today's world. Media literacy education seeks to give kids and adults greater freedom by empowering them to access, analyze, evaluate and produce media. Media literate youth and adults are better able to understand the complex messages we receive from television, radio, newspapers, magazines, books, billboards, signs, packaging, marketing materials, video games, recorded music, the Internet and other forms of media. They can understand not only the surface content of media messages (the "text") but also the more important meanings (the "subtext") hidden beneath the surface. People who are media literate can also create their own media, becoming active participants in our media culture. (New Mexico Media Literacy Project)

PA/mt:mc