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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Sapien **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/05/09
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** _____
SHORT TITLE Rio Rancho Cyber Academy **SB** 267
ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to an Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 267 appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department for the Rio Rancho Cyber Academy Program in the Rio Rancho Public Schools.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

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

The Rio Rancho Cyber Academy is in its fourth year and offers Rio Rancho students online courses both asynchronously (24/7) and synchronously (in real time). This program supports

students with a full-time and blended service model allowing students to take traditional brick-and-mortar classes in combination with online courses. The RRCA offers educational options to students in unique circumstances, particularly those at risk for educational failure and/or who are home-bound.

The Rio Rancho Cyber Academy desires to develop and implement an extended school-year model to enhance learning opportunities for students. In interviewing the RRCA principal, a portion of the appropriation (\$37.5) would be used for teacher stipends and materials to support summer programming. A portion (\$37.5) would be used to purchase 25 additional site licenses from a vendor, and the remaining portion (\$25.0) would be used to complete building wiring and upgrade wireless capabilities. The portion to be used to complete infrastructure may be problematic as these are considered to be recurring dollars not typically used for capital expenses.

This bill does not include the other New Mexico school districts and charter schools who would desire additional support for online programming. Other districts and charter schools are supporting full-time online learning programming via SEG funds. This bill applies only to the RRCA.

The Rio Rancho district is part of the state's Innovative Digital Education and Learning (IDEAL-NM) program that provides online summer school courses and receives funding through that mechanism. The LFC recommendation for the General Appropriation Act includes \$750 thousand for IDEAL.

PA/svb