

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 01/31/12
 LAST UPDATED 02/01/12 **HB** _____

SPONSOR Nava

SHORT TITLE Dona Ana Autism Center **SB** 221

ANALYST Chabot

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	\$220.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB 254, SM 20 and HB 148

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD)

Department of Health (DOH)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 221 appropriates \$220.0 thousand from the general fund to the PED for the purpose of distribution to the Las Cruces public school district for operating expenses of the southern New Mexico autism spectrum disorders (ASD) center.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$220.0 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 shall revert to the general fund. According to the LFC staff General Fund Recurring Appropriation Outlook for FY14 and FY15, December 2011 forecasted revenues will be insufficient to cover growing recurring appropriations.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Las Cruces Public Schools have the following ASD programs:

- Behavioral Technical Assistants – Provide training, classroom support, work with parents and school teams to develop individualized education programs (IEPs) and Behavior Intervention Plans, community supports, etc.;
- A Board Certified Behavioral Analyst (BCBA) is on preschool instructional staff and provides on-site training at designated preschool classrooms ;
- Satellite programs for students on the Autism Spectrum – preschool through grade 6;
- Autism Spectrum Disorders Evaluation Team (ASDET) – district wide screening and evaluation process;
- Technical Assistance Autism Team – develops and provides interventions for teachers of students with ASD;
- Systematic training, done district-wide, regarding the “11 Considerations for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders”;
- Autism Resource Center – provides inventory (books, supplies, equipment, etc.) for staff and community to produce student-specific intervention materials;
- Links for families and staff on district website; and
- Parent/Family support groups through monthly “Lunch Bunch”; including book club and a variety of topics for discussion; support group topics are developed using evidence-based practices.
- Fifth year that LCPS receives a sub-grant and participates in the NMPED Special Education Bureau (SEB) Autism Project.

In 2011-2012, the district served 149 students with ASD. This bill would expand services to all of southern New Mexico which is needed because the New Mexico State University no longer provides services.

CYFD states the proposed ASD education and supports would be available to persons and community agencies in southern New Mexico where services are limited. Prevalence of autism is estimated at 1 in 110 births and has been increasing.

DOH currently contracts with three agencies to provide adaptive skill building services to a small pilot group of school age children in Dona Ana, Luna, Chaves, Curry, Roosevelt and DeBaca counties with a diagnosis of ASD. The development of this center could potentially provide additional resources to these contractors and the families they serve.

GAC/lj:svb