

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 390

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .192177.1

Short Title: Albuquerque Teacher Development Programs

Sponsor(s): Senator Mark Moores and Others

Analyst: Travis Dulany

Date: February 17, 2013

Bill Summary:

SB 390 makes an appropriation for anti-bullying, antiviolence, and character-development programs for public school teachers in Albuquerque.

Fiscal Impact:

\$50,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Local Government Division of the Department of Finance and Administration for expenditure in FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund at the end of FY 14.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the Public Education Department, the Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) district is in the final year of a Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant and the district will “no longer have any specific federal money to support bullying prevention programs or efforts and would rely on other funding sources for further implementation.” The website for the program can be found at www.abqsafeschools.org.

Substantive Issues:

According to an APS official quoted in an October 2012 news report:

- 1,337 bullying and physical fight reports were filed in school year 2011-2012;
- 932 students were suspended as a result of those incidents; and
- bullying and physical fights are reported in the same category; however, the district will bifurcate the data in future school years.

According to the 2011 New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey for middle school students:

- 48.5 percent of students reported that they had been in a physical fight during some time in their lives; and
- 43.7 percent of students reported that they had been bullied on school property.

According to the 2011 New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey for high school students:

- 18.5 percent of female respondents and 8.2 percent of male respondents reported that they were electronically bullied in the 12 months prior to the survey;
- 18.7 percent of respondents reported that they had been bullied on school property in the 12 months prior to the survey;
- 31.5 percent of students reported that they had been in a physical fight in the 12 months prior to the survey; and
- 6.5 percent of respondents admitted to carrying a weapon on school property.

Bullying prevention training resources are available free of charge from the National Crime Prevention Council and www.stopbullying.gov, a website managed by the federal departments of Education, Justice, and Health and Human Services.

Background:

During the 2011 regular legislative session, LESC-endorsed legislation was enacted to require:

- PED to establish guidelines for bullying prevention policies; and
- local school boards to:
 - promulgate bullying prevention policies by August 2011; and
 - implement bullying prevention programs by August 2012.

School district staff responsibilities, as noted in APS policy, are quoted below:

- “Albuquerque Public Schools shall annually notify (electronically, orally or written) all school and district personnel (including substitutes), school volunteers, students and their parents/legal guardians of the Board of Education policy on Bullying Prevention and this administrative procedural directive.
- All district personnel shall be required to report alleged or suspected incidents of bullying. All other members of the school community shall be encouraged to report alleged or suspected incidents of bullying.
- Principals shall develop and implement a comprehensive written bullying prevention plan as part of a school-wide prevention plan. Each plan shall be based on specific school needs and shall include implementation of a universal, data-driven bullying prevention program, or adoption of a pre-existing evidence-based bullying prevention program. This plan shall include:
 - internal measures to strongly discourage, address and establish consequences for false reports of bullying;
 - an internal bullying reporting process which ensures the confidentiality of reporters, witnesses, victims and alleged perpetrators;
 - principals shall notify all school personnel, school volunteers, students and their parents/legal guardians of this process;
 - appropriate measures to protect reporters, witnesses and victims of bullying from retaliation;

- procedures for administration to investigate allegations of bullying, which ensure the confidentiality of reporters, witnesses, victims and alleged perpetrators; and
 - the principal, or his/her designee, shall respond consistently and promptly to all individuals involved in every reported and suspected bullying incident.
- All instructional and operational administrative personnel shall participate in mandatory bullying prevention training provided by Albuquerque Public Schools at least once every three years.
 - Principals shall train their staff periodically about bullying prevention strategies and identifying, reporting, and effectively responding to bullying.
 - Staff shall be required to document attendance to these trainings and return the staff name, employee number and signature to the counseling manager within five days of the training.”

Committee Referrals:

SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

HB 54 *School Board Cyberbullying Prevention*

HB 234 *Create Crime of Bullying*