

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 159

51st Legislature, 2nd Session, 2014

Tracking Number: .195710.1

Short Title: UNM School Turnaround Program

Sponsor(s): Representative Rick Miera and Others

Analyst: LaNysha Adams

Date: February 5, 2014

Bill Summary:

HB 159 makes an appropriation to the University of New Mexico (UNM) Board of Regents to fund a graduate-level program addressing school improvement strategies for practicing school administrators for:

- data collection;
- analysis; and
- curriculum development.

Fiscal Impact:

\$147,555 is appropriated from the General Fund to the UNM Board of Regents for expenditure in FY 15. Unexpended or unencumbered funds at the end of FY 15 revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

HB 3, *Education Appropriation Act*, includes a \$4.0 million appropriation to the Schools in Need of Improvement Fund and the following language:

- Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 22-2C-10 NMSA 1978 or other substantive law, for FY 15 PED's secretary shall allocate \$1.0 million from the balance of the Schools in Need of Improvement Fund to two or more New Mexico universities for a collaborative school principal leadership program involving one or more colleges of education (see "Background," below).

Substantive Issues:

2013 LESC Interim

According to the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) and the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) joint report on the University of Virginia School Turnaround Specialist Program (UVA-STSP) presented during the 2013 interim:

- the Public Education Department (PED) originally indicated funds would be distributed to the 40 lowest performing schools to support turnaround efforts; however, after the appropriation was made the department used a portion of the funds to send two school

district cohorts including principals from nine schools and one school program to the UVA-STSP;

- the UVA-STSP was created by the Partnership for Leaders in Education (PLE), a nonprofit organization run through the Darden Foundation. The PLE is a partnership between the Darden School of Business and the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia;
- the cost of the UVA-STSP totaled \$77,000 per cohort for participants in Cohort 9, which will increase to \$80,000 for Cohort 10. Fees cover salaries and benefits of both PLE staff and contracted professional services, travel for PLE staff for site visits, and course materials; and
- concerns persist that state funding is being sent out-of-state, particularly when New Mexico has a number of higher education institutions that may have the capacity to support a similar leadership program.

According to the LFC and LESC joint report on the UVA-STSP presented during the 2013 interim:

- the UVA-STSP is a two-year executive education program with an additional 10 months of pre-work with the state department of education and school district central office;
- participants in the UVA-STSP begin a two-year program in the summer of the first year and participate in executive education sessions with key district leaders over two years;
- principals who successfully achieve established goals and complete the UVA-STSP receive a credential in Educational Turnaround Management;
- from July 2011 to July 2013, 26 schools in six districts from New Mexico have participated in UVA-STSP; and
- there are existing leadership structures in the state to support school turnaround efforts, such as:
 - the “high performing” Alliance of Leading and Learning (ALL) partnership between UNM, and Albuquerque Public Schools; and
 - the New Mexico School Leadership Institute and PED’s Principals Pursuing Excellence, which aims to mimic the UVA-STSP by providing ongoing support to a cohort of principals for two years.

Background:

Current Law

22-2C-10, Schools in need of improvement fund, NMSA 1978 prescribes that:

- the Schools in Need of Improvement Fund be created in the state treasury;
- the fund include appropriations, federal allocations for the purposes of the fund, income from investment of the fund;
- balances in the fund not revert to any other fund at the end of any fiscal year;
- PED administers the fund;
- money in the fund is appropriated to PED to provide assistance to public schools in need of improvement and public schools to corrective action;
- no more than 3.0 percent of the fund may be retained by PED for administrative purposes;

- money in the fund must be expended on warrants of the secretary of finance and administration pursuant to vouchers signed by PED's secretary or her authorized representative; and
- distributions from the fund must be by application approved by the department based on a public school's approved improvement plan as provided in Section 22-2A-7, Tutor-Scholars Program, NMSA.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

HB 3 *Education Appropriation Act*