

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 465

52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015

Tracking Number: .200097.1

Short Title: Win with Wellness School Project

Sponsor(s): Representative Deborah A. Armstrong and Others

Analyst: James Ball

Date: March 10, 2015

Bill Summary:

HB 465 adds a new section to the *Public School Code* and makes an appropriation to implement the Win with Wellness (WWW) pilot project to explore the feasibility of implementing a four-lesson wellness curriculum for second and fifth grade students statewide.

Among its provisions, HB 465 further requires that:

- by October 15, 2015, the Public Education Department (PED) to appoint a curriculum development leader who is to select personnel from PED and from the Department of Health (DOH) to serve on an ad hoc committee to design materials for the WWW curriculum;
- by October 15, 2015, the WWW curriculum to be completed, with DOH approval;
- the curriculum consist of four lessons and teacher's guides for grades 2 and 5;
- by November 15, 2015, the lessons be printed on laminated postcard stock in color and on one side and distributed to all public elementary schools;
- classroom study begin by January 2016 and continue through May 2016; and
- PED to provide an evaluation form to second and fifth grade teachers and elementary principals to determine whether the WWW pilot should be:
 - expanded to other grades;
 - continued in the second and fifth grades with or without revisions; or
 - terminated.

Finally, HB 465 requires PED to include a funding request in its September budget request¹ if the department determines that pilot project should be continued or expanded.

Fiscal Impact:

\$75,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to PED for expenditure in FY 16. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

¹ Not later than September 1, current law requires all state agencies to submit a budget request for the next fiscal year to the State Budget Division of the Department of Finance and Administration.

Substantive Issues:

According to PED’s analysis of an identical bill (SB 532), existing statute and PED rule establish requirements for meeting New Mexico health education content standards with benchmarks for grades 1-12, and it is unclear, given these requirements, whether a new curriculum is necessary.

In addition, PED’s Wellness Policy requires school districts to create plans that include areas related to the components of a coordinated school health approach, providing the framework for linking health and education to student health and well-being, with a focus on enabling healthy and successful students. The eight interactive components of a coordinated school health plan are:

1. health education;
2. physical education and activity;
3. nutrition;
4. social and emotional well-being;
5. healthy and safe environment;
6. health services;
7. staff wellness; and
8. family, school, and community involvement.

Background:

According to the website of the National Council for Youth Leadership, the six focus areas of the Win for Wellness program are:

1. chemical free living;
2. positive self-concept;
3. physical fitness;
4. safety;
5. nutrition; and
6. environment.

Committee Referrals:

HEC/HAFC

Related Bills:

SB 526 *School District Family Engagement Programs*
SB 532 *Win with Wellness School Project (Identical)*