

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SB 574

**52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015**

**Tracking Number:** .200008.1

**Short Title:** Increase Community School Partnerships

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** March 13, 2015

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**Bill Summary:**

SB 574 makes an appropriation to increase the number of schools participating in the community schools partnership program (see “**Background,**” below) in the Albuquerque Public Schools.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$500,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY 16. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

According to PED, the Governor's budget recommendation for FY 16 includes funds for interventions and supports for students, struggling schools, and parents. As of today (March 13, 2015), HAFC CS/HB 2 & 4, the *General Appropriation Act of 2015*, includes a \$10.5 million appropriation to PED for “Interventions and Support for Students, Struggling Schools, and Parents, including Truancy and Dropout Prevention.”

**Substantive Issues:**

According to the Department of Health (DOH), a community school is both a place and set of partnerships between the school and other community resources that lead to improved student learning, stronger families, and healthier communities. It has an integrated focus on:

- academics;
- health and social services;
- youth and community development; and
- community engagement.

PED notes that providing student support through community schools has significant merit, although PED is concerned that SB 574 focuses on the program in a single school district rather than considering statewide needs or priorities.

**Background:**

***ABC Community School Partnership in Bernalillo County***

According to its website:

- the ABC Community School Partnership grew out of Albuquerque’s 2003 Community Schools Task Force, which identified five major areas for action: (1) capacity development; (2) partnership linkages; (3) sustainability; (4) facility utilization; and (5) poverty issues;
- since 2008, the partnership has built linkages with early childhood efforts initiated under the Kellogg SPARK Project and implemented two Kellogg Foundation-funded planning grants to assist in implementing community schools and increasing ABC’s capacity;
- since 2012, with assistance from the Children’s Aid Society and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the ABC Community School Partnership in Bernalillo County has been involved with several partnerships:
  - ✓ the Albuquerque Business Education Compact prepared a resolution that the Albuquerque City Council adopted for funding community school development;
  - ✓ United Way of Central New Mexico is funding a coordinator position at Emerson Elementary School in Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) to implement the community school strategy; and
  - ✓ the city of Albuquerque has arranged for ABC Community School Partnership to provide programmatic oversight of the Elementary/Middle School Initiative; and
- in 2013, ABC Community School Partnership took a leadership role in passing the *Community Schools Act*.

***Community School Act***

Enacted in 2013, the *Community Schools Act* requires that a community schools initiative include at least these three strategies:

1. extended learning programs, including before- and after-school programs and summer programs;
2. school-based or school-linked healthcare; and
3. family engagement and support services.

Other provisions of this act provide that “a school district shall bear any administrative costs associated with the establishment and implementation of a community school within the school district.”

**Committee Referrals:**

SEC/SFC

**Related Bills:**

HB 525a *Evaluate Community Schools Act Improvement*