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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE
SPONSOR Lopez **LAST UPDATED** 1/23/15 **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE College Students As 3rd Grade Reading Mentors **SM** 2

ANALYST Chavez

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY14	FY15	FY16	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal (See fiscal implications)	Minimal (See fiscal implications)	Minimal (See fiscal implications)		District and Agency Operating Budgets

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates House Memorial 6

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From (for duplicate HM6)

Public Education Department (PED)

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 2 requests the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC), in cooperation with the Public Education Department (PED) and the Higher Education Department (HED), to establish a workgroup to study the feasibility of establishing a program that matches college students as mentors to third grade students in reading. The workgroup should be composed of college students and leaders from the public and private sectors representing science, industry, education, community organizations, foundations, government, and health and welfare programs. The memorial suggests the organization “MATCH New Mexico” as a model for the mentoring program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This memorial does not contain an appropriation. There may be slight administrative costs to HED and PED to carry out the request of the memorial; however, costs should be minor.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

SM2 provides the opportunity to determine the feasibility of creating a program with mentoring and tutoring third grade students by college student mentors. The memorial notes that studies show that children who are struggling to read in third grade are four times more likely to drop out or not complete high school.

In analysis for HM6, HED stated that college student mentors would need to have background checks and clearances in order to work with third graders, unless directly supervised at all times. Even when the college students have cleared a background check, there would need to be supervision and guidance, presumably from school staff.

HED also notes that the model suggested in the memorial, MATCH New is the first comprehensive project of HiddenFromView, a 501 (c) (3) committed to revealing Israeli innovations in science, technology and education. It is modeled after PERACH, a global initiative started in 1974 at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel that has been adapted in twenty-five countries around the globe.

MATCH New Mexico currently operates a program with Ramirez Thomas Elementary and St. John's College, both in Santa Fe. For the 2014-2015 school year MATCH New Mexico is joining with the Community Engagement Center, the Unidos Project, ENLACE New Mexico and El Centro de la Raza to bring MATCH mentoring to UNM students. These students will be matched with 3rd graders from Lavaland Elementary through ABC Community Schools. The Albuquerque program is still in development.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HED notes that the work required to staff the workgroup may be burdensome to the agency. However, the agency adds that if the mentoring program is successful, the agencies that form the work group would likely consider the result justifies the use of the agencies' resources. The major task of matching mentors with elementary school students would fall to New Mexico institutions of higher education rather than to HED.

KC/bb