

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 87

52nd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2016

Tracking Number: .202387.2

Short Title: Special Needs Educator Development

Sponsor(s): Senator Linda M. Lopez

Analyst: Christina McCorquodale

Date: January 29, 2016

Bill Summary:

The bill appropriates \$150,000 from the General Fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY17 to provide all teachers and all school staff with professional development to effectively work and meet the instructional needs of students with special needs in the classroom.

Fiscal Impact:

The bill appropriates \$150,000 from the General Fund to PED for expenditure in FY17. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY17 shall revert to the General Fund.

According to PED, \$150,000 is allocated from the General Fund to the department for professional development of various staff members who work with students with special needs. PED also stated it provides approximately \$2.5 million of *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) Part B in discretionary funding to New Mexico Regional Education Cooperatives annually for personnel preparation, professional development, and training.

Substantive Issues:

PED analysis states that local education agencies (LEAs) must meet a set of assurances in order to receive IDEA Part B funding. One of the assurances requires that LEAs ensure that all personnel necessary to carry out IDEA Part B are appropriately and adequately prepared.

Background:

Annually, New Mexico receives \$92 million of IDEA Part B funds for the provision of special education and related services for students with disabilities ages 3 through 21. The majority of these funds flow through PED to LEAs and are used for direct services for students with disabilities; remaining LEA funds can be used for indirect costs and services such as professional development.