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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
53rd Legislature, 1st Session, 2017

Bill Number	<u>HB477/aHAFC</u>	Sponsor	<u>Hall & Gonzales</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.205630.2</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>HEC/HAFC</u>
Short Title	<u>Community Schools Initiative</u>		
Analyst	<u>Terrazas</u>	Original Date	<u>2/27/17</u>
		Last Updated	<u>3/11/17</u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of HAFC Amendment

The HAFC Amendment for House Bill 477 (HB477/aHAFC) removes the \$400 thousand appropriation from the general fund to the Public Education Department for expenditure in FY18.

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 477/aHAFC amends the Community Schools Act by modifying what a community schools initiative must include. HB477/aHAFC requires four additional strategies to strengthen behavior for all students: opportunities for families to acquire early learning and child development skills; school and community-resource partnerships focused on academic and other social, health and familial support; social, health, nutrition, and mental health services, and support for children, family members, and community members; and case management for students in need of comprehensive support in academics, attendance and behavior. Extended learning programs, including after-school programs and summer programs, are required. Further, a community schools initiative must implement an independently evaluated, evidence-based or results-based model designed to improve student achievement and to assess the initiative's effectiveness.

FISCAL IMPACT

HB477/aHAFC does not contain an appropriation.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to the Coalition for Community Schools, a community school is both a place and a set of partnerships between the school and community resources. Community schools have an integrated focus on academics, health and social services, youth and community development, and community engagement, all of which are intended to support improved student learning,

stronger families, and healthier communities. See Attachment A to view a list of community schools in New Mexico.

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) includes the Community Support for School Success program, which authorizes at least 10 grants a year for the Full-Service Community Schools (FSCS) program. The FSCS program encourages the coordination of academic, social, and health services through partnerships among public elementary and secondary schools, the schools' local educational agencies, and community-based organizations, nonprofit organizations, and other public or private entities. Grants are awarded to provide assistance to FSCS programs to improve the coordination and integration, accessibility, and effectiveness of services for children and families.

The bill requires public schools with to implement an independently evaluated community school initiative that is an evidence- or results-based model of integrated student services (ISS) and comprehensive supports. Including this requirement may allow the state to increase private matching funds, better coordinate partnerships with the local community and businesses, and leverage federal funds. The Albuquerque/Bernalillo County (ABC) Community School Partnership, for example, includes the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, Albuquerque Public Schools, United Way of Central New Mexico and the Albuquerque Business Education Compact. 2015 sponsoring partners included Fidelity Investments, AT&T, Wells Fargo, Nusenda, and Southwest Capital Bank.

Evidence exists that ISS can contribute to student academic progress as measured by decreased grade retention and dropout, and increases in attendance, math and reading proficiency, and grade point averages (GPA). ISS refers to a school-based approach to promoting students' academic success by developing, providing, and coordinating supports that target academic and non-academic barriers to achievement. These resources range from traditional tutoring and mentoring to a broader set of supports, including linking students to physical and mental healthcare and connecting their families to parent education, family counseling, food banks, or employment assistance. While ISS programs take many forms, integration of supports to meet individual student's needs and integration of the ISS program into the life of a school are essential.

Child Trends, a national nonprofit research organization focused on improving outcomes for children, states the major providers of ISS include: Beacon Initiative, Children's Aid Society Community Schools, City Connects, Comer School Development Program, Communities In Schools (the largest provider nationally), Elev8, Say Yes to Education, School of the 21st Century, Turnaround for Children, and University-Assisted Community Schools. Child Trends indicates the number of evaluations to date is relatively small, though they provide initial or emerging evidence of effectiveness of ISS for improving student outcomes.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Public schools applying to become a community school initiative will be required to implement an independently evaluated, evidence-based or results-based model of ISS and comprehensive supports that is proven to increase student achievement.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In 2013, the Legislature passed the Community Schools Act to organize community resources to address the needs of the whole child and promote student success. The act establishes requirements for the creation of community schools, identifies specific strategies that must be provided, sets forth eligibility criteria to seek grants, and specifies how funds from may be used. It allows districts to transform “priority” or “focus” (low-performing) schools into community schools, with goals to improve school climate, improve student achievement and growth, and create incentives to grow and sustain community partnerships that help achieve these goals.

The Youth Development Incorporated Elevate New Mexico (YDI-Elev8) indicates that community schools are able to maximize a community’s existing and often untapped resources, improving cost efficiencies. YDI-Elev8, for example, opened school-based health centers (SBHCs) on the Grant Middle School and Wilson Middle School campuses in Albuquerque in 2008. Today, the New Mexico Department of Health Office of School and Adolescent Health funds First Nations Community HealthSource to provide primary, dental, and behavioral health care at these schools.

It is significant to note that identifying a community school may be tricky. There are schools whose names include “community,” but that does not make them a “community school.” The University of New Mexico’s (UNM) Center for Education Policy Research, Youth Development, Inc., UNM Multicultural Center, Albuquerque Public Schools, and ABC Community School Partnership identified five essential elements of community schools: (1) a school-based health center; (2) extended learning opportunities; (3) access to support services; (4) family and community engagement; and (5) a coordinator responsible for coordinating and integrating these elements.

Pierce, Mirabal, and Linney (2010) identified eight key ingredients to successful integration of services, providers, goals, and infrastructure: (1) coordinated services, not just co-located; (2) shared ownership, responsibility, and accountability; (3) services support school goals; (4) opportunities to develop and strengthen relationships; (5) quality service indicators are met; (6) intermediary support is provided; (7) community resources and parent assets are incorporated; and (8) school and district leaders are engaged.

RELATED BILLS

Related to SB445, Community Schools & Pre-K Definitions, which amends several definitions of the Community Schools Initiative Act and incorporates additional application requirements to make community schools eligible for federal funds. This bill is a duplicate of HB451.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files

DT/rab

List of Community Schools in New Mexico

Albuquerque Public Schools Albuquerque/Bernalillo County (ABC) Community Schools	
1	Atrisco Heritage Academy High School
2	Emerson Elementary
3	Garfield Middle School
4	George I. Sanchez Collaborative Community School
5	Grant Middle School
6	Harrison Middle School
7	Hawthorne Elementary
8	Hayes Middle School
9	Helen Cordero Elementary
10	Highland High School
11	Inez Elementary
12	Jefferson Middle School
13	Jimmy Carter Middle School
14	John Adams Middle School
15	Kennedy Middle School
16	Kirtland Elementary
17	La Mesa Elementary
18	La Promesa Charter School - Pre K and Kinder and Kinder - 8th Grade
19	Manzano Mesa Elementary
20	Pajarito Elementary
21	Van Buren Middle School
22	West Mesa High School
23	Wilson Middle School

Las Cruces Public Schools	
1	Lynn Middle School