

LESC bill analyses are available on the New Mexico Legislature website ([www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov)). Bill analyses are prepared by LESC staff for standing education committees of the New Mexico Legislature. LESC does not assume any responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

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

<b>Bill Number</b>	<u>SB324</u>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Rodriguez</u>
<b>Tracking Number</b>	<u>.206671.1</u>	<b>Committee Referrals</b>	<u>SEC/SFC</u>
<b>Short Title</b>	<u>Early Childhood Educator Development</u>		
<b>Analyst</b>	<u>Terrazas</u>	<b>Original Date</b>	<u>2/9/17</u>
		<b>Last Updated</b>	<u>3/3/17</u>

---

---

**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 324 (SB324) appropriates \$2 million from the general fund to the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) to fund a workforce and professional development program to increase the quality of early childhood education for children from birth through kindergarten eligibility.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The bill appropriates \$2 million from the general fund to CYFD for expenditure in FY18. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY18 shall revert to the general fund.

According to the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), the executive and LFC recommendations for FY18 include \$1.3 million for professional development and retention initiatives for early childhood education services. Since FY16, CYFD has received flat funding for early childhood professional development.

**SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

SB324 would fund retention incentives, continuing education, and professional development programs for educators who qualify under CYFD rules. Provisions would require CYFD to contract with nonprofit entities for the implementation and management of the workforce and professional development program.

LFC stated CYFD has managed scholarships and retention incentives for early childhood educators in New Mexico for more than 10 years. In FY16, CYFD provided 869 scholarships for early childhood educators and 231 participated in incentive wage supplements statewide. Outcomes included:

- 6,531 total credits were earned at New Mexico public education institutions;
- 463 scholarship participants had a high school education and began postsecondary education opportunities;
- 398 scholarship participants were first generation secondary-education participants; and
- 75 percent of incentive wage supplements were awarded to minority participants.

Research clearly points out that training and professional development of early educators is the primary indicator of program quality and is the most significant predictor of children's success when they reach the primary grades. Furthermore, research indicates the consistency of personnel is a significant factor in children's learning.

LFC stated CYFD has been able to increase the quality of early care and education for children prenatal to five years through professional development by partnering with public and private partnerships. It is estimated in New Mexico there are more than 26 thousand individuals (primarily minority women) who earn their livelihood as child care providers or educators.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

SB324 requires CYFD to contract with a nonprofit entity or entities for the implementation and management of a workforce and professional development program. This requirement will limit CYFD's ability to contract with for-profit or public governmental entities.

### **RELATED BILLS**

Duplicate of HB135, Early Childhood Teacher Development

Relates to HB173, Early Childhood Teacher Development, which appropriates \$1 million to CYFD to fund a workforce and professional development program to increase the quality of early childhood education for children from birth through kindergarten eligibility.

Relates to HB435, Early Childhood Educator Development Pgms., which appropriates \$1 million to CYFD for early childhood teacher education and retention.

Relates to HJR1/aHJC, Permanent Funds for Early Childhood, CA, which permanently increases annual distributions from the Land Grant Permanent Fund by 1 percent for the purposes of educational programs and early childhood educational services beginning in FY20.

Relates to SB106, Early Childhood Services Department, which creates a cabinet-level Early Childhood Services Department that would include CYFD early childhood services, the New Mexico Department of Health Family Infant Toddler program and Families First; and the Public Education Department's prekindergarten and Even Start Family Literacy.

Relates to SB182, Early Childhood Land Grant Act, which creates an Early Childhood Land Grant Act with two fiduciary funds modeled after the existing Land Grant Permanent Fund and Land Grant Maintenance Fund.

SB289, Early Childhood Education Dept. Act, which proposes to create a cabinet-level Early Childhood Education Department.

Relates to SJR3, Permanent Funds for Early Childhood, CA, which permanently increases annual distributions in the Land Grant Permanent Fund by 1.5 percent.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- LESC Files
- Legislative Finance Committee

**DT/rab**