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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Stewart ORIGINAL DATE 3/15/17
 LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE School Grades Work Group SM 145

ANALYST Liu

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY17	FY18	FY19	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total		Minimal				

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to SB40, SB62

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
 Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) Files

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Memorial 145 requests LESC, in consultation with the Public Education Department (PED), to convene a school grades work group that will meet during the 2017 and 2018 interim to study school performance, best practices, and resource disparities. The memorial also requests the work group to present its findings and recommendations on school quality indicators, turnaround models, best practices, and school programs by December 1, 2018.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This memorial does not make an appropriation. Costs of convening the work group will most likely be borne by each individual participating entity and will depend on the frequency and location of meetings.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The memorial establishes a school grades work group consisting of two representatives from:

- public school teachers in traditional schools,
- charter schools,
- an education labor union,
- school principals,

Senate Memorial 145 – Page 2

- local superintendents,
- school board members,
- parents of students currently enrolled in a New Mexico public school,
- tribal leaders or tribal liaisons,
- a community organization with an education focus,
- LESC, and
- PED.

In 2016, PED held stakeholder engagement meetings across the state as part of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requirement for state accountability plan submission. Stakeholders took part in the 20 regional meetings held in Gallup, Farmington, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Roswell, Las Cruces, and the tribal government to government meetings held in fall 2016. Participants included teachers, school and district administrators, parents and families, community, tribal and civic leaders, and business and economic development advocates. Over 600 people attended the in-person meetings and over 400 people provided their feedback through an online survey that was available in both English and Spanish. Participants in all meetings offered input on what was working well, areas in need of improvement, and suggestions for ESSA implementation. They were asked to focus on the following ESSA reform areas:

- School accountability and report cards
- Student assessment and coursework requirements
- Identification and support for English language learners (ELLs)
- Support for low-performing schools
- Support and evaluation of teachers and school leaders

The full report can be accessed here: <http://nmfirst.org/event-details/excellence-in-education>

PED notes their current ongoing technical review involves revisions based on stakeholder input. The current A-F school grading system was developed in 2012 with several groups advising and providing feedback, including the U.S. Department of Education, Superintendent's Advisory work group, School Board Association, Coalition for Excellence in Science and Math Education, Assessment and Accountability Advisory Council, a technical work group, and more than 2,000 school leaders and district administrators. Additionally, PED reached out to stakeholders about the accountability model in the first three years of school grading through such mechanisms as numerous documents, webinars, advisory committees, and on-site presentations around the state.

A September 2016 LESC study found schools with higher student populations qualifying for free and reduced-fee lunch (FRL) had a higher percentage of D and F school grades, while schools with lower FRL student populations had a higher percentage of A and B school grades. The LESC findings suggested lower math proficiency scores were related with higher FRL percentages. LESC indicated the focus on academic proficiency, rather than academic growth, in school grades would make improvements to current standings more difficult for schools in low socioeconomic areas.

RELATIONSHIP

This bill relates to SB40, which establishes a state school grades council and new school grading system, and SB62, which adjusts factors for calculating school grades.