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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Gonzales ORIGINAL DATE 1/28/19
 LAST UPDATED _____ HB 79

SHORT TITLE Community Schools Act Implementation SB _____

ANALYST Eckberg

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
	\$400.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
 Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 79 appropriates \$400 thousand to the Public Education Department (PED) to implement the Community Schools Act.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$400 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2020 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Under New Mexico’s Community Schools Act, a community school initiative may be created in any public school in the state. A community school initiative should include a core set of strategies such as extended learning programs, including before- and after-school, summer programs, school based health care, and a connection to a public or private partner agency or community based organization to help coordinate programs and services.

The Legislative Education Study Committee notes the Community Schools Act allows a school district, a group of public schools, or a public school to apply to PED for grants to implement a community school initiative. However, since the bill's enactment, the Legislature has not appropriated funds to specifically support the Community Schools Act and PED has not used its Title I set-aside funds for low-performing schools or multiple special appropriations to award grants pursuant to the Act.

The 2018 LFC report, *Results First: Education Interventions* found Community schools can increase academic achievement and improve student attendance compared to traditional public schools, and can also reduce disparities in achievement. The community school model combines integrated student supports with extended learning time and robust family and community engagement. Local education agencies that want to implement a community school model can leverage funding for extended learning time programs, as well as at-risk funding for integrated student supports. The report found community schools show strong evidence of positive impact to student achievement.

Additionally, the Learning Policy Institute and National Education Policy Center found community schools to meet federal guidelines constituting an “evidence-based” strategy.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED notes the fiscal implications to PED will be minimal. The PED will need to develop a process to award and monitor the funding and the programs being implemented under the Act.

NE/sb