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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Stewart ORIGINAL DATE 2/2/19  
LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_  
SHORT TITLE Youth Dance Program for Low-Income Children SB 249  
ANALYST Chenier

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
	\$500.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to an appropriation to the Department of Health in House Bill 2 that include a \$400 thousand allocation for a youth dance program.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Department of Health (DOH)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 249 appropriates \$500 thousand from the general fund to DOH for expenditure in FY20 and FY21 to provide low-income, at-risk children statewide with access to a best-practice, character-building youth dance program, in partnership with school districts statewide, that supports student achievement, improves health and quality of life and increases community engagement.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY21 shall revert to the general fund.

DOH said that state agencies must adhere to the State Procurement Code, therefore, with this appropriation, a request for proposals (RFP) process would need to be completed to distribute these funds.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

DOH provided the following:

Childhood and youth obesity are a significant public health issue. Although obesity rates increased through 2002 for all adolescents, more recently, obesity is declining among youth from higher income families while continuing to increase among youth from lower income families. These results underscore the need to target public health interventions to socioeconomically disadvantaged (i.e., low-income) youth (<https://www.pnas.org/content/early/2014/01/08/1321355110>).

People, especially adolescents, who live in low-income households have greater difficulty being physically active compared with higher-income people due to various social and environmental barriers such as long distances to sports facilities, poor transportation services, poor neighborhood and traffic conditions, a lack of parks and recreational facilities, air pollution, a lack of spare time, bad health, and a lack of exposure to social support related to exercise. Even though these barriers affect other income groups, the impact is much greater on low-income communities ([www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4273050/](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4273050/)).

The provisions of SB249 have the potential to provide physical activity options for low-income youth in New Mexico (NM), if best practice approaches are followed and that they effectively target and reach those in greatest need (e.g., neighborhoods and/or communities with a higher proportion of low-income families and a scarcity of physical activity options).

In 2017, more than one in four New Mexico kindergarten students (27.9%) were overweight or obese. Prevalence rates were significantly higher among third graders; over one in three (34.2%) were overweight or obese. Third grade students measured in 2017 were sampled from roughly the same general birth group as the 2014 kindergarten sample. Over 11% of kindergarten students were obese in 2014 and by 2017, 19.9% of students in this birth group (now third graders) were obese. This significant (72%) upward shift in obesity prevalence between kindergarten and third grade highlights the continued need to address and prevent excessive weight gain and support healthy eating and active living behaviors at an early age (<https://nmhealth.org/data/view/chronic/2113/>).

Given that obesity is linked to the development of numerous chronic diseases and the evidence that overweight and obese children are less likely to grow into economically and socially successful adults, this is a significant burden for low-income children. Assuming income inequality will not go away, public health interventions may be more successful if they follow lifestyle choices such as family physical activity and healthy diets (<http://childofourtimeblog.org.uk/2015/12/why-poorer-children-are-at-greater-risk-of-obesity/>).

PED provided the following:

Per the US Census, 19.7% of the state’s population is living in poverty.

Source:

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/nm#>

In the 2018-2019 school year, 87 school districts and 57 state charter schools receive Title I funds in New Mexico – resulting in 685 Title I schools in the state. To qualify for Title I funds, a school must have a poverty rate of at least 35%. Districts use free and reduced price lunch data to determine school poverty percentages.

Regarding family and community engagement, districts and schools must, with the involvement of parents with children in Title I schools, develop written parent and family engagement policies that meet the requirements of section 1116 of ESSA. LEA policies must be distributed to Title I parents in an understandable and uniform format. Policies must be evaluated annually, with meaningful involvement of parents. The evaluation process includes identifying needs of parents and family members to assist in their child’s learning and to address identified barriers to greater family participation. Strategies are identified and the LEA policy is revised, as necessary.

The program described in the bill will provide New Mexico at-risk children significant opportunity to participate in physical activity which can improve their overall wellness - including increased attention span in school and healthy life outcomes.

Sources:

<https://www.unh.edu/healthyunh/blog/2013/07/recent-study-ties-physical-activity-longer-attention-span>

EC/sb