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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/4/2022

SPONSOR Gonzales LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Northern NM Youth Media Programs SB 209

ANALYST Gaussoin

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY22	FY23		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Senate Bills 165 and 195.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 209 (SB209) appropriates \$250 thousand to the Public Education Department in FY23 to contract with an organization to provide in-school, after-school, and out-of-school youth media education programming for students in northern New Mexico.

This bill has no effective date. It is assumed the effective date is 90 days following adjournment of the Legislature.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$250 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY23 shall revert to the general fund.

PED points out appropriations made outside of the state equalization guarantee, the pool of money distributed to local school agencies through a need-based formula, has the potential to disequalize funding for public schools.

The Public Education Department received \$293 thousand for youth media education programs in 2019 for use in FY19 and FY20. The state contracted with True Kids 1, a Taos-based program. Although SB209 appropriates funds only for FY23, based on experience and expectation, additional funding will likely be appropriated in future years.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Extended Learning. The program anticipated by SB209 would provide additional learning opportunities outside of the regular school day and potentially help close the achievement gap between high-performing and struggling students and the make up for learning loss during the pandemic-related closures. In analysis for Senate Bill 165, PED notes a Baltimore study on summer learning loss by Alexander, Entwisle and Olson, published in *Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis* in 2001, concludes achievement gap increases during the primary grades children “can be traced mainly to the out-of-school environment.” In other words, much of the achievement gap is the result of educational experiences outside of the classroom, such as those offered through after-school and other extended learning programs.

New Mexico has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in K-5 Plus and Extended Learning Time (ELT), both of which extend the school year, but participation among school districts and charter schools has been limited, resulting in large reversions to the public education reform fund over the past two years. PED notes the more flexible ELT, which requires fewer additional days, appears to be more attractive to local schools. PED notes, given state extended learning funds and substantial federal funds available to mitigate pandemic-related learning loss, additional funding for an after-school might not be necessary.

Career and Technical Education. Media education programs are generally focused on the industry-specific technical skills. True Kids 1, with which the state contracted for media education in 2019, provides instruction in television, website, film, radio, and newspaper content creation and production. Robust career and technical education was found to be a key component of a successful education system in *No Time to Lose*, an international study of high-performing education systems by the National Conference of State Legislatures. Career and technical education in media might be particular useful in New Mexico, which has a growing film industry.

College-Level Study. In analysis for a similar appropriation in 2019, PED noted New Mexico community colleges already offer programs in digital media production. High school programs should align to the expectations of these postsecondary programs. Dual-credit offerings in these postsecondary pathways could be a viable alternative to offering a high school level standalone course

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

If effective, an outside-of-school media education program could help close the achievement gap and improve overall student performance.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Under SB209, PED would be required to request proposals, assess the proposals, and contract with an outside provider.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 165 would appropriate \$250 thousand to the Public Education Department to expand summer and after-school programs in literacy and mathematics, physical wellness, and other areas.

Senate Bill 195 would appropriate \$400 thousand to PED to expand the department's program for media literacy, which attempts to teach students to think critically about media messages and impact on individuals and society.

HG/al