

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

| | FY18 | FY19 | FY20 | 3 Year Total Cost | Recurring or Nonrecurring | Fund Affected |
|--------------|-------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Total | NFI | See fiscal implications | Future impact. See fiscal implications | See fiscal implications | Recurring | General Fund and State Equalization Guarantee |

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to: None as of 1/25/18

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None as of 1/25/18

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis:

Senate Bill 172 (SB172) adds a new section to the Public School Code (§ 22-1-1) requiring the Public Education Department (PED) to promulgate rules by January 1, 2019 requiring public and private school personnel to receive suicide awareness and prevention training annually. SB172 requires the PED to consult with the New Mexico Department of Health (DOH), a statewide suicide prevention coalition, other stakeholders and suicide prevention experts in order to develop a list of approved training courses and materials.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB172 would have an initial substantial impact on the PED due to the timeline for completion being January 1, 2019. PED needs to initiate the rulemaking process to amend New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) 6.29.1, Standards for Excellence, to include the suicide awareness and prevention training as required in the legislation. The PED would also need to collaborate with the DOH and other identified partners and experts in the field in researching, coming to consensus, and identifying an approved list of training courses and materials.

As SB172 requires an annual training, there will be an indeterminate future impact on the PED since PED would need to continue to review and modify training resources based on the latest evidence-informed best practices. Presumably, the PED would also need to develop an assurance or oversight process ensuring that school districts and state-chartered charter schools adhere to these additional training requirements.

SB172 has an immediate and future fiscal impact on the public schools, in order to ensure that in-service training time is provided each year to school personnel and, presumably, demonstrate individual accountability and verification that staff has completed the annual training either as a staff-wide training or through an individual on-line learning module.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS) addresses health risk and resiliency factors of middle and high school students in New Mexico. Data from the YRRS for 2015 indicate that 16.0% of high school students have seriously considered attempting suicide in the

past 12 months, 13.6% had made a plan about how to attempt suicide in the past 12 months and 2.5% of high school students had actually attempted suicide in the past 12 months.

For nearly two decades, New Mexico has consistently ranked among the top ten states with the highest suicide rate among those aged 5-19 years. In 2016, the comparable rate was 5.3 deaths per 100,000 population. This is a rate that is 29% higher than the United States rate of 4.1/100,000 (<http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html>).

Currently, NMAC 6.29.1, Standards for Excellence, all licensed school personnel, including substitute teachers, educational assistants, school nurses, school counselors, school psychologists and other instructional service providers are to complete training in the detection and reporting of child abuse or neglect, within their first year of employment. The additional requirement of training on suicide awareness and prevention on an annual basis for school personnel will mean that district superintendents and directors of state-chartered charter schools organize and provide trainings that have to occur during existing in-service training at the school or district level. The creation of an online module, a train-the-trainer training, and a stand-alone training that may be easily provided within the school setting may alleviate organizational challenges at the district level of an annual training requirement.

As SB172 also includes coaches with the list of school personnel that receive training, the PED would need to consult with the New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA) as the NMAA is the entity responsible for the training of coaches.

SB172 is similar to adopted legislation in 19 other states requiring educators to complete youth suicide awareness training. Training needs have often included “gatekeeper” trainings. According to the National Suicide Prevention Resource Center, QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) Gatekeeper Training for suicide prevention is a 1-2 hour educational program designed to teach lay and professional “gatekeepers” the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to respond. Gatekeepers can include anyone who is strategically positioned to recognize and refer someone at risk of suicide (e.g., parents, friends, neighbors, teachers, coaches, caseworkers, police officers). The process follows three steps: (1) Question the individual's desire or intent regarding suicide, (2) Persuade the person to seek and accept help, and (3) Refer the person to appropriate resources (<http://www.sprc.org/>). With the PED collaborating with the DOH on approved gatekeeper trainings, the requirements of an annual training for school personnel may be met by a readily available and evidence-informed program.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

SB172 supports the PED’s strategic plan “Kids First New Mexico Wins” strategic lever “Ready for Success” by providing a safe and supportive learning environment for students.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SB172 has a short and long term administrative effect on the PED. The bill requires the administrative services of existing Full Time Equivalent (FTEs) for the promulgation of rules, research of evidenced based practices and approving of training materials in order to meet the January 1, 2019 timeline.

In the long term, SB172 requires an annual training of school staff. The PED would need to continue to provide administrative support through the review and modification of training

resources based on the latest evidence-informed best practices. Presumably, the PED would also need to develop an assurance or oversight process ensuring that school districts and state-chartered charter schools adhere to these additional training requirements.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

The New Mexico Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS) which addresses health risk and resiliency factors of middle and high school students in New Mexico indicates that there is reason to provide specific training to school personnel. Continued data collection must be maintained and reported to best understand the impact of such training.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

On page 1, line 21, SB172 includes private schools as being required to provide training to school personnel as prescribed by the PED rules. The PED's New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) rules are specific to public schools and state-chartered charter schools. The PED cannot prescribe rules specific to private schools.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None identified.

ALTERNATIVES

The creation of an online module, a train-the-trainer training, and a stand-alone training that may be easily provided within the school setting may alleviate organizational challenges at the district level of an annual training requirement.

Consideration should be given to accountability measures for those that do not participate. The safe schools plan already requires a plan for suicide prevention. Some consideration towards creating clear assurances that will be met by districts and schools can become part of that plan.

The legislation does not address the existing Health Education Content Standards with Benchmarks and Performance Standards. Strengthening the health education standards to require students to be taught at an age appropriate level how to recognize the signs and symptoms of suicide and how to report this to someone may address the intent of this legislation.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Public schools will continue to provide site-specific written suicide awareness/prevention protocol with identified crisis intervention teams as a requirement of site-specific safe school plans as required in NMAC 6.12.6, School District Wellness Policy, as specifically referenced at 6.12.6.8 (7).

AMENDMENTS

The list of personnel requiring training does not include staff students often spend more time with such as nurses, social workers, other ancillary personnel and instructional assistants. It is recommend that ancillary and support staff be identified in the legislation

The legislation does not address parents and guardians. Requiring the provision/offering of an annual training for parents and guardians through the school's or district's parent compacts, parent involvement plans, advisories etc., and requiring information to be sent home/emailed on an annual basis may further strengthen the intent of this legislation.