

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill No: SB 267

49th Legislature, 1st Session, 2009

Short Title: Rio Rancho Cyber Academy

Sponsor(s): Senator John M. Sapien and Others

Analyst: James Ball

Date: February 5, 2009

Bill Summary:

SB 267 makes an appropriation for the Rio Rancho Cyber Academy (RRCA) in the Rio Rancho Public Schools (RRPS).

Fiscal Impact:

\$100,000 is appropriated to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure for FY 10.

Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

Fiscal Issues:

The public school support recommendations of the Legislative Education Study Committee and Legislative Finance Committee include \$750,000 for the statewide New Mexico Cyber Academy for FY 10. The Executive's recommendation is \$1.0 million.

Separate appropriations to specific schools or school districts for operational expenditures, such as teacher stipends, circumvent the Public School Funding Formula, which provides operational funds for all school districts, and may compromise the equity of the formula.

Issues:

In its analysis of SB 267, PED states that the RRCA wishes to develop and implement an extended school-year model to enhance learning opportunities for RRPS students. Funding would be apportioned as follows:

- \$37,500 would be used for teacher stipends and materials to support summer programming;
- \$37,500 would be used to purchase 25 additional site licenses; and
- \$25,000 would be used to complete building wiring and upgrade wireless capabilities.

Background:

According to PED, the RRCA is in its fourth year of operation and offers students in RRPS:

- online courses both asynchronously (at any time) and synchronously (in real time);
- a full-time and blended service model allowing students to take traditional classes in combination with online courses; and

- educational options to students in unique circumstances, particularly those at risk for educational failure or who are home-bound.

Related Bill:

*HB 3 *Education Appropriation Act*