LEGISLATIVE REPORT

SUBJECT: Relating to Education

REFERENCE: SB 0885, SD2, HD3, CD1 Part III, Act III (SLH 2007)

ACTION REQUESTED: Report on activities toward implementation of the agriculture education program, coordination between agriculture and culinary arts programs, and funding to expand the agriculture education program.

DOE REPORT:
Introduction:
Funds were allocated to the Department of Education for the 2007-08 school year. However, the position to develop and implement the agriculture education program was not filled. In addition, funds were encumbered but not spent. On July 1, 2008, an independent contractor was selected to develop and implement the agriculture education program. Since then, the contractor has been working with 20 high schools.

FINDINGS:

Seven high schools are working with the contractor in a pilot program for Culinary Arts and Agriculture Education. One workshop was held on September 26-27, 2008 with the topics of Sustainable Crop Production and Healthy Menu Planning. More workshops are scheduled to take place beginning January 2009. The topics for these workshops will be Biological Agricultural Science, Landscaping, and Aquatic Science. Agriculture and Culinary Arts will have its own curriculum development process. To date, the only expenses the contractor has used funds for are travel and coordination costs. The bulk of the funds will be used for the upcoming workshops in 2009.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that the contractor provide a progress report on the pilot programs and evaluations of the 2009 workshops, as well as an executive summary of the agriculture education program by December 1, 2009.