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SENATE BILL 516

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; REQUIRING SCHOOL DISTRICT AND  
CHARTER SCHOOL FINANCIAL MONITORING; REQUIRING THE PUBLIC  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO SYNTHESIZE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CHARTER  
SCHOOL FINANCIAL MONITORING DATA AND PUBLISH AN ANNUAL RETURN  
ON INVESTMENT REPORT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION; MAKING AN  
APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**SECTION 1.** A new section of the Public School Code is  
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] SCHOOL DISTRICT AND CHARTER SCHOOL  
FINANCIAL MONITORING--STATEWIDE RETURN ON INVESTMENT REPORT FOR  
PUBLIC EDUCATION.--

A. Each local school board and governing body of a  
charter school shall adopt a financial monitoring system to

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1 collect and analyze record-level data for operational and  
2 programmatic expenditures and for student demographics,  
3 performance and outcomes. No later than June 30 after each  
4 school year, school districts and charter schools shall publish  
5 on their websites a financial monitoring report based on the  
6 data collected and analyzed and shall submit the data to the  
7 department. A local school board or governing body of a  
8 charter school may use a commercial data analytics service to  
9 meet the requirements of this subsection and include the  
10 contract price for such service in a budget for a school  
11 district or charter school.

12 B. The department shall develop or adopt a process  
13 for synthesizing school district and charter school data  
14 collected pursuant to Subsection A of this section to determine  
15 the effect of school district and charter school spending on  
16 student achievement statewide. On or before October 1 of each  
17 year, the department shall publish and submit to the governor  
18 and the legislature a return on investment report that outlines  
19 how expenditures for public education correlate with or cause  
20 student achievement. The return on investment report shall  
21 include recommendations for optimizing future spending for  
22 maximized improvement in student achievement."

23 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Ten million dollars  
24 (\$10,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the  
25 public education department for expenditure in fiscal year 2026

.230846.1

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1 to cover the costs for the public education department, local  
2 school boards and governing bodies of charter schools to comply  
3 with the provisions of Section 1 of this act. Any unexpended  
4 or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year  
5 2026 shall revert to the general fund.