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SENATE BILL 286

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,  
2000**

INTRODUCED BY  
Mary Jane Garcia

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE  
SCHOOL REFORM INITIATIVE; AUTHORIZING GRANTS FOR CERTAIN  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO IMPLEMENT SCHOOL REFORM MODEL PROGRAMS OR  
SERVE AS MODEL PROGRAM DEMONSTRATION SITES; PROVIDING POWERS  
AND DUTIES; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as  
the "Comprehensive School Reform Act".

Section 2. A new section of the Public School Code is  
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the  
Comprehensive School Reform Act:

A. "department" means the state department of

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1 public education;

2 B. "fund" means the comprehensive school reform  
3 fund; and

4 C. "model program" means a comprehensive school  
5 reform model pursuant to the Comprehensive School Reform  
6 Act."

7 Section 3. A new section of the Public School Code is  
8 enacted to read:

9 "[NEW MATERIAL] COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL REFORM INITIATIVE--  
10 ADMINISTRATION.--

11 A. The department shall develop and administer a  
12 comprehensive school reform initiative to provide grant  
13 awards to public schools in need of improvement to carry out  
14 a model program meeting the criteria in Subsection B of this  
15 section and to provide grants to public schools that qualify  
16 as demonstration sites pursuant to Subsection D of this  
17 section.

18 B. A model program must employ innovative  
19 strategies and proven methods for student learning, teaching  
20 and school management that are based on reliable research and  
21 effective practices and have been replicated successfully in  
22 schools with diverse characteristics. To qualify as a model  
23 program, a public school's program must include all of the  
24 following components:

- 25 (1) effective research-based methods and  
strategies;
- (2) a comprehensive design incorporating all

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- 1 areas of the school environment;
- 2 (3) professional development;
- 3 (4) measurable goals and benchmarks;
- 4 provided that goals for student performance goals are tied to
- 5 the state's challenging content and student performance
- 6 standards;
- 7 (5) support within the school from faculty,
- 8 administrators and staff;
- 9 (6) meaningful parental and community
- 10 involvement in planning and implementing school improvement
- 11 activities;
- 12 (7) external technical support and
- 13 assistance from an external school reform entity, such as a
- 14 university, that has experience or expertise in comprehensive
- 15 school reform and improvement;
- 16 (8) evaluation strategies incorporated in a
- 17 plan for evaluation of the school reforms and student
- 18 achievements; and
- 19 (9) coordination of resources to support and
- 20 sustain the school reform effort.

21 C. The department shall determine annually  
22 pursuant to Section 4 of the Comprehensive School Reform Act  
23 the public schools evidencing the least amount of improvement  
24 and the lowest ratings and ranking order and shall designate  
25 them as schools in need of improvement. Upon approval of the  
department, such schools shall qualify for a grant of fifty  
thousand dollars (\$50,000) from the fund to implement a model

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1 program.

2 D. Any public school, regardless of its rating or  
3 ranking order pursuant to Section 4 of the Comprehensive  
4 School Reform Act, may apply to the department to be  
5 designated a model program demonstration site for the  
6 purposes of teaching visitors from other schools and  
7 communities how to implement a model program. The department  
8 shall develop criteria for evaluating applications and  
9 qualifying public schools as demonstration sites. A public  
10 school that qualifies as a model program demonstration site  
11 may receive a grant in the amount of ten thousand dollars  
12 (\$10,000) from the fund to implement the demonstration site."

13 Section 4. A new section of the Public School Code is  
14 enacted to read:

15 "[NEW MATERIAL] COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL REFORM  
16 IMPLEMENTATION--MEASUREMENT CRITERIA.--

17 A. The department shall develop a formula,  
18 approved by the state board, by which to measure school  
19 achievement in the areas of academic performance. The  
20 product of this formula shall take the form of a composite  
21 rating assigned to each public school in every school  
22 district. Academic performance shall be measured by:

- 23 (1) nationally standardized test scores;  
24 (2) graduation competency scores; and  
25 (3) other factors deemed relevant by the  
department.

B. Annually, the department shall assign a new

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1 composite rating to each public school. Schools evidencing  
2 the lowest rating or ranking order or least amount of  
3 improvement shall qualify for model program grants from the  
4 fund as provided in Section 3 of the Comprehensive School  
5 Reform Act."

6 Section 5. A new section of the Public School Code is  
7 enacted to read:

8 "[NEW MATERIAL] COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL REFORM FUND  
9 CREATED--APPROPRIATION.--

10 A. The "comprehensive school reform fund" is  
11 created in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of  
12 money appropriated to the fund, federal money allocated to  
13 the state and gifts or bequests made to the fund for the  
14 purpose of implementing the comprehensive school reform  
15 initiative. Earnings from investment of the fund shall  
16 accrue to the fund. Balances in the fund at the end of any  
17 fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

18 B. Money in the comprehensive school reform fund  
19 is appropriated to the department for the purpose of carrying  
20 out the comprehensive school reform initiative established  
21 pursuant to the Comprehensive School Reform Act; provided  
22 that no more than three percent of money appropriated or  
23 accruing to the fund in any fiscal year shall be expended by  
24 the department for administrative purposes."

25 Section 6. APPROPRIATION.--Two million five hundred  
thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) is appropriated from the  
general fund to the comprehensive school reform fund for

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1 expenditure by the state department of public education in  
2 fiscal year 2000 and subsequent fiscal years to carry out the  
3 comprehensive school reform initiative established pursuant  
4 to the Comprehensive School Reform Act. Any balance  
5 remaining at the end of any fiscal year shall not revert to  
6 the general fund.

7 Section 7. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public  
8 peace, health and safety that this act take effect  
9 immediately.