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SENATE BILL 402

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

INTRODUCED BY

Michael S. Sanchez

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE; CHANGING THE AT-RISK
INDEX.

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

Section 1. Section 22-8-23.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws
1997, Chapter 40, Section 7) is amended to read:

"22-8-23.3. AT-RISK PROGRAM UNITS.--

A. A school district is eligible for additional
program units if it establishes within its state board
approved educational plan identified services to assist
students to reach their full academic potential. A school
district receiving additional at-risk program units shall
include a report of specified services in its annual
accountability report pursuant to Section 22-1-6 NMSA 1978.
The number of additional units to which a school district is
entitled under this section is computed in the following

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1 manner:

2
$$\text{At-Risk Index} \times \text{MEM} = \text{Units}$$

3 where MEM is equal to the total district membership,
4 including early childhood education, full-time-equivalent
5 membership and special education membership and where the at-
6 risk index is calculated in the following manner:

7
$$\text{Refined At-Risk Cluster} \times 0.015 = \text{At-Risk Index.}$$

8 B. To calculate the refined at-risk cluster, the
9 department shall rank order each school district in the state
10 on the basis of the district's three-year average of the
11 percentage of membership used to determine its Title I
12 allocation, the percentage of membership classified as
13 limited English proficient using criteria established by the
14 federal office of civil rights, the percentage of student
15 mobility and the percentage of dropouts in the school
16 district. Using this data, the department shall initially
17 group districts into nine clusters using a neural network
18 computer analysis. Each school district shall be assigned a
19 whole number from one to nine reflecting its initial cluster
20 assignment, with higher need school districts receiving a
21 higher number and lower need school districts receiving a
22 lower number. This number shall be modified on the basis of
23 a school district's relative position in the cluster and
24 further refined through the use of a second neural network
25 computer analysis, a back propagation. Using the results of
this analysis, the department shall refine the cluster
assignment and the number assigned to each school district.

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1 The number obtained from this calculation is the refined at-
2 risk cluster.

3 C. The department shall recalculate the at-risk
4 index for each school district every two years."

5 Section 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
6 provisions of this act is July 1, 2000.

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