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SENATE BILL 531

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Ben D. Altamirano

AN ACT

**RELATING TO EDUCATION; REQUIRING A STATEWIDE ONE- TO
THREE- YEAR MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN BEGINNING TEACHERS;
PROVIDING FOR A TEACHER DEVELOPMENT AND RETENTION PILOT
PROGRAM IN RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS; 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] STATEWIDE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN
BEGINNING TEACHERS- -PURPOSE- - STATE BOARD DUTIES- - DEPARTMENT
DUTIES. - -**

**A. The purpose of the statewide teacher mentorship
program is to provide an effective transition into the teaching
field, ensure success in teaching, improve the achievement of
students and retain capable teachers in the classroom.**

1 B. The state board shall develop a framework for a
2 statewide one- to three-year mentorship program for beginning
3 teachers with standard level one, alternative or substandard
4 certificates. The state board shall work with public school
5 educators, representatives from teacher preparation programs
6 and the commission on higher education to establish the
7 framework.

8 C. The framework shall include:

9 (1) individual support and assistance for
10 each beginning teacher from a designated support provider or
11 mentor;

12 (2) structured training and compensation for
13 support providers or mentors;

14 (3) ongoing, formative evaluation that is
15 used for the improvement of teaching practice;

16 (4) procedures for a summative evaluation of
17 beginning teacher performance during the first three years of
18 teaching, including an annual assessment of suitability for
19 license renewal, and for the final assessment of beginning
20 teachers seeking level two licensure;

21 (5) support from local school boards, school
22 district administrators and other school district personnel;
23 and

24 (6) regular review and evaluation of the
25 teacher mentorship program.

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D. The department of education shall:

(1) establish criteria for participation in a teacher mentorship program based on the current licensing structure;

(2) require submission and approval of each school district's teacher mentorship program;

(3) provide technical assistance to school districts that do not have a well-developed teacher mentorship program in place; and

(4) encourage school districts to collaborate with teacher preparation programs at institutions of higher education, career educators, educational organizations and other state and community leaders in the mentorship of beginning teachers. "

Section 2. APPROPRIATION. -- Three million five hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$3,550,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the state department of public education for expenditure in fiscal year 2002 for the statewide mentorship program for beginning teachers. The department shall distribute funds to local school districts based on the number of first-, second- and third-year participants in the mentorship program in each school district. The department shall use one million seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,750,000) of the appropriation in this section to contract for professional services to develop a pilot mentorship

1 program in fiscal year 2002 for teacher development and
2 retention in rural school districts, including a centralized
3 system to monitor the progress of the pilot program. The
4 department shall contract with a nonprofit entity experienced
5 in the design and implementation of a mentoring program in the
6 rural areas of the state. Any unexpended or unencumbered
7 balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2002 shall revert
8 to the general fund.

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