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SENATE BILL 783

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

INTRODUCED BY

Cynthia L. Nava

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; ENACTING THE EARLY CHILDHOOD CHARTER
PRE-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PILOT ACT; 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] SHORT TITLE. -- This act may be cited as
the "Early Childhood Charter Pre-School Partnership Pilot
Act". "

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

" [NEW MATERIAL] PURPOSE OF ACT. -- The purpose of the Early
Childhood Charter Pre-School Partnership Pilot Act is to
determine the efficacy of providing high quality pre-school
learning opportunities for children ages three and four to

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1 enhance oral language and early literacy skills and establish
2 a strong foundation for reading and literacy. The pilot
3 program shall determine the efficacy of providing
4 developmentally appropriate learning experiences for children
5 and parenting education that teaches parents methods and
6 experiences that foster reading. "

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

9 "[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS. --As used in the Early
10 Childhood Charter Pre-School Partnership Pilot Act:

11 A. "eligible charter pre-school" means an early
12 childhood service provider partnership program for three- and
13 four-year-old children that includes both a public school and
14 a private early childhood service provider;

15 B. "pre-school learning opportunities" means
16 activities that use current scientifically based research in
17 early literacy and early childhood education; and

18 C. "pilot program" means the early childhood
19 charter pre-school partnership pilot program. "

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

22 "[NEW MATERIAL] EARLY CHILDHOOD CHARTER PRE-SCHOOL
23 PARTNERSHIP PILOT PROGRAM- DEPARTMENT DUTIES. --

24 A. The department of education shall establish
25 guidelines and administer the pilot program for children ages

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1 three and four.

2 B. The department of education shall award funding
3 to five eligible charter pre-schools in fiscal year 2002,
4 during which the department shall measure the efficacy of
5 providing high quality pre-school learning opportunities for
6 children ages three and four.

7 C. The department of education shall determine the
8 methods for eligible charter pre-schools to apply for funding
9 through the pilot program and methods for distributing the
10 funding to eligible charter pre-schools through the school
11 district.

12 D. The department of education shall issue a
13 request for proposals pursuant to the provisions of the
14 Procurement Code for eligible charter pre-schools to apply for
15 participation in the pilot program.

16 E. The department of education shall monitor the
17 pilot program through student assessments and budget reviews.

18 F. At the end of fiscal year 2002, the department
19 of education shall report to the legislature on the efficacy
20 of the pilot program "

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

23 "[NEW MATERIAL] EARLY CHILDHOOD CHARTER PRE-SCHOOL--
24 ELIGIBILITY--DUTIES.--To be eligible to participate in the
25 pilot program, an eligible charter pre-school shall:

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1 A. provide pre-school learning opportunities that
2 support the state board's language arts performance standards
3 for kindergarten and first grade;

4 B. submit an application to the department of
5 education describing the enhanced pre-school learning
6 opportunities, the children to be served and the funds to be
7 expended for materials and other costs associated with the
8 activities;

9 C. provide pre-school learning opportunities that
10 are of sufficient duration to ensure sustainable and
11 demonstrable results and that are based on scientific reading
12 research; and

13 D. administer to the participating three- and
14 four-year-old students developmentally appropriate pre- and
15 post-assessments as determined by the department of
16 education. "

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

19 " [NEW MATERIAL] SCHOOL DISTRICT--DUTIES. --The school
20 district shall be responsible for fiscal accountability of the
21 pilot program. "

22 Section 7. APPROPRIATION.--Six hundred thousand dollars
23 (\$600,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the state
24 department of public education for expenditure in fiscal year
25 2002 to carry out the provisions of the Early Childhood

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1 Charter Pre-School Partnership Pilot Act. Any unexpended or
2 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2002
3 shall revert to the general fund.