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SENATE BILL 443

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

Howie C. Morales

AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL; ENACTING THE TEACHER CAREER  
ACADEMY ACT; PROVIDING FOR APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING BY ELIGIBLE  
SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE TEACHING CAREER INFORMATION AND  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS IN GRADES SIX THROUGH  
TWELVE; CREATING A FUND; 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  
"Teacher Career Academy Act"."

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

"[NEW MATERIAL] PURPOSE.--The purpose of the Teacher  
Career Academy Act is to increase the number of high-achieving

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1 students who enter the teaching profession by recruiting  
2 students in grades six through twelve and providing them with  
3 information about career opportunities in teaching and the  
4 availability of financial assistance for teacher preparation."

5 SECTION 3. A new section of the Public School Code is  
6 enacted to read:

7 "[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.-- As used in the Teacher  
8 Career Academy Act:

9 A. "eligible school" means a public elementary  
10 school that enrolls students in grade six or a public middle,  
11 junior high or high school;

12 B. "fund" means the teacher career academy fund;  
13 and

14 C. "pre-collegiate activities" means activities  
15 that support and encourage students to enter the teaching  
16 profession, including extracurricular education clubs,  
17 involvement in business and community organizations, secondary  
18 and post-secondary courses, practice as a student assistant,  
19 peer teaching, tutoring services, professional development  
20 opportunities through summer camps or institutes and other  
21 activities approved by the department."

22 SECTION 4. A new section of the Public School Code is  
23 enacted to read:

24 "[NEW MATERIAL] TEACHER CAREER ACADEMY PROGRAM--CONCURRENT  
25 ENROLLMENT COURSES--APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING.--

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1           A. The department and school district  
2 representatives shall work with the higher education  
3 department, teacher preparation programs and community colleges  
4 to develop concurrent enrollment teaching courses in areas such  
5 as teaching techniques, classroom management, child  
6 development, learning styles, cultural diversity and other  
7 teacher-related skills. The courses shall address current  
8 issues in education as well as innovative teaching practices.

9           B. A school district may create a "teacher career  
10 academy program" for students who are interested in  
11 precollegiate activities.

12           C. An eligible school may apply to the department  
13 for project funding for its teacher career academy program.  
14 Applications shall be in a form approved by the department and  
15 shall include the precollegiate activities to be offered, the  
16 number of students to be served and the eligible school's plan  
17 for evaluating the success of the teacher career academy  
18 program by tracking students throughout their public school and  
19 college careers and their employment status after college  
20 graduation. The department shall provide technical assistance  
21 to eligible public schools in developing funding proposals.

22           D. The department shall establish criteria for  
23 awarding money to eligible schools through the competitive  
24 application process.

25           E. Eligible schools that receive an award from the

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1 fund shall submit annual teacher career academy program reports  
2 to the department identifying the number and grade level of  
3 students enrolled in precollegiate activities, including the  
4 number of students concurrently enrolled in teaching courses  
5 and in which schools, the number of students enrolling in an  
6 accredited education program after their graduation from high  
7 school and the number of students entering the teaching  
8 profession."

9 SECTION 5. A new section of the Public School Code is  
10 enacted to read:

11 "[NEW MATERIAL] FUND CREATED.--

12 A. The "teacher career academy fund" is created as  
13 a nonreverting fund in the state treasury. The fund consists  
14 of money appropriated to the fund, earnings from investment of  
15 the fund, federal funds available for the purposes of the fund  
16 an gifts, grants and donations. The department shall  
17 administer the fund, and money in the fund is appropriated to  
18 the department to carry out the purposes of the Teacher Career  
19 Academy Act. Money in the fund shall be expended upon warrant  
20 of the secretary of finance and administration pursuant to  
21 vouchers signed by the secretary of public education or the  
22 secretary's authorized representative.

23 B. The department may provide awards from the fund  
24 based on competitive applications from eligible schools.  
25 Awards shall be provided directly to the eligible school and

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1 the money shall be used solely for expenditures approved in the  
2 application."

3 SECTION 6. APPROPRIATION.--Five hundred thousand dollars  
4 (\$500,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the teacher  
5 career academy fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2016 and  
6 subsequent fiscal years to carry out the purposes of the  
7 Teacher Career Academy Act. Any unexpended or unencumbered  
8 balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert  
9 to the general fund.