

1 HOUSE BILL 236

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ELIMINATING LIMITATIONS ON GRANT  
12 FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS.

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

15 SECTION 1. Section 22-32-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2013,  
16 Chapter 16, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

17 "22-32-4. COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVES--INDIRECT  
18 COSTS--GRANTS--SCHOOL DISTRICT, GROUP OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS OR  
19 PUBLIC SCHOOL DUTIES--REQUIREMENTS.--

20 A. A school district shall bear any indirect costs  
21 associated with the establishment and implementation of a  
22 community school within the school district.

23 B. Subject to the availability of funding, grants  
24 for community schools initiatives are available to a school  
25 district, a group of public schools or a single public school

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1 that has demonstrated partnerships with the local community to  
2 establish, operate and sustain the community school framework  
3 and that meets department eligibility requirements.

4 C. The department shall promulgate rules and  
5 procedures to distribute funds through a competitive grant  
6 program developed and designed in partnership with the  
7 coalition for community schools.

8 D. Applications for grants for community schools  
9 initiatives shall be in the form prescribed by the department  
10 to support a continuum of community school development.

11 E. A school district, a group of public schools or  
12 a single public school that uses funds under this section to  
13 transform a public school into an evidence-based community  
14 schools initiative shall:

15 (1) use rigorous, transparent, equitable and  
16 evidence-based evaluation systems to assess the effectiveness  
17 of the implementation of the community schools initiative;

18 (2) provide ongoing, high-quality professional  
19 development that:

20 (a) aligns with the community school's  
21 instructional program;

22 (b) facilitates effective teaching and  
23 learning; and

24 (c) supports the implementation of  
25 school reform strategies; and

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1 (3) give the community school sufficient  
2 operational flexibility in programming, curriculum, staffing,  
3 budgeting and scheduling so that the community school can fully  
4 implement a comprehensive community school framework designed  
5 to focus on improving the community school climate, student  
6 academic achievement, attendance, behavior, family engagement  
7 and, for high schools, graduation rates and readiness for  
8 college or a career.

9 F. If a grantee receives funding to implement the  
10 community schools initiative at three or more public school  
11 sites, the school district shall employ a community schools  
12 director or manager to oversee and coordinate implementation  
13 across all of the covered school sites and ensure the  
14 employment of a community school coordinator by the lead  
15 partner agency at each school site.

16 G. A school district or public school may use Title  
17 I funds for its community schools initiative and the department  
18 may use Title I funds to invest in community schools statewide.

19 H. The department is authorized to provide  
20 planning, implementation and renewal grants to eligible  
21 applicants as follows:

22 (1) a one-year, one-time planning grant [~~of up~~  
23 ~~to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000)~~] for each eligible public  
24 school to conduct an initial school and community needs  
25 assessment, identify community supports and services through

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1 asset mapping and establish a site-based leadership team; ~~and]~~

2 (2) annual implementation grants ~~[of one~~  
3 ~~hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000)]~~ each year for a  
4 period of three years for each eligible school; and

5 (3) at the conclusion of the initial  
6 three-year grant period, applicants may apply for a renewal  
7 grant for one year in an amount determined by the department.

8 I. Eligible applicants shall provide satisfactory  
9 documentation required by the department that the applicant  
10 intends to apply for an implementation grant within six months  
11 of receiving a planning grant.

12 J. Eligible applicants shall submit an application  
13 for an implementation or renewal grant to the department for  
14 each eligible community school through the grant authorization  
15 process."