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SENATE BILL 387

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

INTRODUCED BY  
Natalie Figueroa

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; CHANGING THE COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
FRAMEWORK; RENAMING THE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FUND IN HONOR OF DR.  
JEANNIE OAKES.

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

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

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

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

B. Subject to the availability of funding, grants  
for community schools initiatives are available to a school

1 district, a group of public schools or a single public school  
2 that has demonstrated partnerships with the local community to  
3 establish, operate and sustain the community school framework  
4 and that meets department eligibility requirements.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 (c) supports the implementation of

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1 school reform strategies; and

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

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

17 G. A school district or public school may use Title  
18 1 funds for its community schools initiative and the department  
19 may use Title 1 funds to invest in community schools statewide.

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

23 (1) a one-year, one-time planning grant of up  
24 to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for each eligible public  
25 school to conduct an initial school and community needs

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1 assessment, identify community supports and services through  
2 asset mapping and establish a site-based leadership team; ~~[and]~~

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

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

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

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

17 SECTION 2. Section 22-32-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,  
18 Chapter 198, Section 3) is amended to read:

19 "22-32-6. COMMUNITY SCHOOL FRAMEWORK--COMMUNITY SCHOOL  
20 COORDINATOR.--

21 A. The community school framework shall ensure the  
22 use of research- and evidence-based strategies and best  
23 practices that support students, families and communities in  
24 ensuring student success, ~~[and shall include: (1)]~~ including  
25 integrated student supports that address ~~[non-academic and out-~~

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1 ~~of-school barriers to learning through partnerships with social~~  
2 ~~and health service agencies and providers that may include~~  
3 ~~school-based or school-linked health care, case management~~  
4 ~~services and family stability supports coordinated by a~~  
5 ~~community school coordinator and that are culturally and~~  
6 ~~linguistically responsive to the needs of students and their~~  
7 ~~families;~~

8 ~~(2) expanded and enriched learning time and~~  
9 ~~opportunities, including before-school, after-school, weekend,~~  
10 ~~summer and year-round programs, that provide additional~~  
11 ~~academic support, enrichment activities and other programs that~~  
12 ~~may be offered in partnership with community-based~~  
13 ~~organizations to enhance academic learning, social skills,~~  
14 ~~emotional skills and life skills and are aligned with the~~  
15 ~~school's curriculum;~~

16 ~~(3) active family and community engagement~~  
17 ~~that:~~

18 ~~(a) values the experiences of people~~  
19 ~~from diverse backgrounds as empowered partners in decision~~  
20 ~~making and encourages partnerships with parents or caregivers~~  
21 ~~to develop and promote a vision for student success;~~

22 ~~(b) offers courses, activities and~~  
23 ~~services for parents or caregivers and community members; and~~

24 ~~(c) creates structures and opportunities~~  
25 ~~for shared leadership; and~~

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1                   ~~(4) collaborative leadership and practices~~  
2 ~~that build a culture of professional learning, collective trust~~  
3 ~~and shared responsibility using strategies that at a minimum~~  
4 ~~include a site-based leadership team and a community school~~  
5 ~~coordinator.~~

6                   ~~B. The community school framework may include:~~

7                   ~~(1) broader use of public school facilities in~~  
8 ~~which school buildings become hubs for neighborhood events,~~  
9 ~~activities, advocacy and civic life;~~

10                   ~~(2) community-based curriculum in which the~~  
11 ~~content of instruction is centered on local knowledge, service~~  
12 ~~learning and problem-solving around community issues; and~~

13                   ~~(3) public pre-kindergarten and other state~~  
14 ~~and federally funded early childhood services that:~~

15                   ~~(a) support working families and help~~  
16 ~~ensure that children come to kindergarten ready to learn;~~

17                   ~~(b) provide students and working parents~~  
18 ~~or caregivers with full-day and after-school child care;~~

19                   ~~(c) provide high-quality pre-~~  
20 ~~kindergarten programs that are aligned to early childhood~~  
21 ~~professional and curricular early learning standards;~~

22                   ~~(d) provide health, vision, dental and~~  
23 ~~other supports and services to children before school age; and~~

24                   ~~(e) include strong partnerships and~~  
25 ~~alignment with early learning centers and child care providers~~

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1 ~~that may include transportation or coordination to meet the~~  
2 ~~broader early childhood community needs.~~

3 ~~G.]~~ students' noninstructional school barriers.

4 B. The lead partner agency shall employ a community  
5 school coordinator to:

- 6 (1) implement the community school framework;  
7 (2) lead the needs and assets assessment;  
8 (3) facilitate communication between partners  
9 as a stakeholder- and community-driven approach to problem-  
10 solving;  
11 (4) guide data-informed continuous  
12 improvement;  
13 (5) manage data collection; and  
14 (6) align, leverage and coordinate resources  
15 for student and family success."

16 SECTION 3. Section 22-32-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,  
17 Chapter 198, Section 7) is amended to read:

18 "22-32-8. DR. JEANNIE OAKES MEMORIAL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
19 FUND--CREATED--ACCOUNTABILITY.--

20 A. The "Dr. Jeannie Oakes memorial community  
21 schools fund" is created as a nonreverting fund in the state  
22 treasury. The fund consists of appropriations, gifts, grants  
23 and donations. The department shall administer the fund, and  
24 money in the fund is appropriated to the department to  
25 distribute grant awards to support the development and

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1 implementation of community schools initiatives.

2 B. The department shall ensure that the money  
3 expended from the Dr. Jeannie Oakes memorial community schools  
4 fund is used for the purposes stated in the Community Schools  
5 Act and shall not be used to correct for previous reductions in  
6 program services."

7 SECTION 4. APPLICABILITY.--The provisions of this act  
8 apply to the 2025-2026 school year and subsequent school years.

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