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AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; CHANGING THE AMOUNT OF COMMUNITY SCHOOL IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS; 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 district, a group of public schools or a single public school that has demonstrated partnerships with the local community to establish, operate and sustain the community school framework and that meets department eligibility requirements.

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

D. Applications for grants for community schools

1 initiatives shall be in the form prescribed by the department
2 to support a continuum of community school development.

3 E. A school district, a group of public schools or
4 a single public school that uses funds under this section to
5 transform a public school into an evidence-based community
6 schools initiative shall:

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

10 (2) provide ongoing, high-quality
11 professional development that:

12 (a) aligns with the community school's
13 instructional program;

14 (b) facilitates effective teaching and
15 learning; and

16 (c) supports the implementation of
17 school reform strategies; and

18 (3) give the community school sufficient
19 operational flexibility in programming, curriculum, staffing,
20 budgeting and scheduling so that the community school can
21 fully implement a comprehensive community school framework
22 designed to focus on improving the community school climate,
23 student academic achievement, attendance, behavior, family
24 engagement and, for high schools, graduation rates and
25 readiness for college or a career.

1 F. If a grantee receives funding to implement the
2 community schools initiative at three or more public school
3 sites, the school district shall employ a community schools
4 director or manager to oversee and coordinate implementation
5 across all of the covered school sites and ensure the
6 employment of a community school coordinator by the lead
7 partner agency at each school site.

8 G. A school district or public school may use
9 Title 1 funds for its community schools initiative and the
10 department may use Title 1 funds to invest in community
11 schools statewide.

12 H. The department is authorized to provide
13 planning, implementation and renewal grants to eligible
14 applicants as follows:

15 (1) a one-year, one-time planning grant of
16 up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for each eligible
17 public school to conduct an initial school and community
18 needs assessment, identify community supports and services
19 through asset mapping and establish a site-based leadership
20 team;

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

24 (3) at the conclusion of the initial
25 three-year grant period, applicants may apply for a renewal

1 grant for one year in an amount determined by the department.

2 I. Eligible applicants shall provide satisfactory
3 documentation required by the department that the applicant
4 intends to apply for an implementation grant within six
5 months of receiving a planning grant.

6 J. Eligible applicants shall submit an application
7 for an implementation or renewal grant to the department for
8 each eligible community school through the grant
9 authorization process."

10 SECTION 2. Section 22-32-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,
11 Chapter 198, Section 7) is amended to read:

12 "22-32-8. DR. JEANNIE OAKES MEMORIAL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS
13 FUND--CREATED--ACCOUNTABILITY.--

14 A. The "Dr. Jeannie Oakes memorial community
15 schools fund" is created as a nonreverting fund in the state
16 treasury. The fund consists of appropriations, gifts, grants
17 and donations. The department shall administer the fund, and
18 money in the fund is appropriated to the department to
19 distribute grant awards to support the development and
20 implementation of community schools initiatives.

21 B. The department shall ensure that the money
22 expended from the Dr. Jeannie Oakes memorial community
23 schools fund is used for the purposes stated in the Community
24 Schools Act and shall not be used to correct for previous
25 reductions in program services."

1 SECTION 3. APPLICABILITY.--The provisions of this act
2 apply to the 2025-2026 school year and subsequent school
3 years.

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