

1 SENATE BILL 208

2 **44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,**
3 **2000**

4 INTRODUCED BY

5 Cynthia Nava
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8
9 FOR THE EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND ACCOUNTABILITY TASK FORCE

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11 AN ACT

12 RELATING TO EDUCATION; IMPROVING STUDENT READING
13 PROFICIENCIES; CREATING A STATEWIDE READING INITIATIVE;
14 CREATING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL READING PROFICIENCY FUND; MAKING
15 APPROPRIATIONS.
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17 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

18 Section 1. READING INITIATIVE--DESIGN.--

19 A. The state department of public education shall
20 design and implement a statewide reading initiative to
21 improve reading proficiency in the state. The design of the
22 reading initiative shall be based upon quality, research-
23 based reading programs shown to improve reading proficiency
24 and shall include the following:
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(1) consistent assessment and evaluation of
student reading levels;

(2) appropriate professional staff

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1 development to assist classroom certified instructional staff
2 in the instruction of reading programs;

3 (3) extra time in the student's day or year
4 for implementation of reading programs; and

5 (4) rewards provided to certified school
6 instructors in schools that improve student reading
7 proficiency.

8 B. The state department of public education shall
9 use national experts to work with the department to develop
10 an immediate reading initiative and a long-term plan for
11 sustained reading improvement.

12 C. The state department of public education shall
13 involve local school district personnel, especially certified
14 elementary reading specialists, parents and other interested
15 persons in the design of the reading initiative.

16 Section 2. PUBLIC SCHOOL READING PROFICIENCY FUND--
17 CREATED.--The "public school reading proficiency fund" is
18 created in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of
19 appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. The fund shall
20 be administered by the state department of public education,
21 and money in the fund is appropriated to the department to
22 distribute awards to local schools that implement innovative,
23 research-based reading programs. The state department of
24 public education shall develop procedures and rules for the
25 application and award of money from the fund, including
criteria upon which to evaluate innovative, research-based
reading programs. Disbursements of the fund shall be made by

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1 warrant of the department of finance and administration
2 pursuant to vouchers signed by the superintendent of public
3 instruction. Any unexpended or unencumbered balances
4 remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall not
5 revert but shall remain to the credit of the fund.

6 Section 3. APPROPRIATIONS.--

7 A. Two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) is
8 appropriated from the general fund to the state department of
9 public education for expenditure in fiscal years 2001 and
10 2002 for the purpose of designing an immediate statewide
11 reading initiative and long-range plan for sustained reading
12 improvement, including the use of national experts in the
13 design process. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance
14 remaining at the end of fiscal year 2002 shall revert to the
15 general fund.

16 B. One million dollars (\$1,000,000) is
17 appropriated from the general fund to the public school
18 reading proficiency fund for expenditure in fiscal year 2001
19 and subsequent fiscal years to carry out the purpose of the
20 public school reading proficiency fund. Any unexpended or
21 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year
22 shall not revert to the general fund.

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