

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENT IN PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS' READING PROFICIENCIES.

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

Section 1. Section 22-2-6.11 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2000 (2nd S. S.), Chapter 14, Section 1) is amended to read:

"22-2-6.11. READING INITIATIVE--DESIGN. --

A. The department of education shall design and implement a statewide reading initiative to improve reading proficiency in the state. The design of the reading initiative shall be based upon quality, research-based reading programs shown to improve reading proficiency and shall include the following:

(1) consistent assessment and evaluation of student reading levels;

(2) appropriate professional staff development to assist classroom certified instructional staff in the instruction of reading programs;

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

(4) rewards provided to certified school instructors in schools that improve student reading proficiency; and

(5) criteria for schools to establish an

individualized reading plan for students who fail to meet grade level reading proficiency standards.

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

C. The department of education shall involve school district personnel, especially certified elementary reading specialists, parents and other interested persons in the design of the reading initiative. "

Section 2. Section 22-2-6.12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2000 (2nd S.S.), Chapter 14, Section 2) is amended to read:

"22-2-6.12. PUBLIC SCHOOL READING PROFICIENCY FUND--  
CREATED.--The "public school reading proficiency fund" is created in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. The fund shall be administered by the department of education, and money in the fund is appropriated to the department to distribute awards to local schools that implement innovative, research-based reading programs. The department of education shall develop procedures and rules for the application and award of money from the fund, including criteria upon which to evaluate innovative, research-based reading programs. Schools receiving funds shall show evidence that they are using quality, research-based reading programs to improve

