

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; REQUIRING A STATEWIDE ONE- TO THREE-YEAR MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN BEGINNING TEACHERS.

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

Section 1. A new section of the Public School Code is enacted to read:

"STATEWIDE MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN BEGINNING TEACHERS-- PURPOSE-- BOARD DUTIES-- DEPARTMENT DUTIES. --

A. The purpose of the statewide teacher mentorship program is to provide an effective transition into the teaching field, ensure success in teaching, improve the achievement of students and retain capable teachers in the classroom.

B. The state board shall develop a framework for a statewide one- to three-year mentorship program for beginning teachers with standard level one, alternative or substandard certificates. The state board shall work with public school educators, representatives from teacher preparation programs and the commission on higher education to establish the framework.

C. The framework shall include:

(1) individual support and assistance for each beginning teacher from a designated support provider or mentor;

(2) structured training and compensation for support providers or mentors;

(3) ongoing, formative evaluation that is used for the improvement of teaching practice;

(4) procedures for a summative evaluation of beginning teacher performance during the first three years of teaching, including an annual assessment of suitability for license renewal, and for the final assessment of beginning teachers seeking level two licensure;

(5) support from local school boards, school district administrators and other school district personnel; and

(6) regular review and evaluation of the teacher mentorship program.

D. The department of education shall:

(1) establish criteria for participation in a teacher mentorship program based on the current licensing structure;

(2) require submission and approval of each school district's teacher mentorship program;

(3) provide technical assistance to school districts that do not have a well-developed teacher mentorship program in place; and

(4) encourage school districts to collaborate with teacher preparation programs at institutions

of higher education, career educators, educational organizations and other state and community leaders in the mentorship of beginning teachers. " _____