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HOUSE BILL 74

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

**RELATING TO EDUCATION; PROVIDING FOR IMPROVEMENT IN PUBLIC
SCHOOL STUDENTS' READING PROFICIENCIES; MAKING AN
APPROPRIATION.**

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 [state] department of [public] 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**

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1 student reading levels;

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

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

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

10 (5) criteria for schools to establish an
11 individualized reading plan for students who fail to meet
12 grade level reading proficiency standards.

13 B. The ~~[state]~~ department of ~~[public]~~ education
14 shall use national experts to work with the department to
15 develop an immediate reading initiative and a long-term plan
16 for sustained reading improvement.

17 C. The ~~[state]~~ department of ~~[public]~~ education
18 shall involve ~~[local]~~ school district personnel, especially
19 certified elementary reading specialists, parents and other
20 interested persons in the design of the reading initiative. "

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

23 "22-2-6.12. PUBLIC SCHOOL READING PROFICIENCY FUND--
24 CREATED. --The "public school reading proficiency fund" is
25 created in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of

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1 appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. The fund shall
2 be administered by the [state] department of [public]
3 education, and money in the fund is appropriated to the
4 department to distribute awards to local schools that
5 implement innovative, research-based reading programs. The
6 [state] department of [public] education shall develop
7 procedures and rules for the application and award of money
8 from the fund, including criteria upon which to evaluate
9 innovative, research-based reading programs. Schools
10 receiving funds shall show evidence that they are using
11 quality, research-based reading programs to improve reading
12 proficiency and shall develop individualized reading plans for
13 students who fail to meet grade level reading proficiency
14 standards. Disbursements of the fund shall be made by warrant
15 of the department of finance and administration pursuant to
16 vouchers signed by the state superintendent [~~of public~~
17 ~~instruction~~]. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance
18 remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall not
19 revert but shall remain to the credit of the fund. "

20 Section 3. APPROPRIATION. -- One million dollars
21 (\$1,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
22 public school reading proficiency fund for expenditure in
23 fiscal year 2002 and subsequent fiscal years to continue the
24 statewide reading initiative to improve student reading
25 proficiencies. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance

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1 remaining at the end of a fiscal year shall not revert to the
2 general fund.

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