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SENATE BILL 40

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

INTRODUCED BY

Cynthia Nava

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; PROVIDING FOR EVEN START FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAMS; PROVIDING FOR BENCHMARKS, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND EVALUATIONS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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:

" [NEW MATERIAL] EVEN START FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM - CREATED - - GUIDELINES - - BENCHMARKS, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND EVALUATIONS. - -

A. The "even start family literacy program" is created in the department of education to provide funding for preschool reading readiness and parenting education. The purpose of the program is to support the educational and developmental needs of students in preschool; address cultural

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1 diversity; and provide family support that leads to improved
2 literacy, improved ability for students to succeed in school
3 and economic self-sufficiency. Priority for funding shall be
4 provided to those public schools that have the highest
5 proportion of limited English proficient students, students
6 living in poverty and Native American students.

7 B. The department of education shall develop even
8 start family literacy program benchmarks and performance
9 standards, guidelines for program approval and funding
10 approval criteria. The department shall disseminate the
11 program information in all public schools and shall provide
12 technical assistance to public schools in developing
13 proposals.

14 C. The department of education shall distribute
15 money to public schools with approved even start family
16 literacy programs that meet the specified criteria.

17 D. Public schools that receive even start family
18 literacy program funds shall annually evaluate and report to
19 the department of education the results of the program,
20 including the number of children and families served, the
21 services provided and the gains achieved by the children and
22 their families.

23 E. If the department of education determines that
24 a local even start family literacy program is not meeting
25 benchmarks and performance standards, the department shall

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1 notify the public school that continued failure to meet
2 benchmarks and performance standards will result in cessation
3 of funding for the program for the next school year.

4 F. The department of education shall compile the
5 results of the even start family literacy program and report
6 annually to the legislative education study committee. "

7 Section 2. APPROPRIATION. -- Five million dollars
8 (\$5,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
9 state department of public education for expenditure in fiscal
10 year 2002 for the even start family literacy program. The
11 superintendent of public instruction shall distribute funds to
12 approved programs on a per unit basis. Any unexpended or
13 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2002
14 shall revert to the general fund.