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HOUSE BILL 133

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Di anne Hamil ton

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE; CHANGING THE CALCULATION OF  
THE AT-RISK INDEX USED TO DETERMINE ADDITIONAL PROGRAM UNITS.

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

Section 1. Section 22-8-23.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1997,  
Chapter 40, Section 7) is amended to read:

"22-8-23.3. AT-RISK PROGRAM UNITS. --

A. A school district is eligible for additional  
program units if it establishes within its state board  
approved educational plan identified services to assist  
students to reach their full academic potential. A school  
district receiving additional at-risk program units shall  
include a report of specified services in its annual  
accountability report pursuant to Section 22-1-6 NMSA 1978.  
The number of additional units to which a school district is

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1 entitled under this section is computed in the following  
2 manner:

$$3 \quad \text{At-Risk Index} \times \text{MEM} = \text{Units}$$

4 where MEM is equal to the total district membership, including  
5 early childhood education, full-time-equivalent membership and  
6 special education membership and where the at-risk index is  
7 calculated in the following manner:

$$8 \quad \frac{[\text{Refined At-Risk Cluster}] \text{ Three-year Average Total Rate} \times$$
$$9 \quad [0.015] \text{ 0.0915} = \text{At-Risk Index.}$$

10 B. To calculate the [~~refined at-risk cluster~~]  
11 three-year average total rate, the department shall [~~rank~~  
12 ~~order each school district in the state on the basis~~] compute  
13 a three-year average of the school district's percentage of  
14 membership used to determine its Title I allocation, a three-  
15 year average of the percentage of membership classified as  
16 [~~limited~~] English [proficient] language learners using  
17 criteria established by the federal office of civil rights and  
18 a three-year average of the percentage of student mobility  
19 [~~and the percentage of dropouts in the school district. Using~~  
20 ~~this data, the department shall initially group districts into~~  
21 ~~nine clusters using a neural network computer analysis. Each~~  
22 ~~school district shall be assigned a whole number from one to~~  
23 ~~nine reflecting its initial cluster assignment, with higher~~  
24 ~~need districts receiving a higher number and lower need~~  
25 ~~districts receiving a lower number. This number shall be~~

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1 ~~modified on the basis of a school district's relative position~~  
2 ~~in the cluster and further refined through the use of a second~~  
3 ~~neural network computer analysis, a back propagation. Using~~  
4 ~~the results of this analysis, the department shall refine the~~  
5 ~~cluster assignment and the number assigned to each school~~  
6 ~~district].~~ The department shall then add the three-year  
7 average rates. The number obtained from this calculation is  
8 the ~~[refined at-risk cluster]~~ three-year average total rate.

9 C. The department shall recalculate the at-risk  
10 index for each school district every ~~[two years]~~ year. For  
11 the 2003-2004, 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 school years, a school  
12 district shall not receive less than ninety percent of the at-  
13 risk funding generated in the fiscal year 2001."