

1 SENATE BILL 453

2 **47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Cynthia Nava

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8 FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; EXTENDING THE KINDERGARTEN PLUS
12 PILOT PROJECT; EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

13
14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

15 Section 1. Section 22-2-20 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,
16 Chapter 130, Section 1) is amended to read:

17 "22-2-20. KINDERGARTEN PLUS--PILOT PROJECT--ELIGIBILITY--
18 APPLICATION--REPORTING AND [~~EVACUATION~~] EVALUATION--CREATING A
19 FUND.--

20 A. The "kindergarten plus" pilot project is created
21 as a [~~three-year~~] six-year study that extends the kindergarten
22 year by up to four months for participating students and
23 measures the effect of additional time on literacy, numeracy
24 and social skills development. The purpose of kindergarten
25 plus is to demonstrate that increased time in kindergarten

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1 narrows the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and
2 other students and increases cognitive skills and leads to
3 higher test scores for all participants.

4 B. The pilot project shall be administered by the
5 department [~~of education~~] and shall provide the funding for
6 approved full-day kindergarten programs to be extended by forty
7 instructional days, beginning approximately two months earlier
8 and ending approximately two months later than other classes.
9 For the first year, the pilot project shall begin July 1 and
10 run two hundred twenty instructional days; in the second and
11 third years, kindergarten plus may begin or end at any time
12 that provides for the same number of instructional days.

13 C. Kindergarten plus shall be conducted in the
14 Albuquerque, Gallup-McKinley, Gadsden and Las Cruces school
15 districts and may be conducted in any other school district
16 with high-poverty schools. For the remainder of the pilot
17 project, the original pilot school districts may expand their
18 kindergarten plus programs by adding additional classes or
19 schools or both. Full-day kindergarten programs in high-
20 poverty public schools in those school districts are eligible
21 to apply for kindergarten plus. For the purposes of
22 kindergarten plus, "high-poverty school" means a public school
23 in which eighty-five percent or more of the students are
24 eligible for free or reduced fee lunch. [~~If enough eligible~~
25 ~~high-poverty schools in those school districts do not qualify~~

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1 ~~for the pilot project for the amount of funding available, the~~
2 ~~department of education may extend eligibility to high poverty~~
3 ~~schools in other school districts.]~~

4 D. The department [~~of education~~] shall determine
5 application requirements and procedures and criteria for
6 evaluating applications. An applicant must demonstrate that
7 its kindergarten plus program will meet all [~~state board~~]
8 department standards and employ only qualified teachers and
9 other staff. The department shall provide additional
10 professional development for kindergarten plus teachers in how
11 young children learn to read. Teachers and educational
12 assistants shall be paid at the same rate and under the same
13 terms for kindergarten plus as teachers and educational
14 assistants are paid for regular full-day kindergarten programs.

15 E. Students participating in kindergarten plus
16 shall be evaluated at the beginning of kindergarten plus, and
17 their progress in literacy, numeracy and cognitive and social
18 skills shall be measured through standardized assessments in
19 kindergarten and in first grade. [~~The department of education~~
20 ~~shall provide additional professional development for~~
21 ~~kindergarten plus teachers in how young children learn to~~
22 ~~read.]~~

23 F. The department [~~of education~~] shall establish
24 reporting and evaluation requirements for participating
25 schools, including student and program assessments. The

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1 department shall provide interim and final reports annually to
2 the legislature and the governor on the efficacy of the pilot
3 project.

4 G. In addition to legislative appropriations for
5 the pilot project, the department [~~of education~~] shall seek
6 public and private grants and donations. Grants and donations
7 shall be deposited in the "kindergarten plus fund", created in
8 the state treasury. Income from investment of the fund shall
9 be deposited in the fund. The department shall administer the
10 fund, and money in the fund is appropriated to the department
11 to carry out the purposes of the pilot project. Money shall be
12 expended in accordance with the terms of the grants and
13 donations. Unless otherwise specified by the terms of a grant
14 or donation, money in the fund at the end of the pilot project
15 shall revert to the general fund. Expenditures from the fund
16 shall be by warrants of the secretary of finance and
17 administration drawn pursuant to vouchers signed by the [~~state~~
18 ~~superintendent~~] secretary of public education or [~~his~~] the
19 secretary's authorized representative."

20 Section 2. APPROPRIATION.--One million dollars
21 (\$1,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
22 public education department for expenditure in fiscal years
23 2006 and 2007 to expand the kindergarten plus pilot project.
24 Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of
25 fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

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