

1 AN ACT
2 RELATING TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL; CHANGING THE DISTRIBUTION OF
3 MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FUNDING.
4

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

6 Section 1. Section 22-10A-9 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,
7 Chapter 153, Section 40, as amended) is amended to read:

8 "22-10A-9. TEACHER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR LEVEL ONE
9 TEACHERS--PURPOSE--DEPARTMENT DUTIES.--

10 A. The purpose of the teacher mentorship program
11 is to provide beginning teachers with an effective transition
12 into the teaching field, to build on their initial
13 preparation and to ensure their success in teaching; to
14 improve the achievement of students; and to retain capable
15 teachers in the classroom and to remove teachers who show
16 little promise of success.

17 B. The department shall develop a framework for a
18 teacher mentorship program for all level one teachers. The
19 department shall work with licensed school employees,
20 representatives from teacher preparation programs and the
21 higher education department to establish the framework.

22 C. The framework shall include:

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

25 (2) structured training for mentors;

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

3 (4) procedures for a summative evaluation of
4 beginning teachers' performance during at least the first
5 three years of teaching, including annual assessment of
6 suitability for license renewal, and for final assessment of
7 beginning teachers seeking level two licensure;

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

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

12 D. The department shall:

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

15 (2) provide technical assistance to school
16 districts that do not have a well-developed teacher
17 mentorship program in place;

18 (3) encourage school districts to
19 collaborate with teacher preparation program administrators
20 at institutions of higher education, career educators,
21 educational organizations, regional service centers and other
22 state and community leaders in the teacher mentorship
23 program; and

24 (4) distribute no less than fifty percent of
25 available funds for mentorship programs to school districts

1 on or before September 15 of each fiscal year according to
2 the estimated number of beginning teachers on the fortieth
3 day of the school year and, on or before January 15 of each
4 fiscal year, distribute the balance of the available funds
5 based on the actual number of beginning teachers on the
6 fortieth day of the school year, adjusted for any over- or
7 under-estimation made in the first allocation.

8 E. The department shall require that teacher
9 preparation programs collaborate with colleges of arts and
10 sciences and high schools to develop a model to provide
11 mentorship services with structured supervision and feedback
12 to each of their graduates who have obtained a teaching
13 position in a public high school, including charter schools;
14 develop cost estimates; and provide recommendations to the
15 legislative education study committee by November 1, 2007.
16 The model shall provide for the following:

17 (1) mentorship services for the first year
18 as a level one teacher to each of their graduates who has
19 obtained a teaching position in any New Mexico public high
20 school, including charter schools; provided that teacher
21 preparation programs may enter into contracts or memoranda of
22 agreement with each other or with level three teachers in
23 providing services to their students;

24 (2) an annual report to the department of
25 the number of teachers that have completed each of their

1 programs the previous spring or summer and have been hired by
2 public high schools, including charter schools, for the
3 following school year; and

4 (3) an annual report providing a description
5 of the mentorship services that will be provided to each of
6 their teachers, including the name of the teacher, the grade
7 level the teacher has been hired to teach and the name of the
8 school and district where the teacher has been hired."

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