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SENATE BILL 161

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Kay Papen and W. Ken Martinez

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; CREATING THE SCIENCE EARLY
EDUCATION PROGRAM AS A PILOT PROJECT; PROVIDING POWERS AND
DUTIES; REQUIRING APPLICATIONS; REQUIRING MATCHING FUNDING;
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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] SCIENCE EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM--PILOT
PROJECT--IMPLEMENTATION.--

A. The "science early education program" is created
as a five-year pilot project that is based on three-year
student cohorts and that incorporates hands-on, age-appropriate
physics, computer programming and chemistry education into the
sixth through eighth grade curricula. The purpose of the

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1 science early education program is to enhance students'
2 academic performance in science and mathematics.

3 B. The department shall administer the science
4 early education program and shall contract with an organization
5 that provides professional development and teaching materials
6 for teachers to introduce physics education into the sixth
7 through eighth grade curricula, computer programming into the
8 seventh and eighth grade curricula and chemistry into the
9 eighth grade curriculum.

10 C. The science early education program is
11 designated for high-poverty public schools. For the purposes
12 of the science early education program, "high-poverty public
13 school" means a public school in which eighty-five percent or
14 more of the students are eligible for free or reduced-fee lunch
15 at the time the public school applies for the program.

16 D. School districts may apply on behalf of their
17 schools on a form and in a manner as provided by the department
18 for a grant from the science early education fund. The
19 department shall select for participation in the program four
20 schools that are based in regions in the state that are
21 distinct from one another in their locations and population
22 density. An approved school shall provide one-half of the
23 funding for the program.

24 E. Students participating in the science early
25 education program shall be evaluated at the beginning of the

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1 program, and the students' progress shall be measured through
2 standardized assessments in science and mathematics at the end
3 of grades six, seven and eight.

4 F. The department shall establish reporting and
5 evaluation requirements for participating schools, including
6 student and program assessments. The department shall provide
7 interim and final reports annually to the legislature and the
8 governor on the efficacy of the science early education
9 program."

10 SECTION 2. A new section of the Public School Code is
11 enacted to read:

12 "[NEW MATERIAL] SCIENCE EARLY EDUCATION FUND--CREATED.--
13 The "science early education fund" is created in the state
14 treasury. The fund consists of appropriations, gifts, grants,
15 donations and income from investment of the fund. The
16 department shall administer the fund, and money in the fund is
17 appropriated to the department to carry out the purposes of the
18 science early education program. The department shall seek
19 public and private grants and donations for the science early
20 education program. Grants and donations shall be deposited in
21 the fund. Money from a grant or donation shall be expended in
22 accordance with the terms of that grant or donation. Unless
23 otherwise specified by the terms of a grant or donation, the
24 balance in the fund at the end of the program shall revert to
25 the general fund. The department may expend up to ten percent

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1 of the fund to administer the program. Expenditures from the
2 fund shall be by warrants of the secretary of finance and
3 administration drawn pursuant to vouchers signed by the
4 secretary of public education or the secretary's authorized
5 representative."

6 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION.--One hundred ten thousand
7 dollars (\$110,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
8 science early education fund for expenditure in fiscal years
9 2014 through 2019 to carry out the provisions of the science
10 early education program. Any unexpended or unencumbered
11 balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2019 shall revert
12 to the general fund.

13 SECTION 4. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
14 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

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