

HOUSE BILL 479

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

David E. Adkins

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ALLOWING SCHOOLS THAT IMPROVED
THEIR GRADE RATING THROUGH THE K-3 PLUS PROGRAM TO CONTINUE
WITH THE PROGRAM; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. Section 22-13-28 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2007,
Chapter 12, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-13-28. K-3 PLUS--ELIGIBILITY--APPLICATION--REPORTING
AND EVALUATION.--

A. The six-year K-3 plus pilot project has
demonstrated that increased time in kindergarten and the early
grades narrows the achievement gap between disadvantaged
students and other students and increases cognitive skills and
leads to higher test scores for all participants.

B. The "K-3 plus" program is created in the

.200260.1

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 department to provide funding for additional educational time
2 for ~~[disadvantaged]~~ students in kindergarten through third
3 grade. K-3 plus shall be administered by the department and
4 shall provide the funding for approved full-day kindergarten
5 and grades one through three to be extended by at least twenty-
6 five instructional days, beginning up to two months earlier
7 than the regular school years.

8 C. K-3 plus shall be conducted upon application in
9 high-poverty public schools, schools with a D or F grade the
10 previous year or schools that improved their school grade with
11 the K-3 plus program and wish to continue the program. For the
12 purposes of K-3 plus, "high-poverty public school" means a
13 public school in which eighty percent or more of the students
14 are eligible for free or reduced-fee lunch at the time the
15 public school applies for the program ~~[or an elementary school~~
16 ~~with a D or F grade the previous year]~~.

17 D. The department shall promulgate rules for
18 application requirements and procedures and criteria for
19 evaluating applications. In evaluating applications for K-3
20 plus, the department shall grant priority to those schools with
21 research-based, scientific reading strategies and programs. An
22 applicant shall demonstrate that its K-3 plus program will meet
23 all department standards and employ only qualified teachers and
24 other staff.

25 E. K-3 plus programs shall be funded at no less

.200260.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 than thirty percent of the unit value per student. Up to two
2 percent of the money received by a school district shall be
3 used for student recruitment and to ensure regular attendance
4 by K-3 plus students. Funding for individual school programs
5 shall be based on enrollment on the fifteenth day of the
6 program.

7 F. School districts and charter schools that meet
8 the qualifications for K-3 plus funding may submit applications
9 by March 15 for the succeeding fiscal year. The department
10 shall notify all school districts and charter schools by
11 February 1 that applications will be accepted until March 15
12 and that final funding is contingent on the final unit value
13 set by the secretary. The notification shall include the
14 application and any requirements for supplementary
15 documentation. Applications may be submitted electronically or
16 by mail or other delivery. Schools that are awarded funding
17 for K-3 plus for the next school year shall be notified by
18 April 15 of the calendar year.

19 G. The department shall provide additional
20 professional development for K-3 plus teachers in how young
21 children learn to read. Teachers and educational assistants
22 shall be paid at the same rate and under the same terms for K-3
23 plus as teachers and educational assistants are paid for
24 regular educational programs.

25 H. Students participating in K-3 plus shall be

.200260.1

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 evaluated at the beginning of K-3 plus, and their progress
2 shall be measured through department-approved summative and
3 formative assessments.

4 I. The department shall establish reporting and
5 evaluation requirements for participating schools, including
6 student and program assessments. The department shall report
7 annually to the legislature and the governor on the efficacy of
8 K-3 plus.

9 J. The department may use up to four percent of any
10 appropriation made by the legislature for K-3 plus for
11 professional development for participating educators and
12 department administrative costs.

13 K. The department shall develop and disseminate
14 information on best practices in the areas of student
15 recruitment, retention and academic success of early learners.

16 L. The secretary shall appoint a "K-3 plus advisory
17 committee" composed of representatives of school districts that
18 participate in K-3 plus and other stakeholders. The advisory
19 committee shall meet twice a year to advise the department on
20 K-3 plus implementation."

21 **SECTION 2. APPLICABILITY.**--The provisions of this act
22 apply to the 2015-2016 and subsequent school years. For the
23 2015-2016 school year, the public education department may
24 accept applications from schools that meet the requirements of
25 Section 1 of this act and withhold its decision on the

.200260.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 applications until the section becomes law.

2 SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
3 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.

4 - 5 -

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25