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AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; REQUIRING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVES TO INCLUDE AN INDEPENDENTLY EVALUATED, EVIDENCE-BASED OR RESULTS-BASED COMMUNITY SCHOOLS MODEL DESIGNED TO IMPROVE ACADEMIC OUTCOMES, INCREASE ATTENDANCE AND STRENGTHEN BEHAVIOR FOR ALL STUDENTS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 22-32-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2013, Chapter 16, Section 1) is amended to read:

"22-32-1. SHORT TITLE.--Chapter 22, Article 32 NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Community Schools Act"."

SECTION 2. Section 22-32-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2013, Chapter 16, Section 3) is amended to read:

"22-32-3. COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVES--SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FUNCTIONS--REQUIREMENTS.--

A. A community schools initiative may be created in any public school in the state.

B. A community schools initiative shall include the following core set of strategies and opportunities to strengthen behavior for all students:

(1) extended learning programs, including after-school programs and summer programs;

(2) school-based or school-linked health care;

- 1 (3) opportunities for families to acquire
2 skills to promote early learning and childhood development;
- 3 (4) school and community-resource
4 partnerships with an integrated focus on academics and other
5 social, health and familial support;
- 6 (5) social, health, nutrition and mental
7 health services and support for children, family members and
8 community members; and
- 9 (6) case management for students in need of
10 comprehensive support in academics, attendance and behavior.

11 C. A community schools initiative shall include
12 the following:

13 (1) a lead partner agency, including a
14 public or private agency or community-based organization, to
15 help coordinate programs and services;

16 (2) an assessment of community resources
17 informed by students, families and community and school
18 leaders that relates to the effective delivery of core
19 services on site; and

20 (3) the implementation of an independently
21 evaluated, evidence-based or results-based model of
22 integrated student services and comprehensive supports that
23 is proven to increase student achievement."

24 **SECTION 3.** Section 22-32-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2013,
25 Chapter 16, Section 4) is amended to read:

1 "22-32-4. COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVES--ADMINISTRATIVE
2 COSTS--GRANTS--SCHOOL DISTRICT, GROUP OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS OR
3 PUBLIC SCHOOL DUTIES--REQUIREMENTS.--

4 A. A school district shall bear any administrative
5 costs associated with the establishment and implementation of
6 a community school within the school district.

7 B. Subject to the availability of funding, grants
8 for community schools initiatives are available to a school
9 district, a group of public schools or a public school that
10 has demonstrated partnerships with any lead agency and local,
11 private and public agencies for the purpose of establishing,
12 operating and sustaining community schools and that meets
13 department eligibility requirements.

14 C. Applications for grants for community schools
15 initiatives shall be in the form prescribed by the department
16 and shall include the following information:

17 (1) a statement of need, including
18 demographic and socioeconomic information about the area to
19 be served by the community schools initiative;

20 (2) goals and expected outcomes of the
21 initiative;

22 (3) services and activities to be provided
23 by the initiative;

24 (4) written agreements for the provision of
25 services by public and private agencies, community groups and

1 other parties;

2 (5) a work plan and budget for the
3 initiative, including staffing requirements and the expected
4 availability of staff;

5 (6) days and hours of operation;

6 (7) strategies for dissemination of
7 information about the initiative to potential users;

8 (8) training and professional development
9 plans;

10 (9) letters of endorsement and commitment
11 from community agencies and organizations and local
12 governments; and

13 (10) any other information the department
14 requires.

15 D. A school district, a group of public schools or
16 a public school that uses funds under this section to
17 transform a school into a research- and evidence-based
18 community schools initiative shall:

19 (1) use rigorous, transparent, equitable and
20 evidence-based evaluation systems to assess the effectiveness
21 of the implementation of the community schools initiative;

22 (2) provide ongoing, high-quality
23 professional development to staff that:

24 (a) aligns with the school's
25 instructional program;

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(b) facilitates effective teaching and learning; and

(c) supports the implementation of school reform strategies; and

(3) give the school sufficient operational flexibility in programming, staffing, budgeting and scheduling so that the school can fully implement a comprehensive strategy designed to focus on improving school climate, student achievement and growth in reading and mathematics, attendance, behavior, parental engagement and, for high schools, graduation rates and readiness for college or a career."