

1 SENATE BILL 74

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Mimi Stewart

5  
6  
7  
8 FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

9  
10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; CREATING THE VOLUNTARY EARLY  
12 READING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM; CREATING THE EARLY  
13 READING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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

16 SECTION 1. Section 22-13-1.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2000  
17 (2nd S.S.), Chapter 14, Section 1, as amended) is amended to  
18 read:

19 "22-13-1.3. READING INITIATIVE--DESIGN.--

20 A. The department shall design and implement a  
21 statewide reading initiative to improve reading proficiency in  
22 the state. The design of the reading initiative shall be based  
23 upon quality, scientifically based reading research that has  
24 been shown to improve reading proficiency and shall include the  
25 following:

.216205.2

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

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 (1) consistent assessment and evaluation of  
2 student reading levels; and

3 (2) appropriate professional staff development  
4 to assist licensed school employees in the instruction of  
5 reading;

6 ~~[(3) extra time in the student's day or year  
7 for implementation of reading programs;~~

8 ~~(4) rewards provided to teachers and other  
9 applicable licensed school employees in public schools that  
10 improve student reading proficiency; and~~

11 ~~(5) criteria for public schools to establish  
12 an individualized reading plan for students who fail to meet  
13 grade level reading proficiency standards].~~

14 B. The department shall use national experts to  
15 work with the department to develop an immediate reading  
16 initiative and a long-term plan for sustained reading  
17 improvement.

18 ~~[G. The department shall involve school district  
19 personnel, especially licensed elementary reading specialists,  
20 parents and other interested persons in the design of the  
21 reading initiative.]~~

22 C. The department shall design and implement a  
23 statewide, voluntary early reading professional development  
24 summer program by a licensed and accredited or credentialed  
25 teacher preparation provider that includes a detailed framework

.216205.2

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 for structured literacy training as well as evidence-based  
2 training for working with students who demonstrate  
3 characteristics of reading disabilities, including dyslexia.  
4 Funds shall be prioritized for elementary schools in which  
5 eighty percent or more of the students are eligible for free or  
6 reduced-fee lunch.

7 D. The department shall adopt rules for the  
8 statewide voluntary early reading professional development  
9 program that shall include the following:

10 (1) scientifically researched and evidence-  
11 based instructional reading strategies that improve reading  
12 performance for all students, including explicit, systematic  
13 and sequential approaches to teaching phonemic awareness,  
14 phonics, vocabulary, fluency and text comprehension and  
15 multisensory intervention strategies;

16 (2) strategies appropriate for the instruction  
17 of English language learners; and

18 (3) strategies appropriate for instruction of  
19 students with disabilities."

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

22 "[NEW MATERIAL] EARLY READING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
23 FUND--CREATED--PURPOSE.--The "early reading professional  
24 development fund" is created as a nonreverting fund in the  
25 state treasury. The fund consists of appropriations, gifts,

.216205.2

underscoring material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 grants and donations. Money in the fund is subject to  
2 appropriation by the legislature to implement a statewide  
3 voluntary early reading professional development program for  
4 kindergarten through second grade teachers. Disbursements from  
5 the fund shall be made by warrant of the secretary of finance  
6 and administration pursuant to vouchers signed by the secretary  
7 of public education or the secretary's authorized  
8 representative."

9 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION.--Three million dollars  
10 (\$3,000,000) is appropriated from the public education reform  
11 fund to the early reading professional development fund for  
12 expenditure in fiscal year 2021 for the public education  
13 department to develop and implement the voluntary early reading  
14 professional development program. Any unexpended or  
15 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year  
16 shall not revert to the public education reform fund.