

1 AN ACT
2 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ENACTING THE INNOVATIONS IN
3 TEACHING ACT; CREATING THE INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING PROGRAM;
4 PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; ENCOURAGING TEACHERS TO
5 IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE PEDAGOGICAL APPROACHES AND STRATEGIES IN
6 THEIR CLASSROOMS; GRANTING A WAIVER TO SUCH TEACHERS AND
7 THEIR PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM THE USE OF THE RESULTS OF
8 STANDARDS-BASED ASSESSMENTS IN THEIR TEACHER EVALUATIONS FOR
9 TWO YEARS; PROVIDING FOR AN APPLICATION, REPORTING AND
10 EVALUATION PROCESS.

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

13 SECTION 1. A new section of the Public School Code is
14 enacted to read:

15 "SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the "Innovations
16 in Teaching Act"."

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

19 "DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Innovations in Teaching
20 Act:

21 A. "innovative teaching" means the use of cutting-
22 edge innovations in pedagogical approaches and strategies to
23 teach a subject or grade;

24 B. "program" means the innovations in teaching
25 program; and

1 C. "teacher" means a primary or secondary
2 classroom teacher who has at least three years of teaching
3 experience and who, as reported on the teacher's most recent
4 annual performance evaluation, meets or exceeds competencies
5 before participating in the program."

6 SECTION 3. A new section of the Public School Code is
7 enacted to read:

8 "INNOVATIONS IN TEACHING PROGRAM CREATED--DEPARTMENT
9 DUTIES--APPLICATIONS--REQUIREMENTS.--

10 A. The "innovations in teaching program" is
11 created. The department may develop and implement the
12 program, including an application and award process and
13 evaluation and reporting requirements, for use in the 2018-
14 2019 and succeeding school years.

15 B. A teacher shall apply to the department to
16 participate in the program. Applications shall be submitted
17 by June 30 for the upcoming school year.

18 C. The application shall include:

19 (1) the details of the proposed innovative
20 teaching project and specific goals of the project,
21 particularly as those goals relate to teaching English
22 language learners, minority students, developmentally
23 disabled or delayed students and students who have become
24 defeated by or uninterested in school;

25 (2) a description of research findings on

1 the proposed innovative teaching project or a description of
2 its successful implementation in other schools in this or
3 other countries;

4 (3) a description of how the innovative
5 teaching project will be used to teach the pertinent
6 curriculum and how it will prepare students to meet the
7 expectations of the common core state standards or other
8 state content and performance standards;

9 (4) examples of lesson plans that will be
10 used in the innovative teaching project;

11 (5) a description of means and measures to
12 determine the success or failure of the innovative teaching
13 project;

14 (6) the length of time, not to exceed three
15 school years, that the teacher proposes to use the described
16 innovative teaching project; and

17 (7) other information the applicant deems
18 appropriate or the department requests.

19 D. The application shall be signed by the teacher
20 and the teacher's school principal.

21 E. The department shall evaluate the application
22 and may request additional information from the applicant.

23 The department shall notify the teacher and the school
24 principal prior to August 1 whether the application is
25 approved."

1 **SECTION 4.** A new section of the Public School Code is
2 enacted to read:

3 "WAIVER FROM STANDARDS-BASED ASSESSMENT RESULTS.--

4 A. The department may waive the use of the results
5 of the participating teacher's students' standards-based
6 assessments on the teacher's teacher evaluation for up to two
7 years at the request of the teacher and school principal.
8 The department, the teacher and the school principal, working
9 together, may develop other measures of teacher competency.

10 B. The waivers provided in this section are not
11 assessment waivers. Students of a teacher participating in
12 the program are required to participate in standards-based
13 assessments as provided in the Public School Code."

14 **SECTION 5.** A new section of the Public School Code is
15 enacted to read:

16 "EVALUATIONS AND REPORTS.--

17 A. The teacher shall keep records of each student
18 participating in the innovative teaching project to chart
19 student progress, including short-cycle or other assessments
20 and a measurement of classroom participation and behavior.
21 When making interim and final reports on the efficacy of the
22 innovative teaching project, reporting on student records
23 shall not include student names.

24 B. The department, the teacher and the school
25 principal shall develop evaluation standards for the

1 innovative teaching project to evaluate its success or
2 failure.

3 C. The department shall report its findings and
4 recommendations for the program and for each innovative
5 teaching project to the governor, the legislative education
6 study committee, every local superintendent and every charter
7 school head administrator.

8 D. If it becomes clear, based on standards-based
9 assessments or other data, that the innovative teaching
10 project is not succeeding, the department may rescind its
11 approval and the project may be redesigned or discontinued
12 before the full term of the project is over."

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