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AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION IMPROVEMENTS; PROVIDING FOR CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY RESPONSIVE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR TEACHERS, EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANTS AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT STAFF WHO TEACH OR OTHERWISE INTERACT WITH CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATIONS.

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

SECTION 1. A new section of the Regional Cooperative Education Act is enacted to read:

"CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE STUDENT POPULATIONS--PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL.--

A. All cooperatives that want to provide technical assistance and professional development for teachers, educational assistants and other instructional support staff in the educational needs of culturally and linguistically diverse students shall join together and submit one application to the department for funding. The group of participating cooperatives shall assign one cooperative to provide coordination, financial accounting and disbursement of funding received from the department to all participating cooperatives.

B. With council approval, each cooperative may provide or contract for technical assistance and professional

1 development for teachers, educational assistants and other
2 instructional support staff that are focused on the
3 educational needs of culturally and linguistically diverse
4 students.

5 C. Technical assistance and professional
6 development programs shall be aligned with state academic
7 content standards, benchmarks and performance standards for
8 bilingual multicultural education and shall meet school
9 district and charter school educational plans related to
10 bilingual multicultural education, Indian education and
11 Hispanic education.

12 D. Professional development programs shall be
13 centered on the following:

14 (1) research-based bilingual multicultural
15 education and language revitalization programs and
16 implications for instruction;

17 (2) best practices in teaching English as a
18 second language, English language development, bilingual
19 multicultural education and language revitalization programs;

20 (3) classroom assessments that support
21 academic and language development;

22 (4) principles of first and second language
23 acquisition, including language revitalization,
24 differentiated language instruction and sheltered content
25 instruction; and

1 (5) effective practices of program
2 implementation and program evaluation.

3 E. With council approval, a cooperative may offer
4 professional development to school personnel in school
5 districts and charter schools that are not members of the
6 cooperative and may charge a course fee, which shall not be
7 more than the actual per-participant cost of attendance at
8 the professional development program.

9 F. Each participating cooperative shall provide
10 direct technical assistance, in addition to professional
11 development, that results in improved culturally and
12 linguistically responsive education in public schools. The
13 participating cooperatives shall work closely with appropriate
14 service providers to build and support cooperative, school
15 district and charter school internal capacity of their staff
16 and their members' staff to ensure long-term, local, sustained
17 support to teachers and other school personnel who work with
18 culturally and linguistically diverse students." _____

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