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HOUSE BILL

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; CREATING THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
PREPARATION PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS ACT; REQUIRING SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATOR PREPARATION PROGRAMS OFFERED BY POST-SECONDARY
EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OR OTHER APPROVED PROVIDERS TO MEET
NATIONAL AND STATE STANDARDS EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS; SPECIFYING
QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE
CLINICAL EXPERIENCES AS PART OF A SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
PREPARATION PROGRAM; PROVIDING RULEMAKING AUTHORITY TO THE
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT; CREATING THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE WITHIN THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING
REQUIREMENTS FOR LEVEL THREE-B LICENSURE FOR SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATORS; CHANGING THE MINIMUM SALARY AMOUNT OF AN
ALTERNATIVE LEVEL THREE B-LICENSED SCHOOL PRINCIPAL OR
ASSISTANT SCHOOL PRINCIPAL; REPEALING THE SCHOOL LEADERSHIP
INSTITUTE WITHIN THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT; MAKING AN

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1 APPROPRIATION.

2

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

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

6 "[NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--Sections 1 through 4 of this
7 act may be cited as the "School Administrator Preparation
8 Program Requirements Act".

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

11 "[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the School
12 Administrator Preparation Program Requirements Act:

13 A. "institute" means the school leadership
14 institute; and

15 B. "program" means a school administrator
16 preparation program in New Mexico."

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

19 "[NEW MATERIAL] STANDARDS-BASED SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
20 PREPARATION PROGRAMS--REQUIREMENTS--DEPARTMENT APPROVAL.--

21 A. Any public post-secondary educational
22 institution, tribal college or other qualified entity that
23 wants to offer a program is required to have the program
24 approved by the department under new criteria set forth in the
25 School Administrator Preparation Program Requirements Act. The

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1 department shall promulgate rules as necessary to implement the
2 provisions of the School Administrator Preparation Program
3 Requirements Act.

4 B. The department shall establish, by rule,
5 criteria for programs that include the following research-based
6 features of effective leader preparation programs:

7 (1) coherent curriculum aligned to national
8 and state standards;

9 (2) deliberate candidate recruitment and
10 selection;

11 (3) robust clinical experience through a full-
12 academic-year, paid residency;

13 (4) cohort structure with trained coaches; and

14 (5) formal partnerships between the program
15 and school districts and charter schools.

16 C. No later than July 1, 2026, programs shall be
17 approved by the department before enrolling new students
18 seeking school administrator licensure. Students enrolled
19 before the effective date of the School Administrator
20 Preparation Program Requirements Act may be granted licensure
21 in accordance with existing program approvals.

22 D. The department shall create a process for
23 approving new and revised programs. The department shall
24 consult the professional practices and standards committee and
25 publish a manual outlining the requirements for program

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1 approval. The process shall be aligned with the School
2 Administrator Preparation Program Requirements Act and meet the
3 general requirements of programs as determined by the
4 department.

5 E. All programs seeking approval, including those
6 previously approved, shall submit an application to the
7 department by January 15, 2026. Applications shall provide the
8 information outlined in the school administrator preparation
9 professional practices and standards committee manual developed
10 and published pursuant to Subsection D of this section.

11 F. The department shall monitor program success and
12 candidate outcomes through educator accountability report
13 indicators, including data tracking of graduates through a
14 completer survey issued to all graduates within one year of
15 program completion that measures completers' perception of
16 their own readiness and individual effectiveness in the
17 position.

18 G. Nothing in this section shall preclude the
19 department from establishing or accepting equivalent
20 requirements for the purposes of reciprocal licensure for out-
21 of-state school administrators.

22 H. If a local superintendent or governing authority
23 of a public school certifies to the department that an
24 emergency exists in the hiring of a qualified school principal,
25 the department may issue a certificate of principalship waiver

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1 to a person who holds a level two or level three-A license but
2 does not meet the other requirements for a level three-B
3 license. Certificates of principalship waivers are one-year
4 waivers and may not be renewed."

5 SECTION 4. A new section of the Public School Code is
6 enacted to read:

7 "[NEW MATERIAL] SCHOOL LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE--CREATED--
8 DUTIES.--

9 A. The "school leadership institute" is created and
10 administratively attached to the department. The department
11 shall provide administrative services for the institute. The
12 institute shall provide a comprehensive and cohesive framework
13 for preparing, mentoring and providing professional development
14 for school principals and other public school leaders.

15 B. The institute shall offer at least the following
16 programs:

17 (1) licensure preparation for aspiring school
18 principals;

19 (2) mentoring for new school principals and
20 other public school leaders;

21 (3) intensive support for school principals at
22 schools in need of improvement;

23 (4) professional development for aspiring
24 local superintendents; and

25 (5) mentoring for new local superintendents.

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1 C. The institute shall partner with state agencies,
2 public schools, post-secondary educational institutions and
3 professional associations to identify, recruit and mentor
4 candidates for the institute."

5 **SECTION 5.** Section 22-10A-11.3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws
6 2009, Chapter 117, Section 2) is amended to read:

7 "22-10A-11.3. LEVEL THREE-B PROVISIONAL LICENSURE FOR
8 SCHOOL PRINCIPALS.--

9 A. A school district that has a shortage of
10 qualified school principal candidates may request that the
11 department issue a provisional three-B license to a level two
12 teacher whom the school district believes has the potential to
13 be an effective school principal.

14 B. To qualify for a provisional three-B license,
15 the candidate shall:

16 (1) meet the requirements for a level
17 three-A license;

18 (2) be enrolled in a department-approved
19 induction and mentoring program in the school district; and

20 (3) be accepted into a department-approved
21 school administrator preparation program.

22 C. The provisional license is a four-year license
23 and is not renewable. To maintain the provisional license, the
24 licensee must receive satisfactory evaluations each year from
25 the school district's mentoring program and from the school

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1 administrator preparation program. At the end of the four
2 years, the provisional license may be converted to a regular
3 level three-B license if the candidate:

4 (1) satisfactorily completes the school
5 district's mentoring program; and

6 (2) satisfactorily completes the department-
7 approved school administrator preparation program, including
8 the year-long residency or an alternative clinical experience
9 approved by the department when the full-academic-year, paid
10 residency is not feasible."

11 SECTION 6. Section 22-10A-17.2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws
12 2017, Chapter 68, Section 1) is amended to read:

13 "22-10A-17.2. ALTERNATIVE LEVEL THREE-B LICENSURE--TRACK
14 FOR INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PROVIDERS.--

15 A. An alternative level three-B license is a five-
16 year license granted to a school administrator applicant who
17 meets the qualifications for that level. Licenses may be
18 renewed upon satisfactory annual demonstration of instructional
19 leader and administrative competency.

20 B. The department shall grant an alternative level
21 three-B license to an applicant who is licensed by the
22 department as a school counselor, school social worker, school
23 nurse, speech-language pathologist, psychologist, physical
24 therapist, physical therapy assistant, occupational therapist,
25 occupational therapy assistant, recreational therapist,

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1 marriage and family therapist, interpreter for the deaf or
2 diagnostician and who:

3 (1) holds a post-baccalaureate degree;

4 (2) has satisfactorily completed department-
5 approved courses in administration [~~and~~], including a
6 department-approved [~~administration apprenticeship program~~]
7 residency; and

8 (3) demonstrates instructional leader
9 competence required by the department and verified by the local
10 superintendent through the highly objective uniform statewide
11 standard of evaluation.

12 C. The minimum annual salary for an alternative
13 level three-B licensed school principal or assistant school
14 principal shall be [~~fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000)~~] the
15 minimum salary for a level three-A teacher multiplied by the
16 applicable responsibility factor."

17 **SECTION 7. APPROPRIATION.**--Two million dollars
18 (\$2,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
19 public education department for expenditure in fiscal year 2025
20 and subsequent fiscal years to carry out the purposes of the
21 School Administrator Preparation Program Requirements Act. Any
22 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a
23 fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund.

24 **SECTION 8. REPEAL.**--Section 21-1-44 NMSA 1978 (being Laws
25 2010, Chapter 65, Section 1) is repealed.

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SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2024.