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HOUSE BILL 8

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - 2ND SPECIAL SESSION, 2000**

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

FOR THE EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND ACCOUNTABILITY TASK FORCE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; IMPROVING STUDENT READING  
PROFICIENCIES; CREATING A STATEWIDE READING INITIATIVE;  
CREATING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL READING PROFICIENCY FUND.

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

Section 1. READING INITIATIVE--DESIGN.--

A. The state department of public education shall design and implement a statewide reading initiative to improve reading proficiency in the state. The design of the reading initiative shall be based upon quality, research-based reading programs shown to improve reading proficiency and shall include the following:

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

(2) appropriate professional staff development to assist classroom certified instructional staff in the instruction of reading programs;

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1 (3) extra time in the student's day or year  
2 for implementation of reading programs; and

3 (4) rewards provided to certified school  
4 instructors in schools that improve student reading  
5 proficiency.

6 B. The state department of public education shall  
7 use national experts to work with the department to develop  
8 an immediate reading initiative and a long-term plan for  
9 sustained reading improvement.

10 C. The state department of public education shall  
11 involve local school district personnel, especially certified  
12 elementary reading specialists, parents and other interested  
13 persons in the design of the reading initiative.

14 Section 2. PUBLIC SCHOOL READING PROFICIENCY FUND--  
15 CREATED.--The "public school reading proficiency fund" is  
16 created in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of  
17 appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. The fund shall  
18 be administered by the state department of public education,  
19 and money in the fund is appropriated to the department to  
20 distribute awards to local schools that implement innovative,  
21 research-based reading programs. The state department of  
22 public education shall develop procedures and rules for the  
23 application and award of money from the fund, including  
24 criteria upon which to evaluate innovative, research-based  
25 reading programs. Disbursements of the fund shall be made by  
warrant of the department of finance and administration  
pursuant to vouchers signed by the superintendent of public

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1 instruction. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance  
2 remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall not  
3 revert but shall remain to the credit of the fund.

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