HOUSE BILL 327

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Rick Miera

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; CHANGING THE FORTIETH, EIGHTIETH
AND ONE HUNDRED TWENTIETH DAY REPORTING DATES TO SPECIFIC DATES
IN OCTOBER, DECEMBER AND FEBRUARY.

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

Section 1. Section 22-8-6.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1993, Chapter 227, Section 8, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-8-6.1. CHARTER SCHOOL BUDGETS.--

A. Each state-chartered charter school shall submit to the charter schools division of the department a school-based budget. For fiscal year 2008, and for the first year of operation in any fiscal year thereafter, the budget of every state-chartered charter school shall be based on the projected number of program units generated by that charter school and its students, using the at-risk index and the instructional .163757.1

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staff training and experience index of the school district in which it is geographically located. For second and subsequent fiscal years of operation, the budgets of state-chartered charter schools shall be based on the number of program units generated using the average of the [eightieth and one hundred twentieth day MEM reported on the second Monday in December and the third Tuesday in February of the prior year and its instructional staff training and experience index and the atrisk index of the school district in which the state-chartered charter school is geographically located. The budget shall be submitted to the division for approval or amendment pursuant to the Public School Finance Act and the Charter Schools Act.

Each locally chartered charter school shall submit to the local school board a school-based budget. For fiscal year 2008, and for the first year of operation in any fiscal year thereafter, the budget of every locally chartered charter school shall be based on the projected number of program units generated using the average of the [eightieth and one hundred twentieth day MEM reported on the second Monday in December and the third Tuesday in February of the prior year, using the at-risk index and the instructional staff training and experience index of the school district in which it is geographically located. For second and subsequent fiscal years of operation, the budgets of locally chartered charter schools shall be based on the prior year program units generated by

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that locally chartered charter school and its students and its instructional staff training and experience index and the atrisk index of the school district in which the locally chartered charter school is geographically located. The budget shall be submitted to the local school board for approval or amendment. The approval or amendment authority of the local school board relative to the charter school budget is limited to ensuring that sound fiscal practices are followed in the development of the budget and that the charter school budget is within the allotted resources. The local school board shall have no veto authority over individual line items within the charter school's proposed budget, but shall approve or disapprove the budget in its entirety. Upon final approval of the local budget by the local school board, the individual charter school budget shall be included separately in the budget submission to the department required pursuant to the Public School Finance Act and the Charter Schools Act."

Section 2. Section 22-8-23.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1990 (1st S.S.), Chapter 3, Section 7, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-8-23.1. ENROLLMENT GROWTH PROGRAM UNITS.--

A. A school district or charter school with an increase in MEM equal to or greater than one percent, when compared with the immediately preceding year, is eligible for additional program units. The increase in MEM shall be

2	(Current Year MEM - Previous Year MEM)
3	Previous Year MEM X 100 = Percent Increase.
4	The number of additional program units shall be calculated as
5	follows:
6	((Current Year MEM - Previous Year MEM) - (Current Year
7	MEM x .01)) X 1.5 = Units.
8	B. In addition to the units calculated in
9	Subsection A of this section, a school district or charter
10	school with an increase in MEM equal to or greater than one
11	percent, when compared with the immediately preceding year, is
12	eligible for additional program units. The increase in MEM
13	shall be calculated in the following manner:
14	(Current Year MEM - Previous Year MEM)
15	Previous Year MEM X 100 = Percent Increase.
16	The number of additional program units to which an eligible
17	school district or charter school is entitled under this
18	subsection is the number of units computed in the following
19	manner:
20	(Current Year MEM - Previous Year MEM) X .50 = Units.
21	C. As used in this section:
22	(1) "current year MEM" means MEM on the
23	[fortieth day] third Monday in October of the current year;
24	(2) "MEM" means the total school district or
25	charter school membership, including early childhood education
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calculated as follows:

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full-time-equivalent membership and special education membership, but excluding full-day kindergarten membership for the first year that full-day kindergarten is implemented in a school pursuant to Subsection D of Section 22-13-3.2 NMSA 1978; and

(3) "previous year MEM" means MEM on the [fortieth day] third Monday in October of the previous year."

Section 3. Section 22-8-23.4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003, Chapter 144, Section 2 and Laws 2003, Chapter 152, Section 9, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-8-23.4. NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS--CERTIFIED TEACHERS PROGRAM UNITS.--The number of program units for teachers certified by the national board for professional teaching standards is determined by multiplying by one and one-half the number of teachers certified by the national board for professional teaching standards employed by the school district or charter school on or before the [fortieth day of the school year] third Monday in October and verified by the department. Department approval of these units shall be contingent on verification by the school district or charter school that these teachers are receiving a one-time salary differential equal to or greater than the amount generated by the units multiplied by the program unit value during the fiscal year in which the school district or charter school will receive these units."

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Section 4. Section 22-8-25 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1981, Chapter 176, Section 5, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-8-25. STATE EQUALIZATION GUARANTEE DISTRIBUTION --DEFINITIONS -- DETERMINATION OF AMOUNT. --

- The state equalization guarantee distribution is that amount of money distributed to each school district to ensure that its operating revenue, including its local and federal revenues as defined in this section, is at least equal to the school district's program cost. For state-chartered charter schools, the state equalization guarantee distribution is the difference between the state-chartered charter school's program cost and the two percent withheld by the department for administrative services.
- "Local revenue", as used in this section, means seventy-five percent of receipts to the school district derived from that amount produced by a school district property tax applied at the rate of fifty cents (\$.50) to each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of net taxable value of property allocated to the school district and to the assessed value of products severed and sold in the school district as determined under the Oil and Gas Ad Valorem Production Tax Act and upon the assessed value of equipment in the school district as determined under the Oil and Gas Production Equipment Ad Valorem Tax Act.
- "Federal revenue", as used in this section, means receipts to the school district, excluding amounts that, .163757.1

if taken into account in the computation of the state equalization guarantee distribution, result, under federal law or regulations, in a reduction in or elimination of federal school funding otherwise receivable by the school district, derived from the following:

- (1) seventy-five percent of the school district's share of forest reserve funds distributed in accordance with Section 22-8-33 NMSA 1978; and
- (2) seventy-five percent of grants from the federal government as assistance to those areas affected by federal activity authorized in accordance with Title 20 of the United States Code, commonly known as "PL 874 funds" or "impact aid".
- D. To determine the amount of the state equalization guarantee distribution, the department shall:
- (1) calculate the number of program units to which each school district or charter school is entitled using an average of the MEM on the [eightieth and one hundred twentieth days] second Monday in December and the third Tuesday in February of the prior year; or
- (2) calculate the number of program units to which a school district or charter school operating under an approved year-round school calendar is entitled using an average of the MEM on appropriate dates established by the department; or

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- calculate the number of program units to (3) which a school district or charter school with a MEM of two hundred or less is entitled by using an average of the MEM on the [eightieth and one hundred twentieth days] second Monday in December and the third Tuesday in February of the prior year or the [fortieth day] third Monday in October of the current year, whichever is greater; and
- (4) using the results of the calculations in Paragraph (1), (2) or (3) of this subsection and the instructional staff training and experience index from the October report of the prior school year, establish a total program cost of the school district or charter school;
- (5) for school districts, calculate the local and federal revenues as defined in this section;
- deduct the sum of the calculations made in (6) Paragraph (5) of this subsection from the program cost established in Paragraph (4) of this subsection;
- (7) deduct the total amount of guaranteed energy savings contract payments that the department determines will be made to the school district from the public school utility conservation fund during the fiscal year for which the state equalization guarantee distribution is being computed; and
- (8) deduct ninety percent of the amount certified for the school district by the department pursuant to .163757.1

the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Bonding Act.

- E. Reduction of a school district's state equalization guarantee distribution shall cease when the school district's cumulative reductions equal its proportional share of the cumulative debt service payments necessary to service the bonds issued pursuant to the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Bonding Act.
- F. The amount of the state equalization guarantee distribution to which a school district is entitled is the balance remaining after the deductions made in Paragraphs (6) through (8) of Subsection D of this section.
- G. The state equalization guarantee distribution shall be distributed prior to June 30 of each fiscal year. The calculation shall be based on the local and federal revenues specified in this section received from June 1 of the previous fiscal year through May 31 of the fiscal year for which the state equalization guarantee distribution is being computed. In the event that a school district or charter school has received more state equalization guarantee funds than its entitlement, a refund shall be made by the school district or charter school to the state general fund."

Section 5. Section 22-8-29 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1967, Chapter 16, Section 78, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-8-29. TRANSPORTATION DISTRIBUTIONS--REPORTS--PAYMENTS.--

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A. Prior to November 15 of each year, each local school board of a school district and governing body of a state-chartered charter school shall report to the state transportation director, upon forms furnished by the state transportation director, the following information concerning the school district's or state-chartered charter school's operation on the [fortieth day of school] third Monday in October:

- (1) the number and designation of school bus routes in operation in the school district;
- (2) the number of miles traveled by each school bus on each school bus route, showing the route mileage in accordance with the type of road surface traveled;
- (3) the number of students transported on the [fortieth day of school] third Monday in October and adjusted for special education students on December 1;
- (4) the projected number of students to be transported in the next school year;
- (5) the seating capacity, age and mileage of each bus used in the school district for student transportation; and
- (6) the number of total miles traveled for each school district's or state-chartered charter school's per capita feeder routes.
- B. Each local school board of a school district and .163757.1

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governing body of a state-chartered charter school maintaining a school bus route shall make further reports to the state transportation director at other times specified by the state transportation director.

- The state transportation director shall certify to the secretary that the allocations from the transportation distributions to each school district and state-chartered charter school are based upon the transportation distribution formula established in the Public School Code. The allocations for the first six months of a school year shall be based upon the tentative transportation budget of the school district or state-chartered charter school for the current fiscal year. Allocations to a school district or state-chartered charter school for the remainder of the school year shall adjust the amount received by the school district or state-chartered charter school so that it equals the amount the school district or state-chartered charter school is entitled to receive for the entire school year based upon the November 15 report and subject to audit and verification.
- D. The department shall make periodic installment payments to school districts and state-chartered charter schools during the school year from the transportation distributions, based upon the allocations certified by the state transportation director."

Section 6. Section 22-10A-20 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986, .163757.1

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Chapter 33, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read: "22-10A-20. STAFFING PATTERNS--CLASS LOAD--TEACHING LOAD. --

- The individual class load for elementary school teachers shall not exceed twenty students for kindergarten; provided that any teacher in kindergarten with a class load of fifteen to twenty students shall be entitled to the assistance of an educational assistant.
- The average class load for elementary school teachers at an individual school shall not exceed twenty-two students when averaged among grades one, two and three; provided that any teacher in grade one with a class load of twenty-one or more shall be entitled to the full-time assistance of an educational assistant.
- The average class load for an elementary school C. teacher at an individual school shall not exceed twenty-four students when averaged among grades four, five and six.
- The daily teaching load per teacher for grades seven through twelve shall not exceed one hundred sixty students, except the daily teaching load for teachers of required English courses in grades seven and eight shall not exceed one hundred thirty-five with a maximum of twenty-seven students per class and the daily teaching load for teachers of required English courses in grades nine through twelve shall not exceed one hundred fifty students with a maximum of thirty .163757.1

students per class.

E. Students receiving special education services integrated into a regular classroom for any part of the day shall be counted in the calculation of class load averages. Students receiving special education services not integrated into the regular classroom shall not be counted in the calculation of class load averages. Only classroom teachers charged with responsibility for the regular classroom instructional program shall be counted in determining average class loads. In elementary schools offering only one grade level, average class loads may be calculated by averaging appropriate grade levels between schools in the school district.

- F. Class load limits provided for in this section do not apply to band or music classes or athletic electives.
- G. The [state superintendent] secretary may waive the individual school class load requirements established in this section. Waivers shall be applied for annually and a waiver shall not be granted for more than two consecutive years. Waivers may only be granted if a school district demonstrates that:
 - (1) no portable classrooms are available;
- (2) no other available sources of funding exist to meet its need for additional classrooms;
- (3) the school district is planning .163757.1

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alternatives to increase building capacity for implementation within one year; and

- (4) the parents of all children affected by the waiver have been notified in writing:
- (a) of the statutory class load requirements;
- (b) that the school district has made a decision to deviate from these class load requirements; and
- (c) of the school district plan to achieve compliance with the class load requirements.
- H. If a waiver is granted pursuant to Subsection G of this section to an individual school, the average class load for elementary school teachers at that school shall not exceed twenty students in grade one and shall not exceed twenty-five students when averaged among grades two, three, four, five and six.
- I. Each school district shall report to the department the size and composition of classes subsequent to the [fortieth day] third Monday in October and the December 1 count. Failure to meet class load requirements within two years shall be justification for the disapproval of the school district's budget by the [state superintendent] department.
- J. The department shall report to the legislative education study committee by November 30 of each year regarding each school district's ability to meet class load requirements
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imposed by law.

K. Notwithstanding the provisions of Subsection G of this section, the [state board] secretary may waive the individual class load and teaching load requirements established in this section upon a demonstration of a viable alternative curricular plan and a finding by the [state board] secretary that the plan is in the best interest of the school district and that, on an annual basis, the plan has been presented to and is supported by the affected teaching staff. The department shall evaluate the impact of each alternative curricular plan annually. Annual reports shall be made to the legislative education study committee.

L. Teachers shall not be required to perform noninstructional duties except in emergency situations as defined by the [state board] department. For purposes of this subsection, "noninstructional duties" means noon hall duty, noon ground duty and noon cafeteria duty."

Section 7. Section 22-15-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1967, Chapter 16, Section 206, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-15-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Instructional Material Law:

- A. "division" or "bureau" means the instructional material bureau of the department;
- B. "director" or "chief" means the chief of the bureau;

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- C. "instructional material" means school textbooks and other educational media that are used as the basis for instruction, including combinations of textbooks, learning kits, supplementary material and electronic media;
- D. "multiple list" means a written list of those instructional materials approved by the department;
- E. "membership" means the total enrollment of qualified students on the [fortieth day] third Monday in October of the school year entitled to the free use of instructional material pursuant to the Instructional Material Law;
- F. "additional pupil" means a pupil in a school district's, state institution's or private school's current year's certified [forty-day] membership on the third Monday in October above the number certified in the school district's, state institution's or private school's prior year's [forty-day] membership on the third Monday in October; and
- G. "school district" includes state-chartered
 charter schools."
- Section 8. Section 22-15C-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003, Chapter 149, Section 2, as amended) is amended to read:
- "22-15C-2. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the School Library Material Act:
- A. "additional student" means a student in the certified [forty-day] membership on the third Monday in October
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of the current year for a school district or state institution above the number certified in the [forty-day] membership on the third Monday in October of the prior year for the school district or state institution;

- В. "bureau" means the instructional material bureau of the department;
 - "fund" means the school library material fund;
- "library material processing" means cataloging D. of school library material, including in electronic format, according to nationally accepted standards, and the application of bar code labels and call-number classification labels to the material;
- "membership" means the total enrollment of Ε. qualified students on the [fortieth day] third Monday in October of the school year entitled to the free use of school library material pursuant to the School Library Material Act;
- "qualified student" means a public school F. student who:
 - has not graduated from high school;
- is regularly enrolled in one-half or more (2) of the minimum course requirements approved by the department for public school students; and
- is at least five years of age prior to 12:01 a.m. on September 1 of the school year; or
- is at least three years of age at any time .163757.1

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during the school year and is receiving special education services pursuant to regulation of the department;

- G. "school library material" means books and other educational media, including online reference and periodical databases, that are made available in a school library to students for circulation and use in the library; and
- H. "school district" includes state-chartered
 charter schools."

Section 9. Section 22-24-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1975, Chapter 235, Section 4, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-24-4. PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND CREATED-USE.--

- A. There is created the "public school capital outlay fund". Balances remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert.
- B. Except as provided in Subsections G through L of this section, money in the fund may be used only for capital expenditures deemed by the council necessary for an adequate educational program.
- C. The council may authorize the purchase by the public school facilities authority of portable classrooms to be loaned to school districts to meet a temporary requirement. Payment for these purchases shall be made from the fund. Title and custody to the portable classrooms shall rest in the public school facilities authority. The council shall authorize the .163757.1

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lending of the portable classrooms to school districts upon request and upon finding that sufficient need exists. Application for use or return of state-owned portable classroom buildings shall be submitted by school districts to the council. Expenses of maintenance of the portable classrooms while in the custody of the public school facilities authority shall be paid from the fund; expenses of maintenance and insurance of the portable classrooms while in the custody of a school district shall be the responsibility of the school district. The council may authorize the permanent disposition of the portable classrooms by the public school facilities authority with prior approval of the state board of finance.

- Applications for assistance from the fund shall be made by school districts to the council in accordance with requirements of the council. Except as provided in Subsection K of this section, the council shall require as a condition of application that a school district have a current five-year facilities plan, which shall include a current preventive maintenance plan to which the school adheres for each public school in the school district.
- The council shall review all requests for assistance from the fund and shall allocate funds only for those capital outlay projects that meet the criteria of the Public School Capital Outlay Act.
- Money in the fund shall be disbursed by warrant .163757.1

of the department of finance and administration on vouchers signed by the secretary of finance and administration following certification by the council that an application has been approved or an expenditure has been ordered by a court pursuant to Section 22-24-5.4 NMSA 1978. At the discretion of the council, money for a project shall be distributed as follows:

- (1) up to ten percent of the portion of the project cost funded with distributions from the fund or five percent of the total project cost, whichever is greater, may be paid to the school district before work commences with the balance of the grant award made on a cost-reimbursement basis; or
- (2) the council may authorize payments directly to the contractor.
- G. Balances in the fund may be annually appropriated for the core administrative functions of the public school facilities authority pursuant to the Public School Capital Outlay Act and, in addition, balances in the fund may be expended by the public school facilities authority, upon approval of the council, for project management expenses; provided that:
- (1) the total annual expenditures from the fund pursuant to this subsection shall not exceed five percent of the average annual grant assistance authorized from the fund during the three previous fiscal years; and

- (2) any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year from the expenditures authorized in this subsection shall revert to the fund.
- H. Up to thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) of the fund may be allocated annually by the council in fiscal years 2006 and 2007 for a roof repair and replacement initiative with projects to be identified by the council pursuant to Section 22-24-4.3 NMSA 1978; provided that all money allocated pursuant to this subsection shall be expended prior to September 1, 2008.
- I. Up to seven million five hundred thousand dollars (\$7,500,000) from the fund may be expended annually by the council in fiscal years 2006 through 2010 for grants to school districts for the purpose of making lease payments for classroom facilities, including facilities leased by charter schools. The grants shall be made upon application by the school districts and pursuant to rules adopted by the council; provided that, an application on behalf of a charter school shall be made by the school district but, if the school district fails to make an application on behalf of a charter school, the charter school may submit its own application. The following criteria shall apply to the grants:
- (1) the amount of a grant to a school district shall not exceed:
- (a) the actual annual lease payments .163757.1

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8	reduced proportionately
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10	a charter school may be
11	match necessary to obta
12	federal No Child Left 1
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14	unexpended or unencumbe
15	revert to the fund; and
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owed for leasing classroom space for schools, including charter schools, in the district; or

- (b) six hundred dollars (\$600)
 multiplied by the number of MEM using the leased classroom
 facilities; provided that, if the total grants awarded pursuant
 to this paragraph would exceed the total annual amount
 available, the rate specified in this subparagraph shall be
 reduced proportionately;
- (2) a grant received for the lease payments of a charter school may be used by that charter school as a state match necessary to obtain federal grants pursuant to the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001;
- (3) at the end of each fiscal year, any unexpended or unencumbered balance of the appropriation shall severt to the fund: and
 - (4) as used in this subsection, "MEM" means:
- (a) the average full-time-equivalent enrollment using leased classroom facilities on the [eightieth and one hundred twentieth days] second Monday in December and the third Tuesday in February of the prior school year; or
- (b) in the case of an approved charter school that has not commenced classroom instruction, the estimated full-time-equivalent enrollment that will use leased classroom facilities in the first year of instruction, as shown in the approved charter school application; provided that,

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after the [eightieth day] second Monday in December of the current school year, the MEM shall be adjusted to reflect the full-time-equivalent enrollment on that date.

- In addition to other authorized expenditures from the fund, up to one percent of the average grant assistance authorized from the fund during the three previous fiscal years may be expended in each fiscal year by the public school facilities authority to reimburse the state fire marshal, the construction industries division of the regulation and licensing department and local jurisdictions having authority from the state to permit and inspect projects for expenditures made to permit and inspect projects funded in whole or in part under the Public School Capital Outlay Act. The authority shall enter into contracts with the state fire marshal, the construction industries division or the appropriate local authorities to carry out the provisions of this subsection.
- Pursuant to guidelines established by the council, allocations from the fund may be made to assist school districts in developing and updating five-year facilities plans required by the Public School Capital Outlay Act; provided that:
- (1) no allocation shall be made unless the council determines that the school district is willing and able to pay the portion of the total cost of developing or updating .163757.1

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the plan that is not funded with the allocation from the fund. Except as provided in Paragraph (2) of this subsection, the portion of the total cost to be paid with the allocation from the fund shall be determined pursuant to the methodology in Paragraph (5) of Subsection B of Section 22-24-5 NMSA 1978; or

(2) the allocation from the fund may be used to pay the total cost of developing or updating the plan if:

(a) the school district has fewer than an average of six hundred full-time-equivalent students on the [eightieth and one hundred twentieth days] second Monday in December and the third Tuesday in February of the prior school year; or

the school district meets all of the following requirements: 1) the school district has fewer than an average of one thousand full-time-equivalent students on the [eightieth and one hundred twentieth days] second Monday in December and the third Tuesday in February of the prior school year; 2) the school district has at least seventy percent of its students eligible for free or reduced-fee lunch; 3) the state share of the total cost, if calculated pursuant to the methodology in Paragraph (5) of Subsection B of Section 22-24-5 NMSA 1978, would be less than fifty percent; and 4) for all educational purposes, the school district has a residential property tax rate of at least seven dollars (\$7.00) on each one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of taxable value, as measured by the .163757.1

sum of all rates imposed by resolution of the local school board plus rates set to pay interest and principal on outstanding school district general obligation bonds.

- L. Upon application by a school district, allocations from the fund may be made by the council for the purpose of demolishing abandoned school district facilities provided that:
- (1) the costs of continuing to insure an abandoned facility outweigh any potential benefit when and if a new facility is needed by the school district;
- (2) there is no practical use for the abandoned facility without the expenditure of substantial renovation costs; and
- (3) the council may enter into an agreement with the school district under which an amount equal to the savings to the district in lower insurance premiums are used to fully or partially reimburse the fund for the demolition costs allocated to the district."
- Section 10. TEMPORARY PROVISION--DATE CHANGES--FIRST YEAR
 IMPLEMENTATION.--
- A. For reporting MEM and for any other purpose required by the Public School Code or rule of the public education department, all public schools shall use the following dates beginning in the 2007-2008 school year:
- (1) the third Monday in October replaces the .163757.1

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- (2) the second Monday in December replaces the former eightieth-day count; and
- (3) the third Tuesday in February replaces the former one-hundred-twentieth-day count.
- B. For the 2007-2008 school year, "prior school year" shall be based on the fortieth, eightieth and one hundred twentieth day of the 2006-2007 school year.

Section 11. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2007.

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