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SENATE BILL 146

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Cynthia Nava

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL; CHANGING THE DISTRIBUTION OF
MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FUNDING.

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

Section 1. Section 22-10A-9 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2003,
Chapter 153, Section 40, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-10A-9. TEACHER MENTORSHIP PROGRAM FOR LEVEL ONE
TEACHERS--PURPOSE--DEPARTMENT DUTIES.--

A. The purpose of the teacher mentorship program is
to provide beginning teachers with an effective transition into
the teaching field, to build on their initial preparation and
to ensure their success in teaching; to improve the achievement
of students; and to retain capable teachers in the classroom
and to remove teachers who show little promise of success.

B. The department shall develop a framework for a

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1 teacher mentorship program for all level one teachers. The
2 department shall work with licensed school employees,
3 representatives from teacher preparation programs and the
4 higher education department to establish the framework.

5 C. The framework shall include:

6 (1) individual support and assistance for each
7 beginning teacher from a designated mentor;

8 (2) structured training for mentors;

9 (3) an ongoing, formative evaluation that is
10 used for the improvement of teaching practice;

11 (4) procedures for a summative evaluation of
12 beginning teachers' performance during at least the first three
13 years of teaching, including annual assessment of suitability
14 for license renewal, and for final assessment of beginning
15 teachers seeking level two licensure;

16 (5) support from local school boards, school
17 administrators and other school district personnel; and

18 (6) regular review and evaluation of the
19 teacher mentorship program.

20 D. The department shall:

21 (1) require submission and approval of each
22 school district's teacher mentorship program;

23 (2) provide technical assistance to school
24 districts that do not have a well-developed teacher mentorship
25 program in place;

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1 (3) encourage school districts to collaborate
2 with teacher preparation program administrators at institutions
3 of higher education, career educators, educational
4 organizations, regional service centers and other state and
5 community leaders in the teacher mentorship program; and

6 (4) distribute no less than fifty percent of
7 available funds for mentorship programs to school districts
8 [~~annually on a per-teacher basis~~] on or before September 15 of
9 each fiscal year according to the estimated number of beginning
10 teachers on the fortieth day of the school year and, on or
11 before January 15 of each fiscal year, distribute the balance
12 of the available funds based on the actual number of beginning
13 teachers on the fortieth day of the school year, adjusted for
14 any over- or under-estimation made in the first allocation.

15 E. The department shall require that teacher
16 preparation programs collaborate with colleges of arts and
17 sciences and high schools to develop a model to provide
18 mentorship services with structured supervision and feedback to
19 each of their graduates who have obtained a teaching position
20 in a public high school, including charter schools; develop
21 cost estimates; and provide recommendations to the legislative
22 education study committee by November 1, 2007. The model shall
23 provide for the following:

24 (1) mentorship services for the first year as
25 a level one teacher to each of their graduates who has obtained

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1 a teaching position in any New Mexico public high school,
2 including charter schools; provided that teacher preparation
3 programs may enter into contracts or memoranda of agreement
4 with each other or with level three teachers in providing
5 services to their students;

6 (2) an annual report to the department of the
7 number of teachers that have completed each of their programs
8 the previous spring or summer and have been hired by public
9 high schools, including charter schools, for the following
10 school year; and

11 (3) an annual report providing a description
12 of the mentorship services that will be provided to each of
13 their teachers, including the name of the teacher, the grade
14 level the teacher has been hired to teach and the name of the
15 school and district where the teacher has been hired."

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