

HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL 310

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; CREATING THE SCIENCE EARLY
EDUCATION PROGRAM AS A PILOT PROJECT; PROVIDING POWERS AND
DUTIES; REQUIRING APPLICATIONS; REQUIRING MATCHING FUNDING;
CREATING A FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION; DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.

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

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

"NEW MATERIAL SCIENCE EARLY EDUCATION PROGRAM--PILOT
PROJECT--IMPLEMENTATION.--

A. The "science early education program" is created
as a five-year pilot project that is based on three-year
student cohorts and that incorporates hands-on, age-appropriate
physics education into the sixth through eighth grade

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underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 curricula. The purpose of the science early education program
2 is to enhance students' academic performance in science and
3 mathematics.

4 B. The department shall administer the science
5 early education program and shall contract with an organization
6 that provides professional development and materials for
7 teachers to introduce physics education into the sixth through
8 eighth grade curricula.

9 C. School districts may apply on behalf of their
10 schools on a form and in a manner as provided by the department
11 for a grant from the science early education fund. The
12 department shall select for participation in the program as
13 many schools as qualify, but not more than ten. To the extent
14 possible, the department shall select schools that are based in
15 regions of the state that are generally distinct from one
16 another in location, population density and concentration of
17 poverty. An approved school shall provide one-half of the
18 funding for the program.

19 D. Students participating in the science early
20 education program shall be evaluated at the beginning of the
21 program, and the students' progress shall be measured through
22 standardized assessments.

23 E. The department shall establish reporting and
24 evaluation requirements for participating schools, including
25 student and program assessments. At the end of each program

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1 year, the department shall provide to the legislature and the
2 governor an interim or final report, as appropriate, on the
3 efficacy of the science early education program."

4 **SECTION 2.** A new section of the Public School Code is
5 enacted to read:

6 "[NEW MATERIAL] SCIENCE EARLY EDUCATION FUND--CREATED.--
7 The "science early education fund" is created in the state
8 treasury. The fund consists of appropriations, gifts, grants,
9 donations and income from investment of the fund. The
10 department shall administer the fund, and money in the fund is
11 appropriated to the department to carry out the purposes of the
12 science early education program. The department may seek
13 public and private grants and donations for the science early
14 education program. Grants and donations shall be deposited in
15 the fund. Money from a grant or donation shall be expended in
16 accordance with the terms of that grant or donation. Unless
17 otherwise specified by the terms of a grant or donation, the
18 balance in the fund at the end of the program shall revert to
19 the general fund. Expenditures from the fund shall be by
20 warrants of the secretary of finance and administration drawn
21 pursuant to vouchers signed by the secretary of public
22 education or the secretary's authorized representative."

23 **SECTION 3.** EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public
24 peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately.