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HOUSE BILL 238

54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019

INTRODUCED BY

Patricio Ruiloba

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; ENACTING THE CHILDHOOD TRAUMA
AWARENESS TRAINING ACT; REQUIRING CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND
CHARTER SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE SUCH TRAINING TO SCHOOL EMPLOYEES
WHO HAVE REGULAR CONTACT WITH AT-RISK STUDENTS TO CREATE AN
AWARENESS OF THE EFFECTS OF CHILDHOOD TRAUMA ON THE ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS; PROVIDING FOR
DUTIES; REQUIRING SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS THAT
RECEIVE AT-RISK PROGRAM UNITS TO INCLUDE INFORMATION WITH THEIR
OPERATING BUDGETS THAT DETAILS SPECIFIC SERVICES, INCLUDING
CHILDHOOD TRAUMA AWARENESS TRAINING, THAT WERE PROVIDED IN THE
PRIOR SCHOOL YEAR AND ARE PROVIDED IN THE CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR
TO IMPROVE THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS OF AT-RISK STUDENTS.

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

SECTION 1. A new section of the Public School Code is

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1 enacted to read:

2 "[NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the
3 "Childhood Trauma Awareness Training Act"."

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

6 "[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Childhood
7 Trauma Awareness Training Act:

8 A. "childhood trauma" means adverse childhood
9 experiences that impede brain development, learning and
10 appropriate socialization; and

11 B. "school employee" means an employee of a school
12 district or charter school who works in a public school that
13 generates at-risk units or who has regular contact with at-risk
14 students."

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

17 "[NEW MATERIAL] TRAINING PROGRAMS--INITIAL AND ANNUAL
18 TRAINING--GOALS.--

19 A. The goals of the childhood trauma awareness
20 training program are to:

21 (1) create an awareness of the types of
22 poverty in New Mexico;

23 (2) create an understanding of the adverse
24 effects of childhood trauma on brain development and learning;

25 (3) create an understanding of the adverse

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1 effects of childhood trauma on students' academic achievement,
2 social development and well-being;

3 (4) create an understanding of the specific
4 demographics of students in a school district and its
5 individual public schools or students in a charter school,
6 including free or reduced-fee lunch status, English language
7 status, student mobility status, family dynamics and cultural
8 mores and folkways;

9 (5) provide effective research-based
10 strategies to engage students and families in the educational
11 process so that licensed school employees can use effective
12 research-based strategies to teach and engage students
13 confronted with childhood trauma;

14 (6) develop strategies to mitigate the
15 academic and social effects of childhood trauma on students and
16 improve their educational experience; and

17 (7) assist school districts and charter
18 schools in developing an annual action plan that addresses the
19 specific needs of students experiencing childhood trauma and
20 implement ongoing professional development for school employees
21 that is intensive, job-embedded, collaborative, data-driven,
22 classroom-focused and sustainable.

23 B. Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, each
24 school district and charter school that receives at-risk
25 program units through the state equalization guarantee

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1 distribution shall require their school employees to be trained
2 annually on the effects of childhood trauma on student
3 achievement and social development. Training courses shall be
4 intensive, job-embedded, collaborative, data-driven, classroom-
5 focused and sustainable. The initial course shall be at least
6 six and one-half hours in duration, and subsequent annual
7 courses shall be at least three hours in duration.

8 C. Each school district and charter school required
9 by the provisions of Subsection B of this section to provide
10 training shall develop an action plan to train every school
11 employee in childhood trauma awareness in fiscal years 2020 and
12 2021. The action plan shall prioritize training for licensed
13 school employees in year one and for unlicensed school
14 employees in year two. The initial training course shall be
15 conducted no later than the end of the first six weeks of the
16 start of the school year. The school district or charter
17 school shall provide a second initial training course within
18 the first six weeks of the first day of the spring semester for
19 school employees who missed the first training course or who
20 were hired after the first initial training. After initial
21 training, each school employee shall attend an annual training
22 course.

23 D. Each school district and charter school, alone
24 or with other school districts or charter schools that are
25 demographically similar, and regional education cooperatives

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1 may develop and conduct department-approved childhood trauma
2 awareness training programs using department-certified
3 trainers.

4 E. Newly hired school employees who were employed
5 by another school district prior to employment with the current
6 school district may provide proof from their prior school
7 employer that they have attended the required amount of
8 training in the immediately preceding year. If a school
9 employee has attended the required initial training, the school
10 employee needs only to attend the required annual training.

11 F. The department shall:

12 (1) approve only those childhood trauma
13 awareness training programs that meet the goals provided in
14 Subsection A of this section and programmatic rules of the
15 department; and

16 (2) certify qualified childhood trauma
17 awareness trainers."