

1 HOUSE BILL 449

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales and Susan K. Herrera and
5 Christine Trujillo and Anthony Allison and Cathrynn N. Brown
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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO EDUCATION; CONDUCTING A FIVE-YEAR, STATEWIDE
12 LITERACY INITIATIVE FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS; MAKING AN
13 APPROPRIATION.
14

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

16 SECTION 1. A new section of the Regional Cooperative
17 Education Act is enacted to read:

18 "[NEW MATERIAL] NORTHEAST REGIONAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE--
19 STATEWIDE LITERACY INITIATIVE FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS.

20 A. The northeast regional education cooperative
21 shall conduct a five-year, statewide literacy initiative for
22 children and adults. The cooperative may contract for
23 assistance with the initiative.

24 B. The initiative shall:

25 (1) comprise a wide variety of strategies to

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1 improve literacy for approximately thirty-five thousand low-
2 income school-age students and approximately six hundred
3 thousand children and adults overall; and

4 (2) include:

5 (a) working directly and indirectly with
6 low-income pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade students,
7 including after-school literacy tutoring and providing a
8 variety of fiction and informational read-aloud texts to
9 practice oral language and reading fluency skills at school and
10 home;

11 (b) providing early childhood literacy
12 services for children and their families;

13 (c) providing embedded literacy
14 professional development and mentoring to tutors, teachers,
15 parents and community organizations that support learning;

16 (d) community and school book
17 distributions through little free libraries located in every
18 community in which the program is conducted that provide free
19 books for readers of all ages and through community and school
20 literacy events;

21 (e) community reading events, including
22 interactive discussions, instruction on reading components, fun
23 reading activities and read-along events for family and
24 community members to read with children;

25 (f) teaching parents, extended families

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1 and communities the importance of supporting emergent literacy
2 and learning in very young children, including strategies,
3 books and instructional materials for parents and for
4 caregivers who conduct at-home visits to families to encourage
5 early learning at home; and

6 (g) providing classroom sets with
7 instructional materials tied to the common core principles for
8 kindergarten through third grade, fourth through sixth grade
9 and seventh through twelfth grade teachers to supplement
10 classroom materials.

11 C. The program shall include assessments to show
12 programmatic success each year."

13 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.**--Four million seventy-four
14 thousand nine hundred fifty dollars (\$4,074,950) is
15 appropriated from the general fund to the northeast regional
16 education cooperative for expenditure in fiscal year 2020 to
17 carry out the statewide literacy initiative in 2019 and 2020,
18 including salaries, travel, books and classroom sets, general
19 supplies, tutors and contract management. Any unexpended or
20 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2020
21 shall revert to the general fund.