

1 HOUSE BILL 224

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2020**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 G. Andrés Romero

5
6
7
8
9
10 AN ACT

11 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A STATEWIDE LITERACY PROGRAM FOR
12 CHILDREN AND ADULTS.

13
14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

15 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.--

16 A. Four million dollars (\$4,000,000) is
17 appropriated from the general fund to the public education
18 department for expenditure in fiscal year 2021 for regional
19 education cooperatives to provide or contract for a statewide
20 literacy program for children and adults and for literacy
21 professional development for their members and other school
22 districts or charter schools. Any unexpended or unencumbered
23 balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2021 shall revert
24 to the general fund.

25 B. Participating cooperatives shall assign one

.216440.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 cooperative to provide coordination, financial accounting and
2 disbursement of funding received from the public education
3 department.

4 C. The program shall:

5 (1) use a wide variety of strategies to
6 improve literacy for approximately thirty-five thousand low-
7 income school-age students and approximately six hundred
8 thousand children and adults overall; and

9 (2) include:

10 (a) reading material that is culturally
11 and linguistically responsive and relevant and age-appropriate
12 for children, students and adults being taught to read or
13 tutored to improve their reading;

14 (b) working directly and indirectly with
15 low-income pre-kindergarten children and kindergarten through
16 twelfth grade students, including after-school literacy
17 tutoring and providing a variety of fiction and informational
18 read-aloud texts to practice oral language and reading fluency
19 skills at school and at home;

20 (c) providing early childhood cultural
21 literacy services for children and their families;

22 (d) teaching parents, extended families
23 and communities the importance of supporting emergent literacy
24 and learning in very young children, including strategies,
25 books and English language learner and cultural instructional

.216440.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 materials for parents and for caregivers who conduct at-home
2 visits to families to encourage early learning at home;

3 (e) providing embedded literacy
4 professional development and mentoring to tutors, teachers,
5 parents and community organizations that support learning;

6 (f) book distributions to communities
7 and schools through community and school literacy events and
8 through little free libraries located in every community in
9 which the program is conducted to provide free books for
10 readers of all ages;

11 (g) community reading events, including
12 interactive discussions, instruction on reading components, fun
13 reading activities and cultural read-along events for family
14 and community members to read with children; and

15 (h) providing classroom sets of books
16 with instructional materials tied to the common core principles
17 for kindergarten through third grade, fourth through sixth
18 grade and seventh through twelfth grade teachers to supplement
19 classroom materials.

20 D. The regional education cooperatives shall report
21 on the literacy program for children and adults to the public
22 education department, the governor and the legislature by
23 January 15, 2021, which report shall include a quantitative
24 assessment of programmatic success.