

1 SENATE BILL 242

2 56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Siah Correa Hemphill

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO EDUCATION; ENACTING THE PRESCHOOL LITERACY PROGRAM
12 ACT; CREATING THE PRESCHOOL LITERACY PROGRAM; ESTABLISHING
13 PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND ELIGIBILITY; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS;
14 REQUIRING REPORTS.

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

17 SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be
18 cited as the "Preschool Literacy Program Act".

19 SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITIONS.--As used in the
20 Preschool Literacy Program Act:

21 A. "division" means the early childhood education
22 division of the early childhood education and care department;

23 B. "program" means the preschool literacy program
24 established pursuant to the Preschool Literacy Program Act; and

25 C. "program partner" means a county, a

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1 municipality, a nonprofit organization or an Indian nation,
2 tribe or pueblo located wholly or partially in New Mexico that
3 contracts with the division to implement the program within its
4 community or region.

5 SECTION 3. [NEW MATERIAL] PRESCHOOL LITERACY PROGRAM--
6 PROGRAM PARTNERS--ELIGIBILITY--REPORTS.--

7 A. The division shall establish a preschool
8 literacy program. The goal of the program shall be to provide
9 access to age-appropriate books to children statewide to
10 increase the language and literacy skills of children entering
11 kindergarten.

12 B. The division shall contract with program
13 partners to implement the program.

14 C. When the division has contracted with a program
15 partner for a community or region, any child under the age of
16 five within that community or region shall be eligible to
17 participate in the program. A child shall be a participant in
18 the program upon enrollment by the child's parent or guardian.
19 As a participant in the program, the child shall have a new
20 age-appropriate book each month mailed to the child's home or
21 address.

22 D. As a prerequisite of entering into a contract
23 with the division, a program partner shall:

24 (1) agree to administer the program for a
25 community or region, including enrolling participants into the

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1 program, vetting and purchasing age-appropriate books for
2 program participants and mailing the books to the participants;

3 (2) agree to pay for a minimum of twenty
4 percent of the cost of the program in the program partner's
5 community or area; and

6 (3) demonstrate the administrative and
7 financial capacity to implement the program in the program
8 partner's community or region to the satisfaction of the
9 division.

10 E. Payments to a program partner shall be made on a
11 monthly basis upon receipt of vouchers from the chief executive
12 officer or chief financial officer of a program partner by the
13 division.

14 F. On or before July 1, 2025, and on or before July
15 1 of each subsequent year, the division shall consult with
16 program partners and conduct a survey through a randomized
17 mailing to two percent of the parents or guardians of program
18 participants in each participating community or region
19 regarding satisfaction with the program. On or before December
20 1, 2025, and on or before December 1 of each subsequent year,
21 the division shall provide a report to the legislative
22 education study committee summarizing the results of the
23 consultations and survey and providing the division's
24 recommendations for changes to the program.

25 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the

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1 provisions of this act is July 1, 2024.

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