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SENATE BILL 27

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

Joseph J. Carraro

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; REWARDING SCHOOLS FOR IMPROVED STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

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] MERIT AWARDS. --

A. The department of education shall design a  
merit award program for elementary, middle and junior high  
schools. The department may promulgate rules to carry out the  
provisions of this section.

B. Each year a merit award of ten thousand dollars  
(\$10,000) shall be awarded to one elementary, middle and  
junior high school. The merit award shall be distributed to  
the school that has achieved the greatest improvement in

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete

1 student achievement.

2 C. Each year a merit award of two thousand dollars  
3 (\$2,000) shall be awarded to the top two percent of  
4 elementary, middle and junior high school teachers. The merit  
5 award shall be distributed to the teachers whose classes have  
6 achieved the greatest improvement in student achievement.

7 D. For purposes of this section, student  
8 achievement shall be measured by nationally standardized test  
9 scores and other criteria adopted by the department of  
10 education.

11 E. The provisions for the possibility of receiving  
12 a merit award shall be incorporated into a teacher's contract  
13 for the upcoming school year. The teacher's contract shall  
14 set forth standards for receipt of a merit award in compliance  
15 with the provisions of this act. "

16 Section 2. APPROPRIATION. --Eight hundred fifty thousand  
17 dollars (\$850,000) is appropriated from the general fund to  
18 the state department of public education for expenditure in  
19 fiscal year 2002 to design and fund a merit award program for  
20 teachers and elementary, middle and junior high schools. Any  
21 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of  
22 fiscal year 2002 shall revert to the general fund.