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HOUSE BILL 301

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Helen Garcia

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; CREATING A DROP-OUT PREVENTION
PILOT PROJECT AT LAS CRUCES HIGH SCHOOL; 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]~~ DROP-OUT PREVENTION PILOT PROJECT--LAS
CRUCES HIGH SCHOOL.--The department and the Las Cruces public
school district shall design a four-year "drop-out prevention
pilot project" to be instituted at Las Cruces high school. The
pilot project shall test a variety of drop-out prevention and
academic improvement strategies that, proven successful, can be
used to lower the drop-out rates in other school districts
throughout the state. The pilot project shall include an

.171040.1

underscoring material = new
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1 annual evaluation phase that tracks Las Cruces high school
2 students and their academic achievement, that identifies
3 students at risk of dropping out and relates specific
4 strategies used to keep those students in classes and in school
5 and that provides other data sufficient to determine the
6 efficacy of the strategies used and the pilot project. Insofar
7 as practicable, data collection and reporting shall be
8 consistent with requirements of the student teacher
9 accountability reporting system. The department and the school
10 district shall report to the legislative education study
11 committee by July 1 of each year on the past school year's
12 success in improving the drop-out rate at Las Cruces high
13 school and the strategies that will be used in the coming
14 school year. The department and school district shall provide
15 a written report, including findings and recommendations, to
16 the legislative education study committee at the end of the
17 pilot project."

18 Section 2. APPROPRIATION.--One million dollars
19 (\$1,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
20 public education department for expenditure in fiscal year 2009
21 for distribution to the Las Cruces public school district to
22 implement a drop-out prevention pilot project. Any unexpended
23 or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year
24 2009 shall revert to the general fund.