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AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; CREATING AN ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL  
ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM PILOT PROJECT; PROVIDING FOR DATA  
COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS; PROVIDING FOR PERIODIC REPORTS TO  
THE GOVERNOR AND THE LEGISLATURE.

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:

"ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM PILOT  
PROJECT.--

A. The "alternative school accountability system"  
is created as a six-year pilot project to provide an  
opportunity for public school districts and charter schools  
to participate in an accountability system, aligned with  
state academic content and performance standards, that  
demonstrates the usefulness of a student growth model of  
accountability for targeting resources to improve elementary  
and middle schools most in need, and for recognizing  
elementary and middle schools that make the greatest progress  
in increasing student academic performance.

B. The alternative school accountability system  
shall complement but be separate from the statewide  
assessment and accountability system established pursuant to  
federal law. It shall be based on:

1                   (1) a growth model that measures change in  
2 academic performance as demonstrated on state standards-based  
3 assessments from year to year for each student in  
4 participating school districts and charter schools in grades  
5 four through eight;

6                   (2) in cases of students with disabilities,  
7 demonstration of proficiency on the state standards-based  
8 assessments or alternative assessments as specified in their  
9 individualized education plans, without regard to any  
10 predetermined number or percentage of students that may be  
11 counted as proficient based on demonstration of proficiency  
12 on alternative assessments; and

13                   (3) in cases of students with limited  
14 English proficiency, achievement of English language  
15 proficiency as demonstrated on the New Mexico English  
16 language proficiency assessment within a period to be  
17 specified by the department based on current scientific  
18 research.

19                   C. The alternative school accountability system  
20 shall include annual reports for each participating school  
21 that:

22                   (1) are easily understood by school  
23 personnel, parents, students and community members;

24                   (2) report results for all students and for  
25 groups based on ethnicity, race, limited English proficiency,

1 students with disabilities, poverty and gender; and

2 (3) report relative improvement in academic  
3 achievement of students in schools that have comparable  
4 levels of students at risk because of high mobility, poverty  
5 and limited English proficiency.

6 D. The alternative school accountability system  
7 shall be administered by the department and shall be phased  
8 in over two years.

9 E. During year one, the department shall convene  
10 an assessment and accountability work group composed of  
11 representatives of school district superintendents,  
12 assessment and accountability specialists, public school  
13 principals, public school teachers and teacher organizations,  
14 educators in federal bureau of Indian education schools,  
15 bilingual educators, special education teachers and  
16 administrators, parents and members of the public to assist  
17 the department in designing a uniform alternative  
18 accountability system for school districts and charter  
19 schools that voluntarily choose to participate in the pilot  
20 project. The design shall include:

21 (1) a value table based on four levels of  
22 academic proficiency, from beginning step through advanced,  
23 that compares the achievement level that a student earns to  
24 the level the student earned the previous year and assigns a  
25 numerical value to the change;

1 (2) a methodology for establishing peer  
2 groups among participating schools based on comparable levels  
3 of student mobility, poverty and percentage of English  
4 language learners;

5 (3) the timetable that the department will  
6 use to supply annual student growth calculations and any  
7 other necessary accountability data to school districts and  
8 charter schools that participate in the pilot project; a  
9 schedule for producing accountability reports; the  
10 information to be included in the report; and a process for  
11 disseminating reports to school communities and the public;  
12 and

13 (4) a detailed application process with  
14 evaluation criteria for the pilot project, including a  
15 description of how the applicant proposes to use the results  
16 of the alternative school accountability system for school  
17 improvement and recognition.

18 F. During year two and subsequent years of the  
19 pilot project, depending on the availability of funds  
20 appropriated by the legislature or from other available  
21 sources, the department shall make awards to applicant school  
22 districts and charter schools to participate in the pilot  
23 project. Awarded funds may be used, as described in  
24 participants' applications, for school improvement  
25 activities, including initiatives to improve school district

