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SENATE BILL 132

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Bernadette M. Sanchez

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; ENACTING THE HISPANIC EDUCATION ACT;
CREATING THE HISPANIC EDUCATION OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES.

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] SHORT TITLE.--This act may be cited as the
"Hispanic Education Act"."

Section 2. A new section of the Public School Code is
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] PURPOSE.--The purpose of the Hispanic
Education Act is to:

A. provide for the study, development and
implementation of educational systems that affect the

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1 educational success of Hispanic students to close the
2 achievement gap and increase graduation rates;

3 B. encourage and foster parental involvement in the
4 education of their children; and

5 C. provide mechanisms for parents, community and
6 business organizations, public schools, school districts,
7 charter schools, public post-secondary educational
8 institutions, the department and state and local policymakers
9 to work together to improve educational opportunities for
10 Hispanic students for the purpose of closing the achievement
11 gap, increasing graduation rates and increasing post-secondary
12 enrollment, retention and completion."

13 Section 3. A new section of the Public School Code is
14 enacted to read:

15 "[NEW MATERIAL] DEFINITION.--As used in the Hispanic
16 Education Act, "office" means the Hispanic education office."

17 Section 4. A new section of the Public School Code is
18 enacted to read:

19 "[NEW MATERIAL] HISPANIC EDUCATION OFFICE--CREATED--
20 DUTIES.--

21 A. The "Hispanic education office" is created in
22 the department.

23 B. The office shall:

24 (1) focus on issues related to Hispanic
25 education and advise the secretary on the development of policy

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1 regarding the education of Hispanic students;

2 (2) advise the department and the public
3 education commission on the development of the five-year
4 strategic plan for public elementary and secondary education in
5 the state as the plan relates to Hispanic student education;

6 (3) assist and be assisted by other staff in
7 the department to improve elementary, secondary and
8 post-secondary educational outcomes for Hispanic students;

9 (4) serve as a resource to enable school
10 districts and charter schools to provide equitable and
11 culturally relevant learning environments, educational
12 opportunities and culturally relevant instructional materials
13 for Hispanic students enrolled in public schools; and

14 (5) support districts and charter schools to
15 recruit parents on site-based and district committees that
16 represent the ethnic diversity of the community."

17 Section 5. A new section of the Public School Code is
18 enacted to read:

19 "[NEW MATERIAL] STATEWIDE STATUS REPORT.--

20 A. The office, in collaboration with the higher
21 education department, shall submit an annual preschool-through-
22 post-secondary, statewide Hispanic education status report no
23 later than November 15 to the governor and the legislature
24 through the legislative education study committee. A copy
25 shall be provided to the legislative library in the legislative

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1 council service.

2 B. The status report shall include the following
3 information, by school district and charter school and
4 statewide, which may be compiled from data otherwise required
5 to be submitted to the department:

- 6 (1) Hispanic student achievement at all
7 grades;
- 8 (2) attendance in all grades;
- 9 (3) the graduation rate for Hispanic students;
- 10 (4) the number of Hispanic students in schools
11 that make adequate yearly progress and in schools at each level
12 of school improvement or restructuring; and
- 13 (5) the number and type of bilingual and
14 multicultural programs in each school district and charter
15 school.

16 C. The status report shall include the following
17 information, by post-secondary institutions, which may be
18 compiled from data otherwise required to be submitted to the
19 higher education department:

- 20 (1) Hispanic student enrollment;
- 21 (2) Hispanic student retention; and
- 22 (3) Hispanic student completion rates."

23 Section 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.--The effective date of the
24 provisions of this act is July 1, 2010.