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HOUSE BILL 61
44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999
INTRODUCED BY
Gail C. Beam

AN ACT
RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; PROVIDING FOR FAMILY INVOLVEMENT
PROGRAMS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS; CREATING THE COUNCIL ON FAMILY
INVOLVEMENT.

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 "Family Involvement Act". "

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

"NEW MATERIAL LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS AND PURPOSE. --

A. The legislature finds that the involvement and support of families in the education of their children is an integral part of improving academic achievement and that

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1 properly constructed family involvement programs can play an
2 important and effective role in the participation of families
3 in their children's schools and in improving their children's
4 learning.

5 B. The purpose of the Family Involvement Act is to
6 ensure that family involvement programs are properly designed
7 and implemented and to provide a focus and structure for those
8 programs based on prior experience and research while
9 maintaining sufficient local flexibility to design a program
10 that best meets the needs of the local community. The goals
11 of these programs are to:

12 (1) engage families from diverse cultures
13 positively in their children's education by:

14 (a) building effective and consistent
15 methods of school-home communications;

16 (b) supporting families in developing
17 skills that enhance their children's academic efforts and
18 their development as responsible members of society; and

19 (c) helping professionals learn to work
20 comfortably with diverse families and to view these families
21 as valuable sources of information about their children;

22 (2) inform families that they can directly
23 affect the success of their children's learning, offer
24 families various techniques and strategies to improve their
25 children's academic success or assist their children in

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1 learning at home, if they desire; and

2 (3) integrate family involvement programs,
3 including compliance with the provisions of the Family
4 Involvement Act, into a school's master plan for academic
5 accountability. "

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

8 "[NEW MATERIAL] FAMILY INVOLVEMENT COUNCIL. --

9 A. The "family involvement council" is created as
10 an advisory council to the department of education.

11 B. The council shall consist of nine members
12 appointed by the state superintendent for staggered three-year
13 terms as follows:

14 (1) one representative of a statewide parent-
15 teacher organization;

16 (2) two parents or guardians of pupils
17 enrolled in a public school;

18 (3) two public school teachers;

19 (4) one public school administrator;

20 (5) one local school board member;

21 (6) one representative of the business
22 community; and

23 (7) one department of education employee, who
24 shall be the chairman of the council.

25 C. The council shall:

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1 (1) develop an instrument or process to
2 evaluate family involvement programs developed by local school
3 boards;

4 (2) make recommendations to the department of
5 education about family involvement programs that are
6 effective;

7 (3) make recommendations to the department of
8 education about training programs for local school boards and
9 school staff;

10 (4) make recommendations to the department of
11 education about facilitating coordination among school
12 officials, parents and families, educators and community
13 leaders; and

14 (5) make recommendations to the department of
15 education about the coordination of department of education
16 services and services of other state agencies.

17 D. Members of the council who are not state
18 employees may receive no compensation except per diem and
19 travel expenses pursuant to the Per Diem and Mileage Act. "

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

22 "[NEW MATERIAL] FAMILY INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM --

23 A. Each local school board shall, in conjunction
24 with parents, teachers, administrators and community leaders,
25 establish a family involvement program for each school in the

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1 school district. The local school board shall:

2 (1) ensure that parents and families
3 participate in the planning, design, implementation and
4 evaluation of the family involvement program; and

5 (2) provide for regular and periodic programs
6 throughout the school year that offer learning opportunities
7 for both families and school personnel in areas such as:

8 (a) the ability of families to directly
9 affect the success of a child's learning through the support
10 given at home and at school;

11 (b) home activities, strategies and
12 materials that can be used to assist and enhance the learning
13 of children at home and at school;

14 (c) the developmental needs of
15 children, positive guidance techniques and ways for parents
16 and teachers to build healthy relationships with children; and

17 (d) the ability of families and schools
18 to develop consistent and effective communications concerning
19 the progress of the children in school and concerning school
20 programs;

21 (3) prepare an annual statement identifying
22 specific objectives of the program; and

23 (4) conduct an annual review and assessment
24 of the program's progress in meeting its objectives, which
25 shall be made available to parents.

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1 B. A family involvement program may include the
2 following:

3 (1) a plan to encourage participation by
4 families from diverse cultures;

5 (2) a program that builds on parenting
6 strengths, helps families develop skills they desire and
7 facilitates networks to support families in effectively
8 nurturing their children;

9 (3) a communication element that provides
10 effective two-way communication practices to reach families,
11 both individually and collectively, to ensure that families
12 and school staff communicate back and forth about their
13 children;

14 (4) a home learning element that provides for
15 families and staff to work together in developing learning
16 goals and offers opportunities for learning activities at home
17 and in the community;

18 (5) a volunteer element that recruits and
19 organizes volunteer participation from families and the
20 community at large;

21 (6) a governance and advocacy element that
22 provides a democratic governance structure that ensures that
23 parents are partners in policymaking about school programs and
24 that family representatives are elected to act as advocates or
25 decisionmakers for other parents and families;

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(7) a community outreach element that establishes partnerships with individuals and organizations in the community; and

(8) a plan to encourage parents to visit schools, which may include an area in each school designated as a family center. "

Section 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. --The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 1999.

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1 FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
2 FIRST SESSION, 1999
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6 February 10, 1999
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8 Mr. Speaker:
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10 Your EDUCATION COMMITTEE, to whom has been referred
11

12 HOUSE BILL 61
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14 has had it under consideration and reports same with
15 recommendation that it DO PASS, and thence referred to the
16 APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCE COMMITTEE.

17 Respectfully submitted,
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22 Rick Miera, Chairman
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FORTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SESSION, 1999

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Adopted _____ Not Adopted _____

(Chief Clerk)

(Chief Clerk)

Date _____

The roll call vote was 8 For 6 Against

Yes: 8

No: Blanton, Dana, Hamilton, Macko, Marquardt, Williams

Excused: Begaye, Burpo

Absent: None

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