

HOUSE BILL 542

**51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013**

INTRODUCED BY

Rick Miera

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; ENACTING THE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS  
ACT.

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  
"Community Schools Act"."

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

"[NEW MATERIAL] PURPOSE.--The Community Schools Act is  
enacted to provide a strategy to organize the resources of a  
community to ensure student success while addressing the needs  
of the whole student; to partner federal, state and local  
entities with private community-based organizations to improve

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1 the coordination, delivery, effectiveness and efficiency of  
2 services provided to children and families; and to coordinate  
3 resources, in order to align and leverage community resources  
4 and integrate funding streams."

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

7 "[NEW MATERIAL] COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVES--SCHOOL  
8 IMPROVEMENT FUNCTIONS--REQUIREMENTS.--

9 A. A community schools initiative may be created in  
10 any public school in the state.

11 B. A community schools initiative shall include,  
12 but not be limited to, the following core set of strategies:

13 (1) extended learning programs, including  
14 before- and after-school programs as well as summer programs;

15 (2) school-based or school-linked health care;  
16 and

17 (3) family engagement and support services.

18 C. A community schools initiative shall include the  
19 following:

20 (1) a lead partner agency, including but not  
21 limited to a public or private agency or community-based  
22 organization, to help coordinate programs and services;

23 (2) an assessment of community resources  
24 informed by students, families and community and school leaders  
25 that relates to the effective delivery of core services on

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1 site; and

2 (3) the establishment of an evaluation process  
3 that measures both the quality and quantity of outcomes."

4 SECTION 4. A new section of the Public School Code is  
5 enacted to read:

6 "[NEW MATERIAL] COMMUNITY SCHOOLS INITIATIVES--GRANTS--  
7 SCHOOL DISTRICT, GROUP OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS OR PUBLIC SCHOOL  
8 DUTIES--REQUIREMENTS.--

9 A. Subject to the availability of funding, grants  
10 for community schools initiatives are available to a school  
11 district, a group of public schools or a public school that has  
12 demonstrated partnerships with any lead agency and local,  
13 private and public agencies for the purpose of establishing,  
14 operating and sustaining community schools and that meets  
15 department eligibility requirements.

16 B. Applications for grants for community schools  
17 initiatives shall be in the form prescribed by the department  
18 and shall include the following information:

19 (1) a statement of need, including demographic  
20 and socioeconomic information about the area to be served by  
21 the community schools initiative;

22 (2) goals and expected outcomes of the  
23 initiative;

24 (3) services and activities to be provided by  
25 the initiative;

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1 (4) written agreements for the provision of  
2 services by public and private agencies, community groups and  
3 other parties;

4 (5) a work plan and budget for the initiative,  
5 including staffing requirements and the expected availability  
6 of staff;

7 (6) days and hours of operation;

8 (7) strategies for dissemination of  
9 information about the initiative to potential users;

10 (8) training and professional development  
11 plans;

12 (9) letters of endorsement and commitment from  
13 community agencies and organizations and local governments; and

14 (10) any other information the department  
15 requires.

16 C. A school district, a group of public schools or  
17 a public school that uses funds under this section to transform  
18 a school into a research- and evidence-based community schools  
19 initiative shall:

20 (1) use rigorous, transparent and equitable  
21 evaluation systems to assess the effectiveness of the  
22 implementation of the community schools initiative;

23 (2) provide ongoing, high-quality professional  
24 development to staff that:

25 (a) aligns with the school's

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1 instructional program;

2 (b) facilitates effective teaching and  
3 learning; and

4 (c) supports the implementation of  
5 school reform strategies; and

6 (3) give the school sufficient operational  
7 flexibility in programming, staffing, budgeting and scheduling  
8 so that the school can fully implement a comprehensive strategy  
9 designed to focus on improving school climate, student  
10 achievement and growth in reading and mathematics, attendance,  
11 behavior, parental engagement and, for high schools, graduation  
12 rates and readiness for college or a career."