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AN ACT

RELATING TO EXECUTIVE ORGANIZATION; ELIMINATING THE OFFICE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT BOARD; ASSIGNING CERTAIN DUTIES TO THE CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT; AMENDING AND REPEALING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 22-8-19.1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1992, Chapter 83, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-8-19.1. PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS--SELECTED DISTRICTS.--

A. The children, youth and families department shall fund preschool programs for zero- to five-year-old children in selected school districts. The children, youth and families department shall distribute any appropriation for this purpose to local entities upon approval by that department of an application from an individual school district or community-based early childhood education program. The preschool programs shall collaborate, where possible, with existing headstart programs or with other appropriate early childhood education programs in the community, and the preschool programs shall use one of the following three models:

(1) a community-based early childhood education program;

(2) a school-based early childhood education

1 program; or

2 (3) a home-based early childhood education  
3 program.

4 B. School districts may choose to contract with  
5 licensed community-based early childhood education programs  
6 already in existence. School-based early childhood education  
7 programs may be housed in a school accredited by the public  
8 education department. A home-based early childhood education  
9 program may include a parents-as-teachers program, which  
10 supports parents in meeting the developmental learning and  
11 social growth needs of their young children.

12 C. Each preschool program shall have a strong  
13 parental involvement component, a staff development component  
14 and a procedural process to enable the children, youth and  
15 families department to monitor and evaluate the program. The  
16 curriculum for each program shall comprehensively address the  
17 total developmental needs of the child, including physical,  
18 cognitive, social and emotional needs, and shall include  
19 aspects of health care, nutrition, safety, the needs of the  
20 family and multicultural sensitivity, in coordination with  
21 other resources for families."

22 SECTION 2. REPEAL.--Sections 32A-16-1 through 32A-16-4  
23 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1989, Chapter 290, Sections 1 through 4  
24 as amended) are repealed.