

# **CHAPTER 22A**

## **LITERACY FOR CHILDREN AT RISK**

### **ARTICLE 1**

### **LITERACY FOR CHILDREN AT RISK**

#### **22A-1-1. Short title.**

Sections 1 through 5 [22A-1-1 to 22A-1-5 NMSA 1978] of this act may be cited as the "Literacy For Children At Risk Act".

**History:** Laws 1989, ch. 113, § 1.

#### **22A-1-2. Purpose.**

The purpose of the Literacy For Children At Risk Act [22A-1-1 to 22A-1-5 NMSA 1978] is to promote greater literacy among children.

**History:** Laws 1989, ch. 113, § 2.

#### **22A-1-3. Definitions.**

As used in the Literacy For Children At Risk Act [22A-1-1 to 22A-1-5 NMSA 1978]:

A. "child at risk" means a child who attends public school in New Mexico and whose reading, writing or math literacy level, as determined by his school district, falls in the forty-ninth percentile or lower; and

B. "department" means the state department of public education.

**History:** Laws 1989, ch. 113, § 3.

#### **22A-1-4. Literacy for children at risk fund created; administration of fund.**

A. There is created in the state treasury a fund that shall be designated as the "literacy for children at risk fund" that shall be used to set up learning laboratories for the purpose of improving the reading, writing or math literacy level of any child at risk.

B. The literacy for children at risk fund shall be eligible to receive funds from sources that include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) appropriations;

(2) grants, public and private; and

(3) gifts, public and private.

All funds received by the department for the literacy for children at risk fund shall be used only to carry out the purposes of the Literacy For Children At Risk Act [22A-1-1 to 22A-1-5 NMSA 1978].

**History:** Laws 1989, ch. 113, § 4.

### **22A-1-5. Disbursement of funds; approved projects.**

A. Any school district may apply for a grant from the literacy for children at risk fund for the purpose of acquiring, equipping and staffing a learning laboratory.

B. The department shall adopt regulations setting forth the criteria that a school district shall meet in order to qualify for a grant from the literacy for children at risk fund. The criteria to qualify for a grant shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) the learning laboratory shall improve the reading, writing or math literacy levels of children at risk by at least one grade level per year, as demonstrated to the department's satisfaction;

(2) the learning laboratory shall encompass the teaching of children in kindergarten through grade twelve who are reading below grade level;

(3) the learning laboratory shall have reading diagnostic capabilities; and

(4) the learning laboratory shall have the capability to self-monitor the performance of both the learning laboratory and the children at risk utilizing the laboratory.

C. The amount of any grant awarded under Subsections A and B of this section shall be equal to eighty percent of the total cost of acquiring, equipping and staffing a learning laboratory. Any grant awarded is contingent upon the qualifying school district demonstrating to the department's satisfaction that it can pay for twenty percent of the total cost of the learning laboratory.

D. Any school district that establishes a learning laboratory under this section may use the laboratory for any other reading, writing or math literacy program when it is not in use for the purposes of the Literacy For Children At Risk Act [22A-1-1 to 22A-1-5 NMSA 1978].

E. The department, after approving the application of a school district to receive a grant under the Literacy For Children At Risk Act, shall authorize a disbursement of funds, in an amount equal to the grant, from the literacy for children at risk fund directly to the approved school district.

**History:** Laws 1989, ch. 113, § 5.