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## **Support Legislative Funding for the Community Schools Act**

Support legislative funding the Community Schools Act which was signed by the Governor in 2014. The purpose of the Community Schools Act is “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 the coordination, delivery, effectiveness and efficiency of services provided to children and families; and to coordinate resources, in order to align and leverage community resources and integrate funding streams.”

The Act states a community schools initiative shall include, but not be limited to, the following core set of strategies:

- 1) extended learning programs, including before- and after-school programs as well as summer programs;
- 2) school-based or school-linked health care; and
- 3) family engagement and support services.

The Community Schools Act further states: “Subject to the availability of funding, grants for community schools initiatives are available to a school district, a group of public schools or a public school that has demonstrated partnerships with any lead agency and local, private and public agencies for the purpose of establishing, operating and sustaining community schools and that meets department eligibility requirements.”

The Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Community School Partnership (ABC) currently practices the requirements set forth in the Act with Albuquerque Public Schools and has demonstrated achievement accordingly:

- 1) Pajarito Elementary School: increased Math scores by 23% and Reading scores by 13% from 2008 to 2010;
- 2) West Mesa High School: increased graduation rate 12% from 2011-2012
- 3) Emerson Elementary School: decreased Student Mobility by 15% from 2013 to 2014 school year;
- 4) Emerson and Pajarito: improved lowest tier students from a state grade of “F” to “A” from 2013 to 2014;
- 5) Manzano Mesa, La Mesa, and Whittier Elementary Schools: : improved lowest tier students from a state grade of “F” to “B” from 2013 to 2014;

Fifty Second Legislature, First Session, 2015

