

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE, IN
3 CONSULTATION WITH THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, TO CONVENE
4 A SCHOOL GRADES WORK GROUP TO COLLECT AND ANALYZE EDUCATION
5 DATA ON BEST PRACTICES AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING THAT
6 IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING AND SCHOOL GRADES; COLLECT AND
7 ANALYZE EDUCATION STAKEHOLDER DATA AND OTHER INPUT REGARDING
8 SCHOOL GRADES; CONSIDER THE DISPARITY OF LEARNING AND
9 TEACHING RESOURCES THROUGHOUT THE STATE; AND PROVIDE FINDINGS
10 AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR SCHOOLS
11 AND THE SCHOOL GRADING SYSTEM TO THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION
12 STUDY COMMITTEE BY DECEMBER 1, 2018.

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14 WHEREAS, the A-B-C-D-F Schools Rating Act has not been
15 without controversy since it was enacted in 2011; and

16 WHEREAS, most of the controversy surrounds the opacity
17 of the system's complicated calculations and the wide swings
18 in individual school grades from year to year; and

19 WHEREAS, various stakeholders have different opinions as
20 to the factors that should be considered when grading
21 schools, such as improvements in truancy and absenteeism
22 rates, parent engagement activities, additional learning
23 opportunities for students, college and career readiness
24 indicators and a broader exploration of growth for all
25 students; and

1 WHEREAS, better, more focused data collection and
2 reporting that defines student categories more precisely,
3 such as racial and ethnic group, gender, economic
4 disadvantage, disabilities, English proficiency status,
5 homeless status, foster care, military deployed parent,
6 et cetera, will assist local superintendents, head
7 administrators and other school personnel to pinpoint
8 instructional or community resources to those student groups
9 needing concentrated attention;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study
12 committee, in consultation with the public education
13 department, be requested to convene a school grades work
14 group to meet during the 2017 and 2018 interims to:

15 A. study the results of literature searches on
16 best practices and innovative school programming;

17 B. collect and analyze data from school districts
18 and charter schools and high-performing and low-performing
19 public schools;

20 C. collect and analyze data and comments from
21 education stakeholders, including school personnel, parents
22 and community and civic organizations, regarding school
23 grades and student performance vis a vis school, home and
24 community environments and resources; and

25 D. consider learning and teaching resource

1 disparities throughout the state; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the school grades work group
3 consist of:

4 A. two public school teachers in traditional
5 schools;

6 B. two charter school representatives;

7 C. two education labor union representatives;

8 D. two school principals;

9 E. two local superintendents;

10 F. two school board members;

11 G. two parents of students currently enrolled in a
12 New Mexico public school;

13 H. two tribal leaders or tribal liaisons;

14 I. two representatives from a community
15 organization with an education focus;

16 J. the chair and vice chair of the legislative
17 education study committee, or designees from the committee;
18 and

19 K. two representatives from the public education
20 department; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the school grades work group
22 present its findings and recommendations to the legislative
23 education study committee no later than December 1, 2018.

24 The work group's report shall include:

25 A. the appropriate point distribution between

1 student achievement measures and other school quality
2 indicators;

3 B. turnaround models for low-performing public
4 schools;

5 C. best practices from high-performing public or
6 private schools in high-poverty areas, including schools in
7 urban, rural and tribal environments;

8 D. innovative school programs from public or
9 private schools and how those programs affect student and
10 school performance;

11 E. best practices that focus on individual grading
12 indicators to increase improvement in those indicators;

13 F. best practices that increase the performance of
14 English language learners; and

15 G. other findings and recommendations of the work
16 group; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the legislative education study committee
19 and the public education department for appropriate
20 distribution.

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