

HOUSE MEMORIAL 30

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

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and Jack Chatfield

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY
PUBLIC EDUCATION GOVERNANCE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's education system is complex and shaped by diverse communities, unique strengths and longstanding commitments to educational improvement, and continued refinement of governance structures presents an opportunity to strengthen coherence, continuity and shared statewide vision for student success; and

WHEREAS, the *Martinez-Yazzie v. State of New Mexico* education sufficiency ruling found the state had failed to meet its constitutional obligation for at-risk students and called for a comprehensive statewide plan, clear implementation, monitoring and accountability structures; and

WHEREAS, the legislative education study committee

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1 analysis of strategic plans developed by entities across New
2 Mexico shows substantial overlap in goals but limited systemic
3 coherence, resulting in an uneven approach to improvement and
4 unclear roles and responsibilities across the education
5 ecosystem; and

6 WHEREAS, long-term educational planning can be
7 strengthened by structures that support continuity across
8 administrations, reduce the impact of short-term policy shifts
9 and promote stable, collaborative approaches to statewide
10 educational goals; and

11 WHEREAS, high-performing education systems globally and in
12 the United States share common governance features, including
13 inclusive cross-sector planning groups, legislatively
14 authorized long-term commissions and structures to create a
15 coherent vision linking education to economic and civic
16 prosperity; and

17 WHEREAS, national and international research indicates
18 that jurisdictions rapidly improving the jurisdictions'
19 education systems often have governance structures that set a
20 jurisdiction-wide vision; link education to economic goals;
21 learn systematically from national and global exemplars;
22 sustain progress across political transitions; and
23 intentionally include educators, youth and communities in
24 decision-making; and

25 WHEREAS, states such as Maryland, Michigan, Montana,
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1 Nevada and Pennsylvania have created formal commissions to
2 design statewide visions, align agencies, develop multi-year
3 implementation strategies and embed evaluation through
4 independent oversight bodies, illustrating actionable models
5 for New Mexico as it considers its own structures; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico's own context, including the
7 *Martinez-Yazzie v. State of New Mexico* ruling, diverse student
8 population, rural-urban variation, tribal sovereignty and
9 significant investments in education initiatives, requires a
10 governance approach that both responds to immediate needs and
11 anticipates future challenges; and

12 WHEREAS, long-term planning efforts indicate that New
13 Mexico may benefit from a structure that coordinates statewide
14 vision, supports effective implementation, monitors progress
15 and sustains improvement across leadership transitions; and

16 WHEREAS, a formal, legislatively authorized working group
17 could evaluate options for such a structure, assess roles and
18 responsibilities across agencies and levels of governance and
19 make recommendations that clarify authority, strengthen system
20 capacity, improve coherence and help ensure that all New Mexico
21 students receive equitable, high-quality educational
22 opportunities;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative
25 education study committee be requested to study public

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1 education governance; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the importance of an effective
3 public school governance system be acknowledged and that the
4 legislative education study committee be requested to convene a
5 working group focused on education governance and long-term
6 educational planning during the 2026 interim and make
7 recommendations on the purpose, feasibility, structure, time
8 line and composition of a potential education commission,
9 including a review of options for establishing a statewide
10 education commission; a review of New Mexico statutes governing
11 education systems; strategies to strengthen system capacity and
12 coherence; how long-term planning can support the state's
13 response to the *Martinez-Yazzie v. State of New Mexico* case; a
14 review of existing strategic plans addressing education in New
15 Mexico; and the fiscal, staffing and statutory considerations
16 necessary to implement any recommended governance structure;
17 and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
19 study committee be requested to work with the legislative
20 finance committee; the public education department; the early
21 childhood education and care department; the higher education
22 department; the Indian affairs department; the children's
23 cabinet; community, research and nonprofit organizations with
24 expertise in education, systems design or long-term planning;
25 public school educators; Indian nations, tribes and pueblos;

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1 and other individuals as requested by the legislative education
2 study committee; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
4 study committee develop a process for additional members of the
5 working group to be determined, including appointment by the
6 executive branch and legislative branch; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be
8 authorized to organize subgroups to study distinct aspects of
9 education governance and planning; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
11 study committee be requested to publish a report of its
12 research and recommendations by November 30, 2026; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
14 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study
15 committee, the director of the legislative finance committee,
16 the secretary of public education and the governor.

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