

HOUSE MEMORIAL 43

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

## INTRODUCED BY

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## A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE AND THE  
PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON  
THE VARIANCES AND METHODOLOGIES, INCLUDING THE LEXILE  
FRAMEWORK, USED TO RANK PUBLIC SCHOOL PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH IN  
NEW MEXICO AND IN SURROUNDING STATES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico public schools are dedicated to educating students at the highest possible level; and

WHEREAS, national rankings of public schools across the United States are determined by varying factors, with significant differences from state to state; and

WHEREAS, if there were greater equity and consistency in the variables used for such determinations, New Mexico would not consistently appear among the lowest-ranked states in education; and

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1           WHEREAS, New Mexico's public education system produces  
2 highly accomplished educators, medical professionals, judicial  
3 leaders, scientists and career and technical education  
4 professionals, all of whom contribute significantly to their  
5 communities, the state and the nation; and

6           WHEREAS, because New Mexico is not well served by national  
7 rankings that do not take a deep dive into the overall  
8 performance of New Mexico's public schools by including the  
9 weighting of factors such as poverty and language barriers that  
10 influence performance, New Mexico could benefit from a study of  
11 student performance using a universal metric that is available  
12 and used throughout New Mexico and other states; and

13           WHEREAS, if educational rankings were based on consistent  
14 and universally comparable measures across states, such as the  
15 Lexile framework, which is nationally and internationally  
16 recognized, a more authentic picture of New Mexico's true  
17 student proficiency and growth rates relative to the  
18 performance of national peers could be imagined and confirmed;  
19 and

20           WHEREAS, the national assessment of educational progress  
21 provides limited state-level-only performance data and is only  
22 administered to about one and one-half percent, or four  
23 thousand five hundred, New Mexico students in the fourth and  
24 eighth grades every two years, and each of the more than three  
25 hundred thousand students in New Mexico already has multiple

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1 data sets of Lexile metrics available; and

2 WHEREAS, every school district and charter school in New  
3 Mexico already has several years' worth of relevant Lexile data  
4 available for inclusion in a timely, longitudinal study; and

5 WHEREAS, the Lexile framework is used by forty-two states  
6 in their state accountability systems, and is, to some extent,  
7 used by all fifty states and hundreds of countries worldwide  
8 through a variety of kindergarten through twelfth grade interim  
9 assessments, and the Lexile framework allows educators to  
10 immediately inform and adjust instructional practices in real  
11 time as opposed to a static, often delayed, summative snapshot;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, a December 2025 white paper study by Evress  
14 analytics, commissioned by the New Mexico coalition of  
15 educational leaders, serves as a proof of concept of such a  
16 study, examining reading ability over time using a universally  
17 recognized measure of reading growth and proficiency;

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
19 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative  
20 education study committee be requested to collaborate with the  
21 public education department in conducting a comprehensive study  
22 on the variances and methodologies used to rank public schools  
23 in New Mexico and surrounding states and to collect and examine  
24 the performance of New Mexico students in all school districts  
25 and charter schools as measured by the students' Lexile scores

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that can be easily compared to those of peers in other states without conversion or policy-based biases and to present its findings and recommendations to the New Mexico legislative council no later than November 1, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study examine the differences in data between New Mexico and other states by looking at comparable variables, including Lexile performance data from each state for which the data is available to generate precise performance rankings and accountability measures, from other states and available for New Mexico from the public education department to identify differences and to determine if the data is evaluated equitably; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study analyze student achievement in mathematics and reading; dropout and graduation rates; per-pupil funding levels; school safety indicators; class sizes; and instructor qualifications and credentials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the director of the legislative education study committee and the secretary of public education.

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