

HOUSE MEMORIAL 44

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY
THE CURRENT STATE OF FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PRACTICES, MODELS AND
POLICIES IN NEW MEXICO PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND TO RECOMMEND
STRATEGIES FOR SYSTEMIC IMPROVEMENT.

WHEREAS, decades of research demonstrate that effective family engagement in schools is a critical predictor of student success, comparable in influence to teacher quality, school leadership and rigorous curriculum; and

WHEREAS, the principle of "universal family engagement" is embraced by the public education department in its family engagement policies and practices; and

WHEREAS, parents from many New Mexico communities may experience systemic barriers to family engagement, and these barriers may impede access to the social capital and

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1 understanding of the education system necessary to take
2 effective action on behalf of their children; and

3 WHEREAS, the public education department's website
4 indicates the vision for family engagement is "To build a
5 future where authentic partnerships among families, schools,
6 and communities drive equity, connection, and academic success
7 for every student across New Mexico"; and

8 WHEREAS, family engagement is an ongoing process of
9 schools partnering with all families rather than just a select
10 few and has been shown to improve school culture, reduce
11 teacher burnout and close equity gaps for students from
12 historically marginalized communities; and

13 WHEREAS, among the priorities of the Hispanic Education
14 Act are the improvement of educational systems that affect the
15 success of Hispanic students, the encouragement and fostering
16 of parental involvement and the provision of mechanisms for
17 parents to work with other stakeholders to improve educational
18 opportunities for Hispanic students; and

19 WHEREAS, professional development in family engagement has
20 not been prioritized in New Mexico despite research showing
21 that students with engaged families are significantly more
22 likely to attend school regularly, earn higher grades, enroll
23 in advanced courses, demonstrate better social skills and
24 graduate on time; and

25 WHEREAS, despite its importance, many educators report a

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1 lack of formal training in family engagement strategies, with
2 national surveys indicating that, while more than seventy
3 percent of parents believe teacher training in this area is
4 vital, less than twenty percent of teachers report receiving
5 the training; and

6 WHEREAS, current family engagement practices across New
7 Mexico vary significantly by district and school, often relying
8 on the efforts of individual educators rather than a systemic,
9 supported framework; and

10 WHEREAS, the legislative education study committee is
11 charged with the continuous study of all matters relating to
12 public schools in New Mexico and the recommendation of
13 legislation to improve the quality of education;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative
16 education study committee be requested to conduct a
17 comprehensive study of family engagement practices across the
18 state during the 2026 interim; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study:

20 A. include an assessment of current family
21 engagement frameworks and evidence-based practices used by New
22 Mexico school districts and charter schools;

23 B. identify systemic barriers that prevent families
24 from meaningfully engaging with their schools;

25 C. include a review of evidence-based "universal

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1 family engagement" models and community school frameworks;

2 D. include an analysis of current professional
3 development opportunities for teachers and administrators
4 regarding family engagement; and

5 E. include recommendations for legislative,
6 regulatory or budgetary actions to support systemic family
7 engagement, including potential funding mechanisms for
8 dedicated family liaison positions in schools or districts and
9 teacher and administrator training programs; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
11 study committee be requested to present its findings and
12 recommendations to the New Mexico legislative council by August
13 31, 2026 and to publish the findings and recommendations on the
14 legislative education study committee's website no later than
15 September 30, 2026; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the:

18 A. legislative education study committee;
19 B. director of the legislative finance committee;
20 C. governor;
21 D. secretary of public education;
22 E. directors of all bilingual multicultural
23 education programs of the language and culture division of the
24 public education department;
25 F. all Pueblo council of governors;

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- G. bilingual multicultural education advisory council;
- H. Black education advisory council;
- I. deputy secretary of special education of the public education department;
- J. business committee of the Fort Sill Apache Tribe;
- K. Hispanic education advisory council;
- L. Indian education advisory council;
- M. legislative council of the Jicarilla Apache Nation;
- N. tribal council of the Mescalero Apache Tribe;
- O. Navajo Nation council;
- P. New Mexico coalition of educational leaders;
- Q. New Mexico school boards association;
- R. New Mexico school superintendents association;
- S. president of the Albuquerque teachers federation;
- T. president of the American federation of teachers; and
- U. president of the New Mexico parent teacher association.