

HOUSE MEMORIAL 53

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

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE
CREATION OF A "GIFTED IN-FIELD" ENDORSEMENT FOR SECONDARY
SCHOOL GIFTED EDUCATION TEACHERS.

WHEREAS, the needs of gifted students attending secondary school, who are ready for greater independence and development of their talents and expertise in specific areas of study, are often substantially different from those of gifted students attending elementary school; and

WHEREAS, while gifted students at the secondary school level can benefit from beginning to develop expertise through accelerated coursework delivered from sources such as dual enrollment, advanced placement and the international baccalaureate, those programs often do not consistently address the social, emotional, creative and leadership development

1 needs of those students; and

2 WHEREAS, rules promulgated by the public education
3 department require teachers obtaining a gifted education
4 endorsement to have demonstrated competency to deliver content
5 area instruction to gifted students from a position of
6 expertise, to apply pedagogy appropriate to the content area
7 being taught and to apply higher-level thinking and meta-
8 cognitive models to those content areas; and

9 WHEREAS, the public education department's rules require
10 that individual education programs for gifted students in the
11 state produce advanced outcomes, develop the strengths and
12 interests of gifted students and address other educational
13 needs; and

14 WHEREAS, the public education department's rules allow
15 students to be identified as gifted in a wide range of fields,
16 including all subject areas for which educational standards for
17 students have been adopted, but teachers with gifted education
18 endorsements often do not possess content expertise in all of
19 those subject areas; and

20 WHEREAS, the public education department currently allows
21 special education teachers without expertise or endorsement in
22 gifted education to teach gifted education classes because of
23 an ongoing lack of gifted education teachers; and

24 WHEREAS, secondary school teachers with advanced knowledge
25 in a subject area in addition to knowledge about the needs of

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gifted learners could provide advanced instruction to students with advanced readiness who are not identified as gifted;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public
education department be requested to collaborate with the
state's public post-secondary educational institutions and
gifted education organizations to study the creation of a
"gifted in-field" endorsement for secondary school gifted
education teachers and to consider courses available from the
state's public post-secondary educational institutions and
other criteria necessary to establish advanced content
knowledge that could fulfill endorsement requirements for those
teachers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department be requested to study and evaluate criteria to determine the amount of expertise necessary in various subject areas for the state to develop a gifted in-field endorsement teacher workforce that can both deliver advanced coursework in various content areas and serve the needs of secondary school gifted students to develop expertise in those subject areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the public education department and the governor.