

# MEMORANDUM



Date: June 5, 2025

To: Mariana Padilla, Cabinet Secretary, Public Education Department

From: John Sena, Director, LESC  
Jessica Hathaway, Deputy Director, LESC

CC: Senator William P. Soules, Chair, LESC  
Representative G. Andres Romero, Vice Chair, LESC

**Subject: LESC Staff Participation in *Martinez-Yazzie* Remedial Action Plan**

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Dear Secretary Padilla,

In response to the First Judicial District Court's May 20, 2025 Order requiring a comprehensive remedial action plan in the consolidated *Martinez-Yazzie v. State of New Mexico* case, the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) acknowledges the Court's invitation for LESC staff to assist in the development of the comprehensive remedial action plan.

LESC staff will participate in an advisory and technical role, consistent with the agency's statutory responsibility to provide nonpartisan research and fiscal analysis to the Legislature. LESC staff involvement will focus on the following responsibilities:

- Identifying and allocating staff time to attend and participate in stakeholder meetings as appropriate, to support transparency and gather input for legislative understanding;
- Assisting PED in identifying components, areas of inquiry, and questions that could be considered during stakeholder engagement;
- Providing relevant national and international studies, original LESC staff analysis, and any other research that might inform evidence-based interventions, services, and supports for student populations identified in the lawsuit as being at-risk;
- Providing statutory review by identifying sections of New Mexico law that may need to be addressed to contribute to a comprehensive remedial action plan;
- Providing policy research and fiscal modeling related to potential costs and implementation considerations for proposed plan components;
- Working in partnership with PED to identify characteristics, attributes, and qualifications that could be beneficial to see in an external consultant; and
- Collaborating with PED and PED's selected external consultant to ensure alignment of plan elements with legislative context and feasibility.

To ensure clarity and mutual understanding, we recommend regular coordination meetings between PED, its external consultant, and LESC staff leadership. LESC staff will also provide regular updates to LESC members on the development of the comprehensive remedial action plan and LESC staff work in support of PED.

LESC staff looks forward to working in partnership with PED to support a planning process that benefits New Mexico's students, teachers, and education system. Please contact us if you have any additional questions, ideas, or concerns.