

LESC Long-Term Vision

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Looking Back

- October 2022
 - LESC staff presented an overview of the *Martinez-Yazzie* consolidated lawsuit
 - Presented symptoms of an uncoordinated education system in New Mexico
 - Presented feedback and a review of policy recommendations from stakeholder groups
 - Included national research: National Conference of State Legislatures and the Learning Policy Institute
 - Presented various policy and budget considerations that addressed the court's findings and improve overall system



Hearing Brief

Date: October 13, 2022
Prepared By: Perea Warniment
Witness: Gwen Perea Warniment, Director, Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC); John Sena, Deputy Director, LESC; Daniel Estupinan, Fiscal Analyst, LESC
Expected Outcome: Alignment among policy and budget considerations and the *Martinez and Yazzie v. State of New Mexico* consolidated lawsuit.

Martinez and Yazzie v. State of New Mexico: A Legislative Roadmap

Overview

It has been four years since the 1st Judicial District Court issued a Decision and Order, finding the state of New Mexico had violated the Education Clause, the Equal Protection Clause, and the Due Process Clause of the New Mexico Constitution, failing to provide a uniform, statewide system of free public schools sufficient for all students.

Importantly, in reflecting on the violation of each of these clauses, the court declared the state specifically violated the rights of at-risk students in three distinct ways:

- The state has failed to provide programs and services necessary to make students college or career ready;
- Funding has not been sufficient to provide such programs and services, particularly examining the needs of all school districts and charter schools; and
- The Public Education Department (PED) has failed to meet its supervisory and audit functions to assure that money is spent efficiently and effectively by school districts, charter schools, and schools, and ensure at-risk students have the programs and services needed for them to obtain an adequate education.

Key Takeaways

Judge Singleton determined the New Mexico Legislature had defined educational adequacy, located in existing statutory provisions in Section 22-2-1.2 NMSA 1978. *Page 1*

New Mexico has five symptoms of an uncoordinated education system that may contribute to the inability to fully realize the definition of sufficiency in statute. *Pages 2 – 3*

Education stakeholders in New Mexico have identified shared concern and interest in seven major



What the Legislature Did

- Passed learning time legislation increasing instructional hours for all students and providing crucial professional work time for educators
- Passed new graduation requirements intended to increase student options and improve student engagement
- Provided more than \$310 million in learning time initiatives, addressing one of the court's main findings
- Continued investments in educator preparation, recruitment, and retention
- Increased funding for career technical education and work-based learning initiatives.
- Continued funding for Indian education.



2023 Interim Research Agenda and Workplan

- LESC staff research agenda and workplan were aligned with the roadmap and developed with several principles in mind:
 - Having clear timelines
 - Ensuring stakeholder input
 - Incorporating existing research
 - Analyzing existing data
 - Leading to well-developed budget and policy proposals
 - Including plans for evaluation of implementation and program efficacy



2023 Interim Research Agenda and Workplan

- Educator Ecosystem
 - Educator Recruitment and Retention
 - Educator Preparation
 - School Leadership
 - Professional Development
 - Ancillary support staff
- Academic Design
 - Early Literacy and Numeracy
 - Secondary Redesign
 - Career Technical Education and Work-Based Learning
 - Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Education
 - Bilingual/Multilingual Education



2023 Interim Research Agenda and Workplan

- Whole Child Education
 - Social and Emotional Learning
 - At-Risk Student Supports
 - Community Schools
 - Fine and Performing Arts
 - Physical and Health Education
- Overarching Systems
 - Data and Accountability
 - Finance and Funding Formula
 - School District and State Governance
 - Capital Outlay and Transportation



2023 Interim Research Agenda and Workplan

- Major Studies
 - Special education listening sessions and work group
 - Review of school funding formula
 - Transportation study
 - Attendance for Success Act review and attendance site visits
- On-going research and engagements
 - Continued partnership with deans and directors, leadership working group
 - Site visits and discussions with tribal education directors
 - Engaging with partners in mathematics and STEM education
 - Early literacy and biliteracy
 - Secondary school redesign – counselors, advisement, and career technical education



How Work Aligns with Progress

Highly relevant and effective legislation, including both education policy and budget, will result from the research agenda, aligned to a legislative long-term vision and plan.

Process for staff

1. Researching needs, gaps, incompleteness or ineffectiveness identified by understanding the layers within education – importantly, gathering stakeholder input in the process
2. Providing support for policy, initiatives, and priorities of the members
3. Tracking implementation, based on a well-developed theory of change
4. Providing information for members regarding iterating on policy, adjusting budget, or scaling initiatives

2024 Legislative Session and Beyond

- Leverage current work, based off of the LESC Roadmap to include development of a 3-5 year plan that includes the following;
 - Determining metrics and setting goals to guide legislative investments and measure student outcomes
 - Tracking outcomes to provide regular and timely reports
 - Ensuring policies and budget are aligned to provide stable and sustainable resources and supports
 - Evaluating program implementation and efficacy
 - Collaborate with the PED to monitor and support their strategic plan as it relates to the Legislature's vision.



2024 Legislative Session and Beyond

- LESC policy and proposals, along with broader legislative efforts, represent an intentional and comprehensive approach to improving education.
- Those efforts could have a larger impact if coupled with long-term planning and structures, such as a state education commission or board that will ensure long-term sustainability and reciprocal accountability.
- Those structures could also increase public transparency so all stakeholders can see why and how education decisions are made and whether those decisions benefits children.
- That level of transparency is critical if the state wants to demonstrate its efforts to improve education, address the findings of the *Martinez/Yazzie* lawsuit, and, most importantly, serve New Mexico's students.

Feedback?