

**Approved
2006 Work Plan and Budget
of the
Funding Formula Study Task Force**

The funding formula study task force was created pursuant to Laws 2005, Chapter 49. The function of the task force is to approve the request for proposals for a contractor to study the public school funding formula and to select the contractor.

The task force is composed of the following legislative members:

Rep. Mimi Stewart, co-chairwoman	Rep. Brian K. Moore
Sen. Vernon D. Asbill	Sen. Cynthia Nava
Rep. Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales	Sen. James G. Taylor

Public members are:

Mr. Dick Pool, co-chairman	Mr. Randy Manning
Mr. Robert Archuleta	Ms. Lilliemae Ortiz
Mr. Charles Bowyer	Mr. Dennis Roch
Dr. V. Sue Cleveland	Ms. Karen White
Mr. Jack Jenkins	

Advisory legislative members are:

Sen. Ben D. Altamirano	Sen. Linda M. Lopez
Sen. Mark Boitano	Rep. Terry T. Marquardt
Rep. William "Ed" Boykin	Rep. Rick Miera
Sen. Pete Campos	Sen. Mary Kay Papen
Rep. Gail Chasey	Sen. Bernadette M. Sanchez
Rep. Joni M. Gutierrez	Rep. Richard D. Vigil
Rep. Jimmie C. Hall	Rep. Teresa A. Zanetti
Sen. Gay G. Kernan	

Advisory public members are:

Mr. James M. Phipps
Mr. Manuel F. Valdez

Staff for the task force is provided by the legislative council service, legislative education study committee, legislative finance committee, public education department and office of education accountability.

As specified in the law, the funding formula study is a three-year process that will culminate in final recommendations to the second session of the forty-eighth legislature. Last year, the task force educated itself on the formula and took testimony, particularly from school districts, on problems and issues concerning public school funding in New Mexico. This interim, the task force will issue a request for proposals (RFP) for the planned study of the funding formula, will evaluate the proposals and will select a contractor to perform the study.

The task force will finalize the RFP at its May 24 meeting, and the RFP will be issued on or about May 26; the closing date is June 26, 2006. The co-chairs of the task force named an evaluation panel that will meet June 28-30 to select finalists for task force consideration. At its July 24-26 meeting, the task force will hear presentations from finalists and will select the winning bidder. The co-chairs and the legislative council service director will then negotiate the contract with that bidder. As part of the study, the task force will name a panel of outside experts to review the work of the contractor.

The task force plans a truncated meeting schedule this interim while the contractor conducts the first phase of the study, including the surveys and interviews required in the RFP. The RFP requires the contractor to meet with focus groups around the state, and task force members will attend meetings in their areas. The task force requests legislative approval to pay per diem and mileage for members attending focus group meetings. The task force asks the legislative council to approve three additional meetings during the interim, between selection of the contractor and the end-of-interim report in December, in case the task force needs to meet with the contractor.