

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 9

2 **45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Mary Kay Papen

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8 FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

9
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO STUDY THE
12 FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A NEW LICENSING STRUCTURE FOR
13 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS.

14
15 WHEREAS, New Mexico is facing an impending shortage of
16 qualified persons capable of filling vacant principal
17 positions due to retirements, job dissatisfaction, lack of
18 qualified candidates, increased job expectations and
19 compensation that is not commensurate with job
20 responsibilities; and

21 WHEREAS, educational research has established that the
22 role of the principal has changed significantly over the past
23 two decades; from the primary role as building manager to
24 today's role of principal as instructional leader; and

25 WHEREAS, schools must have principals capable of leading
staff and students in providing the best possible education
for all students; and

WHEREAS, school boards and other policymakers should
become more innovative in the way they structure school

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1 leadership and provide school principals with the authority to
2 adequately meet the demands placed on them; and

3 WHEREAS, the need to have principals and administrators
4 who are qualified to lead schools and improve student
5 achievement is essential for highly successful schools; and

6 WHEREAS, some schools are experimenting with changing
7 their administrative structures, such as combining the duties
8 and elements of assistant principal or principal positions
9 with the duties and elements of school counselor into one
10 position to better address student needs and reduce the
11 student-to-adult administrator ratio, which has resulted in
12 positive changes in schools and school districts that have
13 implemented such reforms; and

14 WHEREAS, the current license structure for school
15 administrators has not been changed since the early 1980s and
16 does not allow for distinctions to be made between
17 superintendents, principals and other administrators, nor does
18 it make allowances for schools to restructure the manner by
19 which they provide leadership;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state board of education study
22 the feasibility of establishing a new license structure for
23 school administrators that makes distinctions between
24 superintendents, principals and other administrators and
25 provides flexibility so that schools may be able to reorganize
their administrative structure with alternate models to better
meet the needs of their schools and students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state board of education
report its findings and recommendations to the legislative

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education study committee by November 1, 2002; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the superintendent of public instruction and the director of the legislative education study committee for appropriate distribution.

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