

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 32

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF NEW MEXICO PROJECT 2012 AS AN INNOVATIVE  
AND CRITICAL PLAN TO IMPROVE MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE EDUCATION  
IN NEW MEXICO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, education is the key to the twenty-first century,  
both in terms of economic prosperity and personal achievement;  
and

WHEREAS, today's "new economy" is knowledge-based,  
entrepreneurial and globally competitive to an extent that was  
almost unimaginable even a decade ago, yet New Mexico students  
lag significantly in most measures of elementary and secondary  
academic success, thus imperiling both their individual  
prospects and those of the state; and

WHEREAS, a competitive, technically capable work force is  
essential to New Mexico's economic future, and a reasonable

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1 level of mathematics and science awareness among its population  
2 is an ever more important part of good civic decision-making;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, in recent years the state has made significant  
5 strides in improving teacher pay, increasing professional  
6 development opportunities and elevating teacher qualification  
7 and certification standards, and the state's mathematics and  
8 science curricular standards are now among the best in the  
9 nation; and

10 WHEREAS, the legislature funded a mathematics and science  
11 bureau in the public education department, which the secretary  
12 of public education created in July 2006, and the Mathematics  
13 and Science Education Act was passed by the legislature and  
14 signed by the governor in 2007; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2006-2007, the New Mexico mathematics and  
16 science advisory council developed a strategic action plan for  
17 advancing mathematics and science education that will increase  
18 student interest, participation and achievement in mathematics  
19 and science; raise public awareness and support for the  
20 importance of mathematics and science in New Mexico's economic  
21 health and security; and establish effective collaborations  
22 with internal and external partners; and

23 WHEREAS, from that strategic action plan arose "New Mexico  
24 project 2012", which is a comprehensive six-part proposal that  
25 uses one of the most important resources the state has, its

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1 nationally and internationally recognized scientists,  
2 mathematicians and engineers; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico project 2012 proposes to use subject-  
4 matter experts from the state's national laboratories and the  
5 private sector as New Mexico project 2012 volunteers to give  
6 lectures or other classroom assistance in their areas of  
7 expertise and to mentor public school teachers in mathematics  
8 and science in order to improve the knowledge, competence and  
9 confidence of public school students and teachers in  
10 mathematics and science; and

11 WHEREAS, the goal of New Mexico project 2012 is simple yet  
12 dramatic: in five years, New Mexico's public elementary and  
13 secondary school students will be among the nation's leaders in  
14 mathematics and science academic achievement; and

15 WHEREAS, the purpose of the New Mexico project 2012 is to:

16 A. improve mathematics and science content study in  
17 the pre-service education of elementary and secondary teachers  
18 to prepare them well to teach a modern mathematics or science  
19 curriculum;

20 B. expand professional development and in-service  
21 opportunities for mathematics and science teachers so they may  
22 stay abreast of rapidly changing ideas about mathematics and  
23 science teaching and new mathematics and science content;

24 C. draw on the extensive mathematics and science  
25 expertise of New Mexico's very large community of

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1 mathematicians, scientists and engineers to provide specialized  
2 content knowledge; to give students needed tutoring, mentoring  
3 and career advice; and to help in providing professional  
4 development activities for teachers;

5 D. provide quality distance learning opportunities  
6 for New Mexico's rural communities via the innovative digital  
7 education and learning in New Mexico system, known as "IDEAL-  
8 NM", and related projects, television programming and broadband  
9 internet access;

10 E. assist in the evaluation of current strategies  
11 used in the public schools and classrooms for teaching and  
12 learning mathematics and science; and integrate those subjects  
13 with other essential skills such as inquiry-based learning  
14 aptitude and writing and literacy acquisition; and

15 F. build a statewide "education community" that  
16 includes students, parents, teachers, school administrators and  
17 boards, state and local governments and the business community,  
18 all united toward this exciting goal; and

19 WHEREAS, the legislature, the governor, the congressional  
20 delegation and the New Mexico business community have all made  
21 clear their commitment to revolutionary improvements in  
22 education generally and in mathematics and science education in  
23 particular;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
25 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it express its support of New Mexico

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1 project 2012 and that it encourage all the other important  
2 participants, from the governor and the secretary of public  
3 education to school districts, teachers, students, parents and  
4 business and community leaders, to show their commitment to New  
5 Mexico's current and future generations of young people by  
6 supporting and aiding the implementation of New Mexico project  
7 2012; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education  
9 department, the legislative education study committee, the  
10 coalition of school administrators, statewide teacher  
11 organizations and other interested groups unite to undertake a  
12 creative and effective public relations effort to enable the  
13 necessary departures from "education as usual" to education  
14 that will enable young people and the state to realize a  
15 rewarding future; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
17 transmitted to the governor, the public education department,  
18 the legislative education study committee and the coalition of  
19 school administrators for appropriate distribution.