

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 43

2 **48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2008**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE, THE  
12 PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND OTHERS MEET IN THE INTERIM TO  
13 STUDY ACCOUNTABILITY TARGETS.

14  
15 WHEREAS, the people of New Mexico share a vision of a  
16 world-class education system that prepares their children for  
17 success in the twenty-first century; and

18 WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature has laid the essential  
19 groundwork needed to support an educational system with  
20 enhanced educational opportunities for all New Mexico students;  
21 and

22 WHEREAS, public schools in New Mexico have made progress  
23 in reducing the achievement gap; and

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks second in the nation for  
25 education reform, school choice and children's access to free

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1 and reduced-cost breakfast and ranks fourth in the nation for a  
2 strong nutrition policy; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico is one of four states leading the  
4 nation in innovative school improvement strategies; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks in the top ten states in grade  
6 three reading comprehension and in oral reading fluency for  
7 students in grades one, two and three; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico is one of only nine states with an  
9 approved highly qualified teacher plan and is one of eleven  
10 states to have standards-based assessments aligned to strong  
11 content standards; and

12 WHEREAS, New Mexico is recognized for standards and  
13 benchmarks that are well aligned to advanced placement and  
14 college entrance examinations; and

15 WHEREAS, the secretary of public education and the  
16 educational community assert that it is not just assessments  
17 that will reform education in New Mexico, but that schools must  
18 be accountable for performance, instruction and improvement;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, scientific research supports the use of formative  
21 "short-cycle" assessments to inform instruction for students;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the public education department supports the use  
24 of short-cycle assessments to address the differentiated  
25 learning needs of a diverse student population; and

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1           WHEREAS, there were four hundred forty schools that did  
2 not make adequate yearly progress pursuant to New Mexico and  
3 federal accountability standards, largely because of the  
4 performance of various subpopulations;

5           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study  
7 committee, in collaboration with the public education  
8 department, the legislative council service, public school  
9 superintendents, directors of special education, directors of  
10 bilingual education and other appropriate educators, form a  
11 study group to meet during the interim to discuss the possible  
12 use of short-cycle assessments as an indicator of student  
13 progress and to recommend an accountability mechanism for the  
14 specific subpopulations based on a growth model; and

15           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group study the  
16 impact of using the office of special education targets in lieu  
17 of New Mexico accountability targets; and

18           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group examine  
19 opportunity-to-learn factors as a companion to New Mexico  
20 accountability targets; and

21           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study group report its  
22 findings to the appropriate interim committee of the  
23 legislature by December 1, 2008; and

24           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
25 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the chair of

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1 the legislative education study committee and the director of  
2 the legislative council service.

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