

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO COLLABORATE  
3 WITH STATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING, GIFTED EDUCATION  
4 ORGANIZATIONS AND THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
5 TO DETERMINE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A GIFTED EDUCATION  
6 ENDORSEMENT ON TEACHING LICENSES.

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8 WHEREAS, studies show that gifted students have unique  
9 needs that require accommodations and modifications at  
10 school; and

11 WHEREAS, it is important that public schools meet the  
12 needs of gifted students and help them to realize their  
13 potential and maintain their motivation to learn; and

14 WHEREAS, research shows that in order to meet these  
15 needs, gifted education teachers must be specifically trained  
16 and highly qualified; and

17 WHEREAS, highly qualified gifted education teachers are  
18 not only better prepared to meet the needs of gifted students  
19 but are a resource to general education teachers to assist in  
20 the differentiation of instruction to the benefit of all  
21 students; and

22 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, during the 2006-2007 school  
23 year, over thirteen thousand students were identified as  
24 gifted and were provided services by over seven hundred  
25 gifted education teachers, even though the state licensure

1 system does not fully recognize the special requirements and  
2 talents of teachers of gifted students;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE  
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be  
5 requested to collaborate with state institutions of higher  
6 learning, gifted education organizations and the legislative  
7 education study committee to determine the requirements and  
8 competencies for a gifted education endorsement on teaching  
9 licenses; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department take into  
11 consideration the existing coursework at the colleges of  
12 education at the state institutions of higher education that  
13 offer specialized gifted education programs for students; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department's study  
15 consider endorsement competencies for gifted education  
16 teachers, such as those proposed in the *Technical Assistance*  
17 *Manual for Gifted Education in New Mexico*, and existing  
18 portfolio guidelines for gifted education, such as those  
19 developed by the New Mexico association for the gifted; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study also identify  
21 assessments currently available in gifted education that  
22 could be adopted within New Mexico as an appropriate gifted  
23 education examination that would demonstrate that gifted  
24 education-endorsed teachers are highly qualified, such as the  
25 "Education Testing Service PRAXIS II Gifted Exam"; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
2 transmitted to the public education department, the deans of  
3 the colleges of education at the state institutions of higher  
4 learning, the New Mexico association for the gifted and the  
5 legislative education study committee. \_\_\_\_\_

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