

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SJM 23

49th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2010

Tracking Number: .180270.1

Short Title: Educational Research & Reform Consortium

Sponsor(s): Senators Cynthia Nava and Gay G. Kernan

Analyst: Ally Hudson

Date: February 12, 2010

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

Bill Summary:

SJM 23 requests that the Office of Education Accountability (OEA), the Public Education Department (PED), and the Higher Education Department (HED), cooperate with a variety of entities to form a research consortium. The purpose of the consortium will focus on education research to support long-term school reform.

SJM 23 specifies that in addition to OEA, PED, and HED, the consortium will consist of representatives from the following:

- local and national research entities;
- public school districts and charter schools;
- institutions of higher education;
- public school teachers;
- higher education faculty;
- business and industry groups; and
- philanthropic organizations.

Finally, the memorial requests that a report on findings and recommendations to support long-term school reform be submitted to the Legislative Education Study Committee and the Governor by November 15, 2010. The report will be drafted by OEA in collaboration with other members of the consortium.

Fiscal Impact:

SJM 23 makes no appropriation.

The OEA and PED analyses of this memorial note that they would be able to participate in this memorial with existing staff.

Substantive Issues:

A recent article in *Education Week* identifies five ingredients to school success:

- strong administrative leadership;
- a welcoming attitude toward parents, and formation of connections with the community;
- development of professional capacity for teaching staff;
- a learning climate that is safe, welcoming, stimulating, and nurturing to all students; and
- strong instructional guidance and materials.

SJM 23 seeks to address each of these ingredients through the creation of a diverse research consortium.

Background:

Since 2003, New Mexico has undertaken a number of education reform initiatives including, but not limited to:

- the creation of PED and HED;
- placing focus on Pre-K education;
- emphasizing secondary-postsecondary alignment;
- creating a unique student identification number;
- supporting charter school development;
- establishing shared student data systems;
- formalizing dual credit and distance learning programs;
- implementing standards-based measures of readiness for graduation; and
- forming the New Mexico Leadership Institute.

It is probable that no individual state department has the capacity to examine all of the state’s education initiatives. Consequently, SJM 23 provides New Mexico with a unique opportunity to develop public-private partnerships to study the long-term effects of education reform.

The PED analysis notes that the joint memorial would support the department’s Race to the Top initiative by outlining necessary research for standards and assessments, contributing to the development of great teachers and leaders, turning around low-performing schools, and implementing a P-20 data system.

Finally, New Mexico’s Leadership Team with the College and Career Ready Policy Institute (CCRPI) presents an action plan for a research consortium similar to that being proposed in SJM 23. The CCRPI plan cites the need for continued legislative support to enact initiatives such as the research consortium.

Related Bill(s):

None as of February 12, 2010.