

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP AND
3 IMPLEMENT A PILOT PROGRAM TO STUDY THE FISCAL AND
4 PROGRAMMATIC EFFECTS OF TRANSPORTING STUDENTS BETWEEN AND
5 AMONG SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO SUPPORT SCHOOL CHOICE.

6
7 WHEREAS, the Public School Code defines "school
8 district" as "an area of land established as a political
9 subdivision of the state for the administration of public
10 schools and segregated geographically for taxation and
11 bonding purposes"; and

12 WHEREAS, local school boards may promulgate rules to
13 establish attendance boundary zones within a school district;
14 and

15 WHEREAS, local school boards may also establish rules to
16 provide for enrollment for students living outside the
17 district boundaries and within specific attendance zones; and

18 WHEREAS, local school boards are required to establish
19 transportation routes and provide transportation to schools
20 for qualified students; and

21 WHEREAS, state statute and public education department
22 rule require the establishment of procedures for the
23 resolution of school district boundary disputes; and

24 WHEREAS, current transportation boundary agreements
25 between adjoining school districts address only students

1 living within a specified geographic area in which
2 geographical conditions would otherwise make impractical
3 transporting students to a school within school district
4 boundaries; and

5 WHEREAS, public education department rule specifically
6 prohibits transportation boundary agreements between
7 adjoining school districts to accommodate students wishing to
8 attend an out-of-district school as a matter of choice; and

9 WHEREAS, testimony provided to a legislative education
10 study committee subcommittee on public school transportation
11 indicated an interest in expanding the use of inter-district
12 transportation agreements as a matter of school choice;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be
15 requested to develop and implement a two-year pilot program
16 to allow two interested school districts to transport
17 students who wish to participate to and from schools of
18 choice outside their respective school districts; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
20 department be requested to work with school districts
21 participating in the pilot program to provide a report to the
22 legislative education study committee and the legislative
23 finance committee before the beginning of the 2017
24 legislative session to include recommendations for expanding
25 opportunities and establishing rules for boundary agreements

