

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 12

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Pat Woods

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7  
8 FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

9  
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO DEVELOP AND  
12 IMPLEMENT A PILOT PROGRAM TO STUDY THE FISCAL AND PROGRAMMATIC  
13 EFFECTS OF TRANSPORTING STUDENTS BETWEEN AND AMONG SCHOOL  
14 DISTRICTS TO SUPPORT SCHOOL CHOICE.

15  
16 WHEREAS, the Public School Code defines "school district"  
17 as "an area of land established as a political subdivision of  
18 the state for the administration of public schools and  
19 segregated geographically for taxation of public schools"; and

20 WHEREAS, local school boards may promulgate rules to  
21 establish attendance boundary zones within a school district;  
22 and

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

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1           WHEREAS, local school boards are required to establish  
2 transportation routes and provide transportation to schools for  
3 qualified students; and

4           WHEREAS, state statute and public education department  
5 rule require the establishment of procedures for the resolution  
6 of school district boundary disputes; and

7           WHEREAS, current transportation boundary agreements  
8 between adjoining school districts address only students living  
9 within a specified geographic area in which geographical  
10 conditions would otherwise make impractical transporting  
11 students to a school within school district boundaries; and

12           WHEREAS, public education department rule specifically  
13 prohibits transportation boundary agreements between adjoining  
14 school districts to accommodate students wishing to attend an  
15 out-of-district school as a matter of choice; and

16           WHEREAS, testimony provided to a legislative education  
17 study committee subcommittee on public school transportation  
18 indicated an interest in expanding the use of inter-district  
19 transportation agreements as a matter of school choice;

20           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be  
22 requested to develop and implement a two-year pilot program to  
23 allow two interested school districts to transport students who  
24 wish to participate to and from schools of choice outside their  
25 respective school districts; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education  
2 department be requested to work with school districts  
3 participating in the pilot program to provide a report to the  
4 legislative education study committee and the legislative  
5 finance committee before the beginning of the 2017 legislative  
6 session to include recommendations for expanding opportunities  
7 and establishing rules for boundary agreements based upon  
8 school choice between and among school districts in New Mexico;  
9 and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to the secretary of public education and the  
12 respective directors of the legislative education study  
13 committee and the legislative finance committee.