

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE  
3 LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO CONVENE A WORKING  
4 GROUP TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A NEW STUDENT ASSESSMENT  
5 POLICY ALIGNED WITH THE ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT MODELS ALLOWED  
6 BY THE FEDERAL EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT.

7  
8 WHEREAS, the recently enacted federal Every Student  
9 Succeeds Act empowers states to develop their own  
10 accountability systems to measure student performance and  
11 encourages states to begin pilot projects that use a variety  
12 of ways to measure student success; and

13 WHEREAS, for states wishing to develop alternative,  
14 evidence-based assessment systems, the Every Student Succeeds  
15 Act creates an enhanced assessment instruments program, which  
16 will provide funding to seven states to develop pilot  
17 programs of innovative assessment programs that use a variety  
18 of indicators to show how a student is performing; and

19 WHEREAS, applications for the pilot programs were  
20 accepted through September 22, 2016, and it is anticipated  
21 that additional applications will be accepted in the future;  
22 and

23 WHEREAS, the Every Student Succeeds Act provides states  
24 with the flexibility to adopt high-quality academic  
25 assessments in mathematics, reading, language arts or

1 science, which may allow students to demonstrate proficiency  
2 in the form of portfolios, projects or extended performance  
3 tasks and other locally designed formative assessments that,  
4 along with standardized tests, create a summative score for a  
5 student; and

6 WHEREAS, the Every Student Succeeds Act permits local  
7 educational agencies to choose a locally selected assessment  
8 in lieu of the state assessment, but only if the local  
9 educational agency "selects a nationally recognized high  
10 school academic assessment that has been approved for use by  
11 the state"; and

12 WHEREAS, the Every Student Succeeds Act requires each  
13 state to add at least one non-academic indicator of school  
14 quality or student success as part of its statewide  
15 accountability system, opening the door to the possibility of  
16 using factors such as student engagement, post-secondary  
17 readiness, school climate and safety, career readiness and  
18 other metrics to measure student success; and

19 WHEREAS, at this time, New Mexico is not yet prepared to  
20 take advantage of the flexibility provided in the Every  
21 Student Succeeds Act and the associated pilot program funding  
22 opportunities; and

23 WHEREAS, studies by learning alliance New Mexico and the  
24 New Mexico center for school leadership show that there is a  
25 demand throughout the state for alternative assessment models

1 that use a variety of approaches to measure a student's  
2 progress; and

3 WHEREAS, while the New Mexico center for school  
4 leadership is working with stakeholders to develop  
5 alternatives to the current assessment process, that project  
6 is local to Albuquerque, and a broader statewide effort,  
7 including participation from the diverse communities in the  
8 state, has not been made; and

9 WHEREAS, statewide studies, research and analyses are  
10 necessary for New Mexico to be ready to propose a pilot  
11 program and take advantage of the new flexible assessment  
12 possibilities provided by the Every Student Succeeds Act;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department and  
15 the legislative education study committee be requested to  
16 convene a working group composed of educational  
17 practitioners; academic and pedagogical researchers;  
18 community, tribal and civic leaders; union members; industry  
19 representatives; higher education representatives; and others  
20 who have an interest in developing an alternative assessment  
21 model to build upon the work that is already taking place in  
22 the state and to develop recommendations for a new assessment  
23 policy; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be  
25 requested to report its recommendations and a proposed new

1 assessment policy to the legislative education study  
2 committee by November 2017; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
4 transmitted to the secretary of public education and the  
5 director of the legislative education study committee.                     

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