

underscored material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

HOUSE MEMORIAL 15

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

Christine Trujillo

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ALLOW ACADEMIC
ACCELERATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, academic acceleration options such as early entry
to kindergarten, grade skipping, single-subject acceleration,
faster-paced courses, dual and concurrent credit courses, early
entry to college and credit for demonstrated mastery are among
the most effective and best-researched educational
interventions; and

WHEREAS, grouping of similarly able students for
acceleration of school curriculum has been shown to have
positive social and academic impacts; and

WHEREAS, grouping of gifted students exposes them to an
appropriately challenging curriculum and provides an
opportunity for functional social interactions; and

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 WHEREAS, gifted students are often separated from their
2 similarly able peers and placed in general education
3 classrooms; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico does not have a state policy on
5 acceleration; and

6 WHEREAS, local school boards determine whether and to what
7 extent acceleration is permitted; and

8 WHEREAS, while acceleration costs less than many other
9 educational interventions, acceleration is often underutilized
10 because not all school districts have acceleration policies,
11 existing district-level acceleration policies vary widely and
12 dual credit memoranda sometimes prevent students from taking
13 available dual-credit courses; and

14 WHEREAS, giftedness is supported in the federal Every
15 Student Succeeds Act; and

16 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for the state to allow for
17 early entry into kindergarten, award credit for demonstrated
18 mastery and establish needs and research-based interventions
19 for gifted and high-ability learners as a priority for
20 expending Every Student Succeeds Act funds; and

21 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial if school boards would
22 adopt a policy for academic acceleration that specifies a range
23 of available options, specifies non-discrimination and
24 inclusiveness of all students and empowers teams that identify
25 gifted students and those with disabilities and all other

.205494.1

underscoring material = new
[bracketed material] = delete

1 students to make acceleration decisions; and

2 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for schools to include
3 procedures for appeal and due process, safe reversion of
4 placement if the acceleration is ineffective, group and
5 accelerate gifted and high-ability students for their
6 individual needs, provide special supports for disadvantaged
7 and disabled students to participate in acceleration and accept
8 accelerated credit or college credit toward graduation from all
9 accredited schools;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
11 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public
12 education department be requested to research options to allow
13 for early entry into kindergarten, permit credit for
14 demonstrated mastery and establish needs and research-based
15 interventions for gifted and high-ability learners as a
16 priority for expending Every Student Succeeds Act funds; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local school boards be
18 requested to consider the adoption of policies for academic
19 acceleration that specify a range of available options, that
20 provide for non-discrimination and inclusiveness of all
21 students and empower teams that identify gifted students and
22 students with disabilities and all other students to make
23 acceleration decisions; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that school boards be requested to
25 consider: the inclusion of procedures for appeal and due

.205494.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 process; safe reversion of placement if acceleration is
2 ineffective; grouping and accelerating gifted and high-ability
3 students as appropriate for their individual needs; provision
4 of special supports for disadvantaged and disabled students,
5 thus allowing them to participate in acceleration; and
6 acceptance of accelerated credit or college credit toward
7 graduation from all accredited schools; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the governor and the secretary of public
10 education; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of public
12 education be requested to transmit copies of this memorial to
13 school districts and charter schools.