

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST THE NEW
3 MEXICO LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AND THE LIBRARIES TRANSFORM NEW
4 MEXICO STEERING COMMITTEE TO UNDERTAKE A JOINT COMPREHENSIVE
5 ASSESSMENT OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND SCHOOL LIBRARIANS IN STATE
6 PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NEW MEXICO TO DETERMINE RESOURCES AND NEEDS
7 FOR THE OPERATION OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES.

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9 WHEREAS, numerous studies show that effective school
10 libraries with highly qualified teacher librarians improve
11 student academic achievement; and

12 WHEREAS, many teacher librarian positions across
13 New Mexico are left vacant or have been eliminated; and

14 WHEREAS, an increasing number of public schools do not
15 have functioning libraries; and

16 WHEREAS, the 2016 New Mexico libraries assessment
17 conducted by the New Mexico library foundation indicated a
18 shortage of school libraries in the state; and

19 WHEREAS, digital media literacy, a component of the
20 school library curriculum, is an urgently needed skill for
21 all students; and

22 WHEREAS, public school teacher librarians have been
23 providing digital media literacy from the beginning of the
24 internet era; and

25 WHEREAS, the last study on the impact of school

1 libraries on student academic achievement in New Mexico was
2 done in 2002;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be
5 requested to assist the New Mexico library association and
6 the libraries transform New Mexico steering committee to
7 undertake a joint comprehensive assessment of school
8 libraries and school librarians in public schools in
9 New Mexico to determine resources and needs for the operation
10 of school libraries; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
12 department be requested to present its findings from and
13 recommendations in response to the comprehensive assessment
14 to the legislative education study committee by October 1,
15 2019; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the
18 president of the New Mexico library association, the chair of
19 the libraries transform New Mexico steering committee and the
20 chair of the legislative education study committee. _____

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