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SENATE MEMORIAL 30

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales and Bill Tallman and Harold Pope

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO RESEARCH THE GROWTH OF ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENDITURES BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS AND DEVELOP PROPOSED LEGISLATION TO LIMIT THAT GROWTH.

WHEREAS, in 2020, the legislative finance committee informed the legislature that between 2007 and 2019, central and general administration spending by school districts and charter schools grew by fifty-five percent, while spending on instruction and student support grew by twenty percent; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by think New Mexico found that sixty-one of the eighty-nine school districts in New Mexico increased central and general administrative spending nearly three times faster than classroom spending between 2007 and 2017; and

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1 WHEREAS, the public education department reported that
2 between 2020 and 2021, total educational program costs
3 increased by seven and one-half percent, while school districts
4 budgeted, on average, a twenty-six percent increase in
5 administrative expenditures; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico ranks third highest in the nation for
7 the percentage of education budget that comes from the state,
8 rather than local taxes, yet school districts and charter
9 schools are currently not accountable to the state for how they
10 allocate those state taxpayer dollars between administrative
11 and classroom expenditures; and

12 WHEREAS, the findings in the consolidated *Yazzie/Martinez*
13 *v. State of New Mexico* decision noted that the public education
14 department did not sufficiently monitor or audit the use of
15 state equalization guarantee funds to determine whether school
16 districts were using the funds as required for at-risk
17 students; and

18 WHEREAS, the state has made historic investments in public
19 education over the past several years; and

20 WHEREAS, every dollar spent on administrative overhead in
21 central offices is a dollar that is not available to be spent
22 on classroom instruction and direct student services; and

23 WHEREAS, limiting the growth of administrative budgets
24 would make additional resources available to students and
25 teachers, including instructional materials, professional

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1 development, ancillary services and personnel, supplies and
2 increased salaries for positions that are difficult to fill;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, maximizing the amount of the state's education
5 budget that is spent on classroom needs would help New Mexico
6 meet its constitutional obligation to provide a sufficient
7 education for all students;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
9 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative finance committee be
10 requested to research the recent trends in the growth of
11 general and central administrative expenditures, investigate
12 potential reasons why general and central administrative
13 expenditures have exceeded the growth of other categories of
14 education spending in recent years and develop proposed
15 legislation to limit the growth of administrative expenditures,
16 to be presented to the legislative finance committee by
17 November 1, 2022, to address the inequities and deficiencies
18 identified by the court in the consolidated *Yazzie/Martinez v.*
19 *State of New Mexico* lawsuit and to increase funding to
20 classrooms and direct services; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative finance
22 committee be requested to consult with the public education
23 department, the legislative education study committee, the
24 Indian education advisory council, the Hispanic education
25 advisory council, the bilingual multicultural education

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1 advisory council, the Black education advisory council and
2 community-based organizations to address the significant
3 statewide growth in general and central administrative budgets
4 and to develop proposed legislation to redirect more funding to
5 classrooms and direct services; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the legislative finance committee, the public
8 education department, the legislative education study
9 committee, the Indian education advisory council, the Hispanic
10 education advisory council, the bilingual multicultural
11 education advisory council and the Black education advisory
12 council.