

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO
3 CONDUCT A STUDY OF THE USE OF SCREEN TIME FOR INSTRUCTION AND
4 ASSESSMENT IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS AND REQUESTING THE
5 PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR
6 SCREEN USE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS.

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8 WHEREAS, research shows that excessive screen time for
9 young children is associated with higher levels of stress,
10 sleep disruption, decreased attention span and negative
11 impacts on social-emotional development; and

12 WHEREAS, professional organizations such as the American
13 academy of pediatrics recommend limited and developmentally
14 appropriate use of digital devices for young children; and

15 WHEREAS, in many public schools, especially those facing
16 staffing shortages, screens are increasingly used for tasks
17 that once involved hands-on learning, exploratory play and
18 direct interaction with educators and peers; and

19 WHEREAS, educators report that overreliance on digital
20 platforms in elementary grades reduces opportunities for
21 students to develop foundational skills such as handwriting,
22 early literacy, numeracy, problem solving, teamwork and
23 communication; and

24 WHEREAS, families and educators have raised concerns
25 about the amount of time elementary students spend on

1 tablets, laptops and online programs for tasks that could be
2 achieved through more developmentally appropriate, hands-on
3 methods; and

4 WHEREAS, schools have a responsibility to ensure that
5 instructional practices support the academic, social,
6 emotional and physical development of students and are
7 supported by research-based best practices; and

8 WHEREAS, limiting unnecessary screen time aligns with
9 the goals of many school districts to improve student
10 well-being, increase engagement and support healthier
11 classroom communities; and

12 WHEREAS, elementary students are assessed using
13 computer-based testing several times per year, and mandated
14 computerized tutoring sessions associated with the
15 assessments are also required, which adds to students' screen
16 time; and

17 WHEREAS, as required by the court decision in the
18 *Martinez/Yazzie* lawsuit, the state must determine whether
19 required computer-based tests are culturally and
20 linguistically responsive and appropriate procedures given
21 the specific cultural and linguistic characteristics of the
22 children being assessed; and

23 WHEREAS, as required by the court decision in the
24 *Martinez/Yazzie* lawsuit, the state must delineate the
25 specific accessibility features of computer-based testing to

1 determine what specific accommodations may still be needed by
2 students with disabilities as well as to determine whether a
3 computer-based test may create new accessibility issues;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
6 legislative education study committee be requested to conduct
7 a comprehensive study of the use of screen time for
8 instruction and assessment in elementary classrooms,
9 including the impacts of programs on student learning,
10 development and well-being; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
12 department be requested to collaborate with families,
13 educators and administrators to establish developmentally
14 appropriate guidelines for daily screen use in elementary
15 classrooms; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
17 department be requested to ensure that any required
18 technology use in elementary school classrooms is purposeful,
19 evidence-based, equitable and supportive of healthy child
20 development; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the legislative education study committee and
23 the public education department for appropriate distribution. =