

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

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY
PUBLIC EDUCATION GOVERNANCE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's education system is complex and shaped by diverse communities, unique strengths and longstanding commitments to educational improvement, and continued refinement of governance structures presents an opportunity to strengthen coherence, continuity and shared statewide vision for student success; and

WHEREAS, the *Martinez-Yazzie v. State of New Mexico* education sufficiency ruling found the state had failed to meet its constitutional obligation for at-risk students and called for a comprehensive statewide plan, clear implementation, monitoring and accountability structures; and

WHEREAS, the legislative education study committee analysis of strategic plans developed by entities across New Mexico shows substantial overlap in goals but limited systemic coherence, resulting in an uneven approach to improvement and unclear roles and responsibilities across the education ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, long-term educational planning can be strengthened by structures that support continuity across administrations, reduce the impact of short-term policy shifts and promote stable, collaborative approaches to

1 statewide educational goals; and

2 WHEREAS, high-performing education systems globally and
3 in the United States share common governance features,
4 including inclusive cross-sector planning groups,
5 legislatively authorized long-term commissions and structures
6 to create a coherent vision linking education to economic and
7 civic prosperity; and

8 WHEREAS, national and international research indicates
9 that jurisdictions rapidly improving the jurisdictions'
10 education systems often have governance structures that set a
11 jurisdiction-wide vision; link education to economic goals;
12 learn systematically from national and global exemplars;
13 sustain progress across political transitions; and
14 intentionally include educators, youth and communities in
15 decision-making; and

16 WHEREAS, states such as Maryland, Michigan, Montana,
17 Nevada and Pennsylvania have created formal commissions to
18 design statewide visions, align agencies, develop multi-year
19 implementation strategies and embed evaluation through
20 independent oversight bodies, illustrating actionable models
21 for New Mexico as it considers its own structures; and

22 WHEREAS, New Mexico's own context, including the
23 *Martinez-Yazzie v. State of New Mexico* ruling, diverse
24 student population, rural-urban variation, tribal sovereignty
25 and significant investments in education initiatives,

1 requires a governance approach that both responds to
2 immediate needs and anticipates future challenges; and

3 WHEREAS, long-term planning efforts indicate that New
4 Mexico may benefit from a structure that coordinates
5 statewide vision, supports effective implementation, monitors
6 progress and sustains improvement across leadership
7 transitions; and

8 WHEREAS, a formal, legislatively authorized working
9 group could evaluate options for such a structure, assess
10 roles and responsibilities across agencies and levels of
11 governance and make recommendations that clarify authority,
12 strengthen system capacity, improve coherence and help ensure
13 that all New Mexico students receive equitable, high-quality
14 educational opportunities;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
16 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the
17 legislative education study committee be requested to study
18 public education governance; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the importance of an
20 effective public school governance system be acknowledged and
21 that the legislative education study committee be requested
22 to convene a working group focused on education governance
23 and long-term educational planning during the 2026 interim
24 and make recommendations on the purpose, feasibility,
25 structure, time line and composition of a potential education

1 commission, including a review of options for establishing a
2 statewide education commission; a review of New Mexico
3 statutes governing education systems; strategies to
4 strengthen system capacity and coherence; how long-term
5 planning can support the state's response to the
6 *Martinez-Yazzie v. State of New Mexico* case; a review of
7 existing strategic plans addressing education in New Mexico;
8 and the fiscal, staffing and statutory considerations
9 necessary to implement any recommended governance structure;
10 and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
12 study committee be requested to work with the legislative
13 finance committee; the public education department; the early
14 childhood education and care department; the higher education
15 department; the Indian affairs department; the children's
16 cabinet; community, research and nonprofit organizations with
17 expertise in education, systems design or long-term planning;
18 public school educators; Indian nations, tribes and pueblos;
19 and other individuals as requested by the legislative
20 education study committee; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
22 study committee develop a process for additional members of
23 the working group to be determined, including appointment by
24 the executive branch and legislative branch; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be

1 authorized to organize subgroups to study distinct aspects of
2 education governance and planning; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
4 study committee be requested to publish a report of its
5 research and recommendations by November 30, 2026; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
7 transmitted to the director of the legislative education study
8 committee, the director of the legislative finance committee,
9 the secretary of public education and the governor. _____

10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25