

Senate Memorial 93

- Proposes combining all state administered food programs into one state agency
- Proposes to reduce bureaucratic complexity
 - Simplify application process
 - Facilitate data sharing
 - Reduce administrative cost



New Mexico Public Education Department

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Secretary of Education

PED's Role

- PED does not distribute USDA food programs
- PED's role in school meal and snack programs
 - Monitor programs
 - Reimburse claims
 - Review wellness policies
 - Support PED's strategic plan – Ready for Success Lever
 - Implement coordinated school health and wellness model
 - Match student data



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PED Nutrition Positive Outcomes

- Conducted multiple webinars through-out the school year on Provision 2, CEP Guidance, and Verification Reporting.
- Provided Breakfast after the Bell (BAB) funding to 273 elementary schools in New Mexico.
 - This includes public schools, charter schools and Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools.
- Worked with Deming and Gadsden schools to transition schools from Provision 2 to District-Wide CEP.
 - Both SFA's have a large population of international students.

Cons of Combining Programs

- Governor Martinez hunger task force - increase participation in food programs
 - Increased bureaucracy – adding school program management to programs that serve adults and infants, potentially reduces participation and oversight
- Removes meal and nutrition programs from educational agency and strategic plan
 - Essential programs that support each other
 - Cannot learn and focus if hungry
- Wellness policies required under State law and USDA
 - Carves out essential health policies and assigns to another state agency – disconnected coordinated school health and wellness model



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Cons of Combining Programs

- Data sharing systems already in place (PED and HSD) and successful – no need for additional agreements – burdensome
 - Match system successful – over 95%
 - Direct certification by schools almost 95%
 - Data sharing agreement in place with BIE and PED
 - The memorial does not address these agreements
 - Federal USDA grants used to develop PED match system, claims system and technical assistance tools – return on investment for these programs would be lost
- Additional agency, besides PED, providing oversight in the schools

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Cons of Combining Programs

- In the past 2 years, PED has established an alliance with BIE schools to assure them we are in their best interest
 - The result is to feed all children within BIE schools for free
 - This relationship was long in developing and could be lost under a consolidated environment
- We are also working with all other state agencies receiving USDA funds and know our roles when needed to collaborate.
 - I.e. HSD (USDA Foods), CYFD (CACFP), DOH (Wellness Policy Implementation)

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