

**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**

REPRESENTATIVES

Rick Miera, Vice Chair
Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales
Jimmie C. Hall
Dennis J. Roch
Mimi Stewart
Jack E. Thomas

State Capitol North, 325 Don Gaspar, Suite 200
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
Phone: (505) 986-4591 Fax: (505) 986-4338
<http://lesc.nmlegis.gov>

SENATORS

Cynthia Nava, Chair
Mary Jane M. García
Gay G. Kernan
Lynda M. Lovejoy



ADVISORY

Andrew J. Barreras
Ray Begaye
Eleanor Chávez
Nathan P. Cote
Nora Espinoza
Mary Helen Garcia
Karen E. Giannini
John A. Heaton
Sheryl M. Williams Stapleton
Shirley A. Tyler

ADVISORY

Vernon D. Asbill
Stephen H. Fischmann
Howie C. Morales
John Pinto
Sander Rue
William E. Sharer

Frances Ramírez-Maestas, Director
David Harrell, PhD, Deputy Director

August 23, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Education Study Committee

FR: Ally Hudson

**RE: STAFF BRIEF: ACADEMIC RIGOR IN HIGH SCHOOL REFORM
PROGRAMS: *HIGH SCHOOLS THAT WORK***

Related to the issues of academic rigor and college- and career-readiness, *High Schools That Work (HSTW)* is the largest and oldest of the Southern Regional Education Board's (SREB) school improvement initiatives for secondary schools. As of 2008, there are over 1,400 *HSTW* sites in 30 states and the District of Columbia (see Attachment, *HSTW Participating States*). New Mexico is a network state with SREB and the *HSTW* initiative; 22 New Mexico high schools are currently *HSTW* sites (Table 1). These sites are broken into four categories.

Table 1

Mature Schools	Implementation Schools	Direct Contract Schools	Investigation Schools
Farmington HS	Lake Arthur HS	Clovis HS	Gadsden HS
Piedra Vista HS	Dexter HS	Clovis High Ninth Grade Academy	Mayfield HS
Bernalillo HS	Career Prep HS	Marshall MS	Santa Rosa HS
Pecos HS	Las Cruces HS	Yucca MS	
Cibola HS	Highland HS		
Loving HS	Chaparral HS		
	Oñate HS		
	Santa Teresa HS		
	Carlsbad HS		

High Schools That Work (HSTW) has three central goals:

- to prepare a minimum of 85 percent of students to meet college- and career-readiness standards;
- to graduate 90 percent of students entering grade 9 with a preparedness for college, training, work, or all three; and
- to teach students the essential content of the college-preparatory academic core and a career or academic concentration.

According to an SREB representative, another goal of the *HSTW* initiative is to enrich students' school experiences by producing positive gains in all areas including the quantitative elements of academic achievement and the more qualitative elements of value and guidance. Support activities including site development workshops, technical assistance visits, professional development, and coaching visits are components of the *HSTW* framework.

While the individual programs are designed and implemented at the local level with input from school faculty and administration, key practices of the *HSTW* initiative include:

- challenging programs of study;
- work-based learning;
- collaborative teaching;
- extra help and transitions; and
- using data for continuous improvement.

Presenter

Mr. Gene Bottoms, Senior Vice President, SREB, will provide the committee with an overview of the *HSTW* model and its implementation and effectiveness in New Mexico schools, as well as research-based key practices for changing what is expected of students, what they are taught, and how they are taught.

ATTACHMENT

High Schools That Work Participating States

1. Alabama
2. Arkansas
3. Delaware
4. District of Columbia
5. Florida
6. Georgia
7. Hawaii
8. Idaho
9. Illinois
10. Indiana
11. Kansas
12. Kentucky
13. Louisiana
14. Maryland
15. Massachusetts
16. Mississippi
17. Missouri
18. Nebraska
19. New Jersey
20. New Mexico
21. New York
22. North Carolina
23. Ohio
24. Oklahoma
25. Pennsylvania
26. South Carolina
27. South Dakota
28. Tennessee
29. Texas
30. Virginia
31. West Virginia