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November 13, 2006

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Legislative Education Study Committee

**FR:** Frances R. Maestas

**RE: STAFF BRIEF: DATA WAREHOUSE PROGRESS REPORT/SHARED  
STUDENT DATA SYSTEM, HM 42**

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The 2006 Interim Workplan of the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) includes a presentation consisting of reports by the Public Education Department (PED) and the Higher Education Department (HED) on two initiatives that may contribute to the development of a seamless data system from pre-kindergarten to the workforce. The presentation includes:

- an update from the PED on the implementation of a comprehensive data warehouse – an initiative established by the 2005 Legislature to address public school data collection and dissemination problems; and
- an account of interim progress of the New Mexico Data Sharing Task Force that was assembled by HED in response to HM 42, *Establish Shared Student Data*. Passed by the 2006 Legislature, the memorial requests a report by November 1, 2007 to the Governor and the Legislature of the agencies' efforts to establish common, shared data systems.

**Issues:**

- During the 2004 interim, the committee heard a report by Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) staff outlining the findings and recommendations of the Performance Accountability Data Systems Project, an initiative of the LFC conducted in collaboration with staff from the LESC, PED, and the Office of Education Accountability (OEA).

- Testimony to the committee indicated that PED’s participation in the Decision Support Architecture Consortium (DSAC), an initiative of the Council of Chief State School Officers, had facilitated an assessment of PED’s data management and decision-support capabilities by a team of system experts from the Center for Education Leadership and Technology Corporation. The review by the systems team resulted in the development of a DSAC model to be considered by PED for establishing a decision making framework focused on improving student performance, including the establishment of a data warehouse at PED that facilitates the collection of data into one system.
- Among its recommendations, the project work group requested the Legislature to consider appropriating funds to PED for the implementation of a data warehouse project using the information technology architecture designed by DSAC and to request PED to work with DSAC to expand the architecture design into a P-20 performance accountability system.
- In response to the recommendations of the work group, the Legislature in 2005 and 2006 appropriated over \$8.6 million to PED to develop and implement a data warehouse for the following purposes:
  - \$6.65 million, including four term full-time-equivalent positions, for the “implementation of the systems architecture recommended by the DSAC to meet state and federal reporting requirements, including the requirements of the *No Child Left Behind Act* in fiscal years 2005, 2006 and 2007”; and
  - \$2.0 million to “continue implementation of the student and teacher accountability reporting system” in 2006 and 2007.
- In 2006, the Legislature passed HM 42, *Establish Shared Student Data*, stating that studies have shown that a seamless data system from pre-kindergarten to the workforce is a necessary component in determining if state education policies are working. HM 42 requests that HED, representatives of institutions of higher education, PED, representatives of public schools, the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD), and the Office of Workforce Training and Development to establish common, shared student data systems from pre-K to postsecondary levels of education, including Adult Basic education and training, and to report to the Governor and the Legislature on their efforts by November 1, 2007 (see Attachment).
- In response to the memorial, HED established a Data Sharing Task Force comprised of representatives from HED, PED, CYFD, OEA, the Governor’s Office of Workforce Development and Training, and New Mexico State University (NMSU). According to HED, the task force met five times in the 2006 interim to define a mission; identify current data sharing among state agencies; discuss policy and research issues; and developed recommendations for the activities of the task force into the 2007 interim.
- Also introduced in 2006 was LESC-endorsed legislation to require public postsecondary institutions to use the same student identification number assigned to a New Mexico student by PED pursuant to the *Assessment and Accountability Act*; however, the bill did not pass.

## **Background:**

- In the 2004 interim, the committee heard a report by LFC staff on the results and recommendations of the Performance Accountability Data Systems Project, an initiative conducted in collaboration with staff from the LFC, LESC, PED, and OEA.
- The goals of the project were to inventory data systems at the state and public school district levels; to examine the process for gathering, interpreting, and using data; and to provide recommendations to the Legislature.
- The findings of the project revealed, among others, that PED maintains separate, obsolete data collection systems that are not integrated and that result in inconsistent and unreliable data across the systems; and that PED, school district, and charter school personnel need to be provided training in collecting, analyzing, interpreting, and using data.
- Among its recommendations, the work group conducting the project requested that the Legislature consider appropriating funds for the implementation of a comprehensive data warehouse project at PED.
- Other recommendations of the work group included a requirement that PED expand the architecture design of the warehouse into a P-20 performance accountability system and fully implement a uniform public school chart of accounts by July 1, 2006. According to PED, the new chart of accounts was used by school districts and charter schools to develop their budgets for school year 2006-2007.
- **Presenters:**

For this presentation:

- Mr. Robert Piro, Assistant Secretary/Chief Information Officer, Information Technology Division, PED, will provide an overview of the implementation of a comprehensive data warehouse at PED, including costs, and a preview of the capabilities of the Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System (STARS), the educational data collection and reporting component of the data warehouse at PED; and
- Ms. Veronica Chavez-Neuman, Chief Information Officer, HED, and Chair of the Data Sharing Task Force, will outline the activities of task force in the 2006 and 2007 interims leading up to the November 1, 2007 reporting deadline to the Governor and the Legislature.

**Questions the committee may wish to consider:**

***Data Warehouse Questions***

1. When will the data warehouse at PED be fully implemented and what are the anticipated additional costs?
2. Has PED considered expanding the architecture design of the data warehouse into a P-20 accountability system which was one of the recommendations of the 2004 Performance Accountability Data Systems Project? How would the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Rights Act* (FERPA) affect the implementation of a P-20 accountability system?

***HM 42 Questions***

1. Has the HED Data Sharing Task Force collaborated with PED on how to use the capabilities of the data warehouse as a centralized data repository?
2. What were the task force's discussions on the use of the state-issued student ID number as a common student data source?
3. The HED Data Sharing Task Force report includes "identified current successful data sharing" among state agencies. How did the task force determine that the data among agencies is valid and successful?
4. HM 42 requests that representatives of institutions of higher education and public schools be included in the efforts to establish common, shared data systems. How are the institutions of higher education, other than NMSU, and public schools included in the activities of the HED Data Sharing Task Force?
5. HM 42 does not request a report to the Governor and Legislature on the efforts of the agencies cited in the memorial until November 1, 2007. What benefits can the Legislature anticipate in funding an FY 08 pilot project, primarily for professional services? How or why did the Data Sharing Task Force estimate continued costs for FY 09 if a pilot is only for one year?