

State of New Mexico
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September 12, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Education Study Committee

FR: Pamela Herman

RE: STAFF BRIEF: COLLEGE/WORKPLACE READINESS AND HIGH SCHOOL REDESIGN: *EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL INITIATIVE STUDY, HM 33 (2005) & HM 19 (2006)*

The 2006 interim workplan for the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) includes a presentation of a study requested in two memorials, HM 33 (2005), *Early College High School Initiative Study* and HM 19, *Roswell-Area Early College High School Study*.

Issues:

According to the Education Commission of the States (ECS), early college high schools are a high school reform strategy that combines high school and college, allowing students to earn both a high school diploma and college credits. The literature on early college high schools describes many variations on the model; however, they all do the following:

- reach out to students who are underserved;
- demand a cooperative relationship and active collaboration between the school and college administrators;
- combine the resources of both high school and college;
- enhance the role of high school faculty; and
- integrate high school and college study in an articulated program.

In 2005, the House of Representatives passed HM 33, *Early College High School Initiative Study*, requesting that Eastern New Mexico University at Roswell (ENMU-Roswell) and Hagerman Municipal Schools do the following:

- study the feasibility and effectiveness of an early college high school initiative;
- develop a survey of staff, students, parents and community members to gauge expectations, satisfaction and local needs;
- monitor curricula to ensure high academic standards, alignment and effectiveness of instruction;
- evaluate current curricula to ensure adequate preparation of middle and high school students for participation in an early college high school initiative; and
- present the results of this study to the LESC by September 2006.

In response to the memorial, ENMU-Roswell and Hagerman Municipal Schools undertook a pilot project during school year 2005-2006 to operate an early college high school to determine the feasibility of such a project.

In 2006, the House of Representatives passed HM 19, *Roswell-Area Early College High School Study*. That memorial is essentially identical to HM 33 (2005) except that it adds Dexter Consolidated Schools, Lake Arthur Municipal Schools, and Loving Municipal Schools to the parties requested to participate in the study (see Attachments 1 and 2).

Background:

Early college high schools are described by ECS as an expansion of the idea of middle colleges, which are high schools located on college campuses such as the Middle College High School at the UNM campus in Gallup. Jobs for the Future and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are working in partnership nationally to develop early college high schools, with additional sponsorship from other large national philanthropies. While more than one model exists for early college high schools, the Gates Foundation advocates for small, autonomous schools that blend high school and college into a coherent educational program, designed so that:

- all students can achieve two years of college credit as they are earning a high school diploma, within four or five years of entering ninth grade;
- students start college work based on their performance; and
- students prepare to complete a baccalaureate degree.

According to the Gates Foundation, early college high schools should reach out to middle schools and provide extensive support to ensure that all students are ready for college level courses in high school.

A July 2006 report by Jobs for the Future entitled *Smoothing the Path: Changing State Policies to Support Early College High School* states that “because implementing early college high schools requires coordination between secondary and postsecondary education policies, the cases also expose the systemic misalignment that must be addressed to improve the transition from high school to and through postsecondary education—independent of early college high schools themselves.” The report indicates that early college high schools present “first steps in a long-term agenda to align and integrate grades 9 through 14 so that students can move more seamlessly into postsecondary education.”

Smoothing the Path studies early college high school programs in four states (Ohio, Utah, Georgia, and Texas) and identifies the following issues and lessons from the field for state policy makers:

- standards and eligibility for student placement in courses;
- appropriate student course loads;
- applicability of state dual/concurrent enrollment policies to early college high school programs;
- funding mechanisms for an integrated secondary/postsecondary curriculum;
- applicability of scholarship assistance to postsecondary credits earned by high school students;
- transferability of college credits earned in early college high school programs;
- capital funding (since early college high schools are often physically located on college campuses); and
- research and evaluation, adequately funded, to measure the benefits of early college high schools in terms of increasing postsecondary access and improving student outcomes.

Presenters:

Ms. Guyla Maples, Principal, Hagerman High School, Hagerman Municipal Schools, and Dr. Dwight Rogers, Dean of Instruction at Eastern New Mexico University at Roswell, will present the results of the early college high school feasibility study and pilot project. Msrs. William and Justin Squire will describe the early college high school project in Hagerman from the student viewpoint.

Questions the committee may wish to consider:

1. What does the study requested in HM 33 and HM 19 indicate regarding the feasibility of the proposed early college high school initiative?
2. What differences exist, if any, between an early college high school program and dual/concurrent enrollment programs; and what policy implications do these differences entail?
3. What high school-college alignment issues, if any, does the early college high school concept present, and what alignment issues, if any, does it resolve?
4. Under what circumstances might it be appropriate to replicate the project of ENMU and Hagerman Municipal Schools elsewhere in New Mexico?



The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

47th Legislature, 1st Session

LAWS 2005

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 33,

as amended

Introduced by

REPRESENTATIVE CANDY SPENCE EZZELL

REPRESENTATIVE AVON W. WILSON
REPRESENTATIVE DANIEL R. FOLEY



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A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY AT ROSWELL AND
HAGERMAN MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS STUDY THE FEASIBILITY AND
EFFECTIVENESS OF AN EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL INITIATIVE.

WHEREAS, education beyond high school is now more
critical than ever before and only ten percent of Hispanic
students complete a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, first generation college students are nearly
twice as likely not to complete college as those students with
college-educated parents, and lower-income students are seven
times more likely not to complete a bachelor's degree than
upper-income students; and

WHEREAS, students are not academically prepared for
college, as evidenced by the growing number of students
enrolled in noncredit, remedial courses offered by state
colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, the best predictors of college completion are
not a student's grades or SAT scores, but the difficulty of
the high school courses a student is required to complete; and

WHEREAS, in the transition from high school to college,
there is a need to emphasize academic preparedness rather than
credit-hours alone; and

WHEREAS, the need exists to allow students to earn an
associate's degree or two years of college credit toward a

1 bachelor's degree and a high school diploma simultaneously;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, high school faculty can act as advisors to
4 assist students in completing an academic plan and can monitor
5 their progress to help them overcome barriers to success; and

6 WHEREAS, experiencing the rigor, depth and intensity of
7 college-level work during high school can help underachieving,
8 average and outstanding students build confidence in their
9 ability to succeed in college; and

10 WHEREAS, this initiative could develop a unique vision
11 and learning environment that could dramatically increase the
12 possibility that our most needy students can truly meet the
13 mandates of the federal No Child Left Behind Act;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
15 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that eastern New
16 Mexico university at Roswell and the Hagerman municipal school
17 district study the feasibility and effectiveness of an early
18 college high school initiative; develop a survey of staff,
19 students, parents and community members to gauge expectations,
20 satisfaction and local needs; monitor curricula to ensure high
21 academic standards, alignment and effectiveness of
22 instruction; and evaluate current curricula to ensure adequate
23 preparation of middle and high school students for
24 participation in an early college high school initiative; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of this study be

1 presented to the legislative education study committee by
2 September 2006.

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S/ BEN LUJAN
BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

S/ STEPHEN R. ARIAS
STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

47th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2006

CHAPTER _____

HOUSE MEMORIAL 19, as amended

Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE CANDY SPENCE EZZELL



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY AT ROSWELL,
3 HAGERMAN MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS, DEXTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS, LAKE
4 ARTHUR MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS AND LOVING MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS STUDY
5 THE FEASIBILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF AN EARLY COLLEGE HIGH
6 SCHOOL INITIATIVE.

7
8 WHEREAS, education beyond high school is now more
9 critical than ever before, and only ten percent of Hispanic
10 students complete a bachelor's degree; and

11 WHEREAS, first generation college students are nearly
12 twice as likely not to complete college as those students with
13 college-educated parents, and lower-income students are seven
14 times more likely not to complete a bachelor's degree than
15 upper-income students; and

16 WHEREAS, students are not academically prepared for
17 college, as evidenced by the growing number of students
18 enrolled in noncredit, remedial courses offered by state
19 colleges and universities; and

20 WHEREAS, the best predictors of college completion are
21 not a student's grades or SAT scores, but the difficulty of
22 the high school courses a student is required to complete; and

23 WHEREAS, in the transition from high school to college,
24 there is a need to emphasize academic preparedness rather than
25 credit-hours alone; and

1 WHEREAS, the need exists to allow students to earn an
2 associate's degree or two years of college credit toward a
3 bachelor's degree and a high school diploma simultaneously;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, high school faculty can act as advisors to
6 assist students in completing an academic plan and can monitor
7 their progress to help them overcome barriers to success; and

8 WHEREAS, experiencing the rigor, depth and intensity of
9 college-level work during high school can help underachieving,
10 average and outstanding students build confidence in their
11 ability to succeed in college; and

12 WHEREAS, this initiative could develop a unique vision
13 and learning environment that could dramatically increase the
14 possibility that the most needy students can truly meet the
15 mandates of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001;

16 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
17 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that eastern New
18 Mexico university at Roswell, Hagerman municipal school
19 district, Dexter consolidated school district, Lake Arthur
20 municipal school district and Loving municipal school district
21 study the feasibility and effectiveness of an early college
22 high school initiative; develop a survey of staff, students,
23 parents and community members to gauge expectations,
24 satisfaction and local needs; monitor curricula to ensure high
25 academic standards, alignment and effectiveness of

1 instruction; and evaluate current curricula to ensure adequate
2 preparation of middle and high school students for
3 participation in an early college high school initiative; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of this study be
5 presented to the legislative education study committee by
6 September 2006; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to eastern New Mexico university at Roswell,
9 Hagerman municipal school district, Dexter consolidated school
10 district, Lake Arthur municipal school district and Loving
11 municipal school district.

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S/ BEN LUJAN
BEN LUJAN, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

S/ STEPHEN R. ARIAS
STEPHEN R. ARIAS, CHIEF CLERK
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES