



**New Mexico
Public Education Department**

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**Senate Memorial 81 of 2009^{LESC}
Report by
Public Education Department**

LESC
October 2009

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Senate Memorial 81 of 2009 Work Group

A work group met on July 8, 2009 in Albuquerque at the Cooperative Educational Services conference room from 9:00 am to 11:30 am for the purpose of addressing requirements for Senate Memorial 81, *Teaching License Gifted Education Endorsement*.

The following were in attendance:

Mary Rose CdeBaca, Public Education Department
Rick Scott, Higher Education Department
Kirk Carpenter, Aztec Public Schools
Karen Couch, Moriarty-Edgewood Schools
Ida Garcia, Gadsden Independent School District
Teresa Rowilson, Southwest Regional Education Cooperative
Erica Volkers, Central New Mexico College
Phil Baca, Public Education Department
John Frazzini, Las Cruces Public Schools/New Mexico Highlands University
Carolyn Brownrigg, Public Education Department
Pam Sutcliffe, Albuquerque Public Schools
Pamela Herman, Legislative Education Study Committee
Nicole Parra-Perez, Legislative Education Study Committee
Michael Schaughnessy, Eastern New Mexico University

Senate Memorial 81 of 2009 requires the Public Education Department to study the development of an endorsement for gifted education along with existing coursework, competencies, portfolio guidelines, and testing associated with a new endorsement.

The work group was tasked as follows:

- determine the requirements and competencies for a gifted education endorsement on teaching licenses;
- take into account existing coursework at colleges of education at state public postsecondary institutions;
- consider endorsement competencies such as those in the *Technical Assistance Manual for Gifted Education in New Mexico* and existing portfolio guidelines for gifted education such as those developed by the New Mexico Association for the Gifted; and
- identify assessments currently available in gifted education that could be adopted to demonstrate that gifted education-endorsed teachers are highly qualified, such as the ETS PRAXIS II Gifted Exam.

Discussion points were as follows:

- If there is a new requirement, it has to be flexible enough to give someone already in a position time to earn the endorsement.
- "Grandfathering" of current teachers of gifted students who do not meet the credential requirements should be available only for a short term, if at all, to those who acquired their credential by meeting the qualifications.
- This endorsement should be the equivalent of a bilingual education endorsement.
- In current rule, there are different requirements for a teacher's initial endorsement and later, added endorsements. The first endorsement generally requires more credit hours.

- In current rule, there are different requirements for a teacher's initial endorsement and later, added endorsements. The first endorsement generally requires more credit hours.
- Colleges will have three years to get programs developed and approved that meet standards. Now there is none because there is no endorsement.
- In current rule, there is another route for most endorsements; anyone who is currently endorsed in one area can take a test and earn another endorsement, without earning any credit hours.
- Draft a proposed rule and send it out to this group to verify whether it expresses what we have agreed. We can use the new TESOL rule as a model, foreclosing the option after 2012 to get the endorsement just by taking the test.
- Written report, including the draft rule ready by September or October.
- Present a report to the LESC before going forward with the rule hearing.

The work group recommended that a gifted endorsement be developed with the following considerations:

1. Any teacher who applies before July 1, 2012 and who has three years of experience in gifted education documented via verification of employment with the district would qualify for an endorsement. PED is recommending five years of experience in order to qualify for an endorsement prior to July 1, 2012.
2. Any teacher who applies before July 1, 2012 who has taken and passed a state-approved gifted education test could also receive an endorsement;
3. After July 2012, beginning teachers seeking an endorsement in Gifted Education would need to meet the specific requirements of the license and 24 semester credits in gifted education.
4. Teachers seeking to add an endorsement in Gifted Education to an existing New Mexico teaching license of any level shall pass the state-approved gifted education test and complete 12 semester credits in gifted education.
5. All candidates must apply through the New Mexico Public Education Licensure Department.