

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

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September 27, 2010

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Legislative Education Study Committee

**FR:** Eilani Gerstner

**RE: STAFF REPORT: STUDENT ID NUMBERS IN TWO-YEAR COLLEGE DATA SYSTEMS (RESPONSE TO LESC REQUEST)**

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During the 2009 interim, the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) received a staff report on the implementation of the prekindergarten through post-graduate (P-20) data system, including the expansion into public postsecondary institutions' data systems of the unique student identification number (Unique ID) assigned to New Mexico public school students for use in the Public Education Department's (PED's) Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System (STARS).

An issue raised in the staff report was that, even though LESC-endorsed legislation was enacted in 2009 to require that students' Unique ID numbers be included on their high school transcripts, community colleges that do not require high school transcripts for admission could not collect the Unique ID.

In response to the issue, the LESC wrote a letter to the Higher Education Department (HED), PED, the New Mexico Association of Community Colleges, and the New Mexico Independent Community Colleges, requesting that they form a work group to develop solutions for reporting students' Unique IDs to those branch and community colleges that do not require high school transcripts (see Attachment). On August 4, 2010, representatives from each of these entities and a representative from Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) met with LESC staff to discuss solutions to the issue.

At the meeting, CNM agreed to work with PED to conduct a pilot project to test the feasibility of CNM logging into PED's Unique ID system to match Unique IDs for New Mexico high school graduates to those attending CNM. While this pilot project is underway, PED has researched the cost of purchasing additional logins to allow multiple institutions login permission.

PED indicates that the initial estimate to purchase software licenses for HED and institutions of higher education to use the Unique ID system is approximately \$500,000. PED reports that more information on the status of the project will be available for the December 2010 LESC meeting.

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January 19, 2010

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Mr. Danny K. Earp  
Director  
NM Independent  
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6401 Richards Avenue  
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Dear Colleagues:

On behalf of the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC), we are writing to request that the Public Education Department (PED), Higher Education Department (HED), the New Mexico Association of Community Colleges, and the New Mexico Independent Community Colleges form a work group to develop a proposal for collecting students' identification (ID) numbers, known as Unique IDs, in unit record data systems of those branch and community colleges that do not require high school transcripts for admission.

During the September 2009 LESC meeting, the committee heard a report on the implementation of provisions in law that address components of a pre-kindergarten through post-graduate (P-20) data system. The report provided an overview of requirements for:

- HED, in collaboration with public postsecondary institutions, to use the same Unique ID number issued to a New Mexico public school student for a student enrolled in a public postsecondary educational institution; and
- inclusion of the Unique ID number on high school transcripts and general educational development (GED) certificates.

The report in September also included an LESC staff survey that indicated that, while several community and branch colleges always or often collect transcripts, several other institutions with

open enrollment policies do not require high school transcripts for admission. Therefore, some method appears to be needed to ensure that those institutions can collect Unique IDs of students from New Mexico public schools while maintaining their open enrollment policies.

The committee would like to hear a report on the requested information prior to September 30, 2010. As always, the committee and its staff look forward to working with you on this initiative.

Sincerely,



Senator Cynthia Nava, Chair



Representative Rick Miera, Vice Chair

xc: Legislative Education Study Committee