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September 18, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Legislative Education Study Committee

**FR:** Kevin Force *RF*

**RE: COMMITTEE REQUEST: QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NEW MEXICO VIRTUAL ACADEMY**

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During the July interim meeting of the Legislative Education Study Committee heard testimony regarding the New Mexico Virtual Academy (NMVA) and its curriculum provider, K12 Virtual Schools, LLC, a wholly owned non-profit subsidiary of K12, Inc., from Ms. Mary Gifford, Senior Vice-President of Education Policy and External Relations of K12, Inc., and Ms. Mari Adkins, Special Education Manager at NMVA. Ms. Gifford and Ms. Adkins presented information about such issues as curriculum, assessments, special education, and student enrollment and withdrawal. In the discussion following the presentations, members asked several questions that were to be answered by K12 staff, in writing:

1. Which New Mexico counties do not have student representation at the NMVA?
2. What percentage of students at the NMVA is from the Farmington Municipal Schools?
3. What is the total funding per student?
4. Of the student withdrawals from NMVA, how many drop-out versus how many move back to homeschooling or traditional school, change school districts, etc?

This staff brief presents the response to several of these questions:

1. *Which New Mexico counties do not have student representation at the NMVA?*

At the end of school year 2012-2013, Harding County was the only New Mexico County who sent no students to NMVA. As of the beginning of the current school year, Harding and De Baca Counties have no student representation at the academy.

2. *What percentage of students at the NMVA is from the Farmington Municipal Schools?*

LESC staff received from K12 staff a list of students from the Farmington Municipal Schools. According to the list of NMVA students living in San Juan County, the number of students residing in the Farmington School District is at least 81,<sup>1</sup> or 16.5 percent of the total student body of 489 for school year 2012-2013.

3. *What is the total funding per student?*

For school year 2012-2013, total funding per student at NMVA, including federal funds, was \$ 6,254.04; without federal funds, the total was \$ 5,374.74.

4. *Of the student withdrawals from NMVA, how many drop-out versus how many move back to home schooling or traditional school, change school districts, etc?*

According to information from K12:

- the majority, or about 64 percent, of withdrawing students returned either to public or home school (about 34 percent to public schools, 30 percent to home-school);
- about 8.0 percent moved to a school out of state;
- about 4.0 percent attended private schools within New Mexico;
- about 4.0 percent completed their GED;
- one student moved to community college; and
- the remaining student withdrawals were due to nonattendance.

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<sup>1</sup> A number of students were designated "undefined."