

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION,
2000**

INTRODUCED BY
Mark Boitano

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO STUDY THE BENEFITS
OF SMALLER SCHOOLS AS WELL AS METHODS TO REDUCE SCHOOL SIZE.

WHEREAS, nationwide since World War II, the number of
schools has declined seventy percent, while the average
school enrollment has grown five-fold, and one in four
secondary schools has more than one thousand students; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that smaller schools lead to
more innovative instructional practices, improved student
achievement, improved attendance and decreased disruptive
behavior, as well as a greater sense of ownership and pride
in the school by students; and

WHEREAS, a 1992 study indicates that students in smaller
schools are more likely to be involved in extracurricular
activities and hold positions of responsibility in those
activities; and

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1 WHEREAS, a recent study indicates that dropout rates in
2 smaller schools are lower than those in larger schools with
3 greater than six hundred students; and

4 WHEREAS, administrators and faculty are more accessible
5 and accountable to the community in smaller schools than in
6 larger schools;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
8 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state board of education be
9 requested to study the benefits of smaller schools as well as
10 methods to reduce school size; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state board of education
12 include in the analysis:

13 A. the cost of reaching the size of two hundred
14 fifty students for elementary schools, four hundred twenty-
15 five students for middle schools and six hundred students for
16 high schools; and

17 B. options for school districts such as class load
18 waivers, virtual classrooms, potential charter schools at
19 business sites, scheduling options, methods of identifying
20 donated or subsidized facilities and other resourceful ideas;
21 and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state board of education
23 report its findings to the legislative education study
24 committee by November 1, 2000; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
transmitted to the superintendent of public instruction, the
state board of education and the director of the legislative

underscored material = new
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1 education study committee.

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