

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 83

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2001

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO INITIATE AN ANNUAL JOINT STATE AND FEDERAL *STATUS OF INDIAN EDUCATION IN NEW MEXICO* REPORT IN COLLABORATION WITH THE FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND THEIR EDUCATION PROGRAMS IN NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, about thirty-five thousand seven hundred American Indian students were enrolled in New Mexico public schools in 1999-2000, representing eleven percent of the overall student population; and

WHEREAS, according to the December 2000 *New Mexico Accountability Report*, Native American students once again are shown to perform at a lower level in New Mexico than Anglo, Black, Hispanic and other ethnic groups on all statewide assessments administered in English; and

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1 WHEREAS, the needs of Indian children are often ignored or
2 overlooked to accommodate the needs of the non-Indian
3 population; and

4 WHEREAS, in response to tribal requests, all education
5 systems that serve Indian students are required to incorporate
6 tribal involvement in planning and policy- and decision-making
7 in every school and school district, make efforts to encourage
8 tribal involvement in planning, policy- and decision-making and
9 be accountable to tribes; and

10 WHEREAS, the state department of public education has an
11 established Indian education division, advisory council and
12 state board policy statement on Indian education to reflect
13 systemic reform emphasizing local control, government-to-
14 government relationship with tribes and the empowerment of
15 parents and communities to develop partnerships with school
16 districts; and

17 WHEREAS, it is the purpose of the state board of education
18 policy to secure a commitment to shared responsibility and
19 partnership with tribal entities and Indian parents to attain
20 quality education for their children and to ensure maximum
21 active participation by tribal entities and Indian parents in
22 the planning and development of educational goals, policies,
23 curricula and standards; and

24 WHEREAS, the federal government has established a
25 comprehensive federal Indian education policy statement that

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1 recognizes and supports tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, the
2 government-to-government relationship between the United States
3 and Indian nations, the trust relationship of the federal
4 government with Indian people and Indian self-determination as
5 the immutable foundation for the comprehensive policy
6 statement; and

7 WHEREAS, the resource of human potential represented by
8 emerging generations of native children cannot be wasted or
9 stunted because education policies are poorly implemented or
10 ignored; and

11 WHEREAS, current state and federal Indian education
12 policies are fragmented among various treaties, statutes,
13 agencies and programs, as are efforts to promote tribal and
14 federal educational partnerships; and

15 WHEREAS, coordination of the policies and programs rarely
16 takes place to ensure that Indian education and Indian students
17 are included in major national education initiatives; and

18 WHEREAS, the state department of public education has
19 established an annual school district accountability report to
20 provide a statewide format for reporting data for the previous
21 school year and ensure that the relevant data is provided
22 annually to parents, students, educators, policymakers,
23 legislators, the governor and business and economic development
24 organizations, and that format can be used to report
25 information on the status of Indian student education in New

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1 Mexico; and

2 WHEREAS, the state department of public education has been
3 required to ensure that the relevant data is provided annually
4 to Indian parents and the leaders of Indian nations, tribes or
5 pueblos and their departments of education, as well as Indian
6 centers in urban areas where large Indian populations are
7 located;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public
10 education be requested to initiate an annual joint state and
11 federal *Status of Indian Education in New Mexico* report on the
12 educational programs and achievements of Indian students in New
13 Mexico in all schools, including the bureau of Indian affairs
14 and tribal, charter or state schools; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of public
16 education bring together the needed parties to cooperate,
17 collaborate and enter into partnerships with tribal and federal
18 departments of education, including the Indian education
19 programs at the department of the interior and the federal
20 department of education to produce the annual *Status of Indian*
21 *Education in New Mexico* report; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the annual *Status of Indian*
23 *Education in New Mexico* report shall be distributed to the
24 twenty-two tribal governments through their departments of
25 education, the legislature, the Albuquerque Indian center, the

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1 legislative education study committee, the Indian affairs
2 committee and the legislative council service library; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the superintendent of public instruction, the
5 director of the division of Indian education, the secretary of
6 the interior, the secretary of education and the Albuquerque
7 Indian center.

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