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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 99

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Sue Wilson Beffort

A JOINT MEMORIAL

**REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO CREATE A
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PILOT PROJECT FOCUSED ON QUALITY TEACHERS.**

**WHEREAS, the state department of public education is
required by state and federal law to implement an
accountability system that monitors the academic progress of
students in schools on an annual basis; and**

**WHEREAS, schools making adequate yearly progress may be
identified for rewards and schools not making annual progress
are identified as probationary schools and face possible
sanctions if adequate progress does not occur for a period of
consecutive years; and**

**WHEREAS, research indicates a strong relationship between
the quality of teaching in a school and student academic
performance; and**

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1 WHEREAS, the following strategies are proposed as a means
2 to focus on issues of teacher quality and student needs in
3 order to improve student academic performance in probationary
4 schools:

5 A. providing extended contracts for school
6 personnel for an eight-hour day;

7 B. employing for the participating elementary
8 schools only those teachers who are fully certified in the
9 field in which they teach, provided that transfers of teachers
10 who have substandard or substitute certificates or are teaching
11 on subject waivers to other schools shall be in accordance with
12 the due process provisions of Chapter 22, Article 10 NMSA 1978;

13 C. providing a rigorous evaluation, mentorship and
14 intervention program for teachers who choose to remain at the
15 pilot project elementary schools;

16 D. constituting a school personnel committee,
17 consisting of a curriculum coordinator, six teachers and four
18 parents, that develops criteria for selecting teacher
19 candidates to fill vacancies and make recommendations to the
20 principal on teacher candidates;

21 E. requiring the principal to employ new teachers
22 from a list of three candidates recommended by the school
23 personnel committee;

24 F. providing after-school activities and tutoring
25 services for the elementary school's students;

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1 G. providing full-day and full-year
2 pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs;

3 H. providing a five percent salary increase for
4 teachers in the elementary school above any other salary
5 increase approved by the local school board; and

6 I. providing an additional ten thousand dollar
7 (\$10,000) annual salary differential above the local school
8 board salary for each teacher who is certified by the national
9 board for professional teaching standards;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public
12 education be requested to identify three probationary public
13 elementary schools that are willing to enter into a five-year
14 pilot project to implement the strategies listed in this
15 memorial with the goal of improving student performance and
16 being removed from the list of probationary schools; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department work with the
18 selected public schools and their school districts to identify
19 all possible sources of state and federal funds to address
20 additional costs associated with the pilot project; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department provide
22 priority to the pilot project schools in awarding any state,
23 federal or private grants available, as allowable within
24 federal and state laws and guidelines; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the department and the pilot

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1 schools report annually to the legislative education study
2 committee on student progress in these pilot schools based on
3 the statewide accountability system required by state and
4 federal law; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the state department of public education and the
7 legislative education study committee.

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