

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 30

2 **47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY COUNCIL TO RESEARCH  
12 ISSUES RELATED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PARENT OR FAMILY CENTERS  
13 IN CERTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF  
14 INCLUDING THEM IN THE STATE'S PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY  
15 ADEQUACY STANDARDS.

16  
17 WHEREAS, in a 1999 lawsuit filed by the Zuni public school  
18 district, state district judge Joseph L. Rich found the state  
19 of New Mexico to be in violation of its state constitutional  
20 requirement to establish and maintain "a uniform system of  
21 public schools sufficient for the education of, and open to,  
22 all of the children of school age in the state" in the way the  
23 state funded public school capital outlay expenditures; and

24 WHEREAS, the judge ordered the state to establish and  
25 implement a uniform funding system for capital improvements of

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1 New Mexico school districts and for correcting past inequities;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, in response to the judge's order, New Mexico  
4 changed the way in which the state funds public school capital  
5 outlay expenditures by making extensive amendments to the  
6 Public School Capital Outlay Act; and

7 WHEREAS, prior to 2001, public school capital outlay  
8 funding was primarily the responsibility of each local school  
9 community with the provision of state funding limited only to  
10 those districts with "critical" needs as defined in statute;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, beginning in 2001, legislation was enacted to  
13 phase in a new method of funding public school capital outlay  
14 expenditures that uses a standards-based approach and a state-  
15 share formula based upon a local school district's property tax  
16 wealth and its local effort; and

17 WHEREAS, one of the cornerstones of this new, equalized  
18 funding system is a set of adequacy standards adopted by the  
19 public school capital outlay council prior to September 1, 2002  
20 and required to be used to evaluate and prioritize public  
21 school capital outlay projects after September 1, 2003; and

22 WHEREAS, state funding can be used only to pay for capital  
23 outlay expenditures that allow school facilities to meet these  
24 adequacy standards; and

25 WHEREAS, school districts that wish to construct

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1 facilities that exceed state adequacy standards must do so with  
2 locally generated funding; and

3 WHEREAS, within the past five years, nearly thirty local  
4 districts have established so-called "parent" or "family  
5 centers" in schools that serve low-income students, many of  
6 whom come from homes in which English is not the primary  
7 language; and

8 WHEREAS, research shows that these students are often most  
9 likely to drop out of school; and

10 WHEREAS, research also shows that parent involvement in  
11 their children's education is one of the most predictable  
12 factors in student success; and

13 WHEREAS, parent or family centers in schools that serve  
14 low-income students have proven not only to help students be  
15 successful in school, but also to provide a venue for parents  
16 to interact and work with other parents and for students to  
17 interact and work with other students and parents; and

18 WHEREAS, many already overcrowded schools have no space  
19 available in their current facilities to provide parent or  
20 family centers; and

21 WHEREAS, very often schools that serve low-income students  
22 are located in districts with low property tax valuations and  
23 are unable to generate much local funding; and

24 WHEREAS, these schools or districts must rely primarily on  
25 state funding to remodel or construct facilities; and

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