

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE AND THE OFFICE
3 OF EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT AN AUDIT OF THE
4 ALBUQUERQUE SCHOOL DISTRICT.

5
6 WHEREAS, with approximately ninety-four thousand six
7 hundred students, Albuquerque public schools is the largest
8 school district in the state and one of the largest in the
9 country; and

10 WHEREAS, it is a majority Hispanic school district,
11 with fifty-four and one-half percent Hispanic, just over
12 thirty percent Anglo, about five percent Native American,
13 almost four percent African American and about two and
14 one-half percent Asian students; and

15 WHEREAS, the school district encompasses the south
16 valley, the southeast heights, the far northeast heights and
17 the west mesa areas of the Albuquerque metropolis and
18 includes the entire range of the socioeconomic scale, with
19 about forty percent of its elementary and middle school
20 students receiving free or reduced-fee lunch; and

21 WHEREAS, the state equalization guarantee includes a
22 cost differential that provides school districts with
23 additional funds based on certain characteristics that
24 describe students at risk of dropping out, including
25 mobility, family income, English language learner and percent

1 of students who receive title I funding; and

2 WHEREAS, because these characteristics are accurate
3 predictors of the number of students who are at risk of not
4 completing high school, it is important that the state
5 funding for this purpose be spent in the schools and
6 classrooms that generate the funds; and

7 WHEREAS, the schools in the Rio Grande high school,
8 Highland high school and Albuquerque high school clusters
9 have large numbers of students who come from low
10 socioeconomic backgrounds; and

11 WHEREAS, anecdotal information indicates that these
12 schools are not receiving the financial aid they generated
13 from their large numbers of at-risk students and, therefore,
14 are hampered in their ability to provide the intensive
15 services that at-risk students need if they are to stay in
16 school and graduate;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
18 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative finance committee
19 and the office of education accountability be requested to
20 conduct an audit of the Albuquerque public schools to
21 determine how, to what purposes and to what schools state and
22 federal funds are allocated and to determine whether the
23 district is putting its at-risk funding into the schools with
24 the highest dropout rates and other indicators of large
25 at-risk student populations; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
2 transmitted to the director of the legislative finance
3 committee and the director of the office of education
4 accountability.

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