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SENATE MEMORIAL 37

**48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007**

INTRODUCED BY

James G. Taylor

A MEMORIAL

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the school district encompasses the south  
valley, the southeast heights, the far northeast heights and

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1 the west mesa areas of the Albuquerque metropolis and includes  
2 the entire range of the socioeconomic scale, with about forty  
3 percent of its elementary and middle school students receiving  
4 free or reduced-fee lunch; and

5 WHEREAS, the state equalization guarantee includes a cost  
6 differential that provides school districts with additional  
7 funds based on certain characteristics that describe students  
8 at risk of dropping out, including mobility, family income,  
9 English language learner and percent of students who receive  
10 title I funding; and

11 WHEREAS, because these characteristics are accurate  
12 predictors of the number of students who are at risk of not  
13 completing high school, it is important that the state funding  
14 for this purpose be spent in the schools and classrooms that  
15 generate the funds; and

16 WHEREAS, the schools in the Rio Grande high school,  
17 Highland high school and Albuquerque high school clusters have  
18 large numbers of students who come from low socioeconomic  
19 backgrounds; and

20 WHEREAS, anecdotal information indicates that these  
21 schools are not receiving the financial aid they generated from  
22 their large numbers of at-risk students and, therefore, are  
23 hampered in their ability to provide the intensive services  
24 that at-risk students need if they are to stay in school and  
25 graduate;

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