

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 23

2 **49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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8 FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

9
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING STATE AND LOCAL PUBLIC EDUCATION-RELATED AGENCIES
12 AND INSTITUTIONS TO COOPERATE WITH PRIVATE INDUSTRY AND
13 PHILANTHROPIC ORGANIZATIONS TO STUDY THE FORMATION OF A
14 CONSORTIUM TO CONDUCT EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH TO SUPPORT SCHOOL
15 REFORM.

16
17 WHEREAS, beginning in the 1990s, legislation at the state
18 and federal levels has focused major attention and millions of
19 dollars in resources on achieving a vision of improved student
20 academic success in the public schools through systemic
21 changes; and

22 WHEREAS, in New Mexico, these changes have included
23 expanding the availability of high quality preschool and full-
24 day kindergarten; restructuring the teacher licensure system;
25 reconfiguring public school governance at the state and local

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1 levels; fostering growth in the number of charter schools;
2 introducing stringent assessment and accountability systems;
3 increasing high school graduation requirements; and aligning
4 high school standards with the expectations of college and
5 careers; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico has been recognized for setting high
7 academic standards in mathematics, science and language arts
8 and measuring achievement of those standards by an assessment
9 and accountability system, the rigor of which is shown to be
10 well-aligned with the national assessment of educational
11 progress; and

12 WHEREAS, the legislature has also mandated the creation of
13 an accountability system for colleges of education in order to
14 benchmark the performance of teacher preparation programs, the
15 primary juncture between public schools and higher education in
16 the educational pipeline; and

17 WHEREAS, since 2005, the legislature has appropriated
18 fourteen million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$14,700,000)
19 to the public education department to develop the student
20 teacher accountability reporting system, and the state is now
21 moving forward to create a pre-kindergarten through post-
22 secondary data system that will provide a rich information
23 resource for educational research; and

24 WHEREAS, these changes have all been aimed at ensuring
25 that the state provides a uniform system of free public schools

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1 sufficient for the education of all of the students of the
2 state as required by the constitution of New Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico faces particular challenges in
4 providing equal educational opportunity to all students,
5 including many who are from households that are non-English
6 speaking, highly mobile, low-income, headed by single or teen
7 parents, very rural or inner-city urban and who are from other
8 situations that may create barriers to educational success; and

9 WHEREAS, in the face of these challenges, New Mexico
10 students achieved improvements in performance, including growth
11 in proficiency in mathematics on the national assessment of
12 educational progress between 1992 and 2009 of fourteen
13 percentage points in fourth grade and ten percentage points in
14 eighth grade; and

15 WHEREAS, New Mexico students as a group have also achieved
16 improved rates of proficiency on state standards-based
17 assessments between 2005 and 2009 of eleven percentage points
18 in math, five percentage points in reading and six percentage
19 points in science; and

20 WHEREAS, despite meaningful advances, achievement gaps
21 among ethnic groups persist, high school graduation rates in
22 New Mexico are among the lowest in the nation and many schools
23 struggle to improve student achievement and maintain
24 improvements over time; and

25 WHEREAS, while there is a growing national body of

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1 educational research demonstrating effective strategies for
2 improving student achievement, there is still little science on
3 which to base the broader effort to effect permanent, system-
4 wide school reform; and

5 WHEREAS, fostering systemic change that produces
6 consistently excellent public schools statewide, serving
7 engaged and high-achieving students, may require a multi-
8 disciplinary effort supported by a wide range of researchers
9 and resources;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the office of education
12 accountability, the public education department and the higher
13 education department be requested to cooperate with local and
14 national research entities, public school districts and charter
15 schools, institutions of higher education, public school
16 teachers and higher education faculty, business and industry
17 groups and philanthropic organizations to study the need for
18 and feasibility of forming a consortium, including potential
19 partners such as local and national research institutes,
20 federal and state agencies and institutes, philanthropies,
21 industry groups and educators in the field, which will conduct
22 educational research to support long-term school reform; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the office of education
24 accountability provide a report of findings and recommendations
25 to the legislative education study committee and the governor

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by November 15, 2010; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the director of the office of education accountability, the secretary of public education, the secretary of higher education and the director of the legislative education study committee.