

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SJM 26

50th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2012

Tracking Number: .188638.1

Short Title: Study Ways to Improve Education

Sponsor(s): Senator Cynthia Nava

Analyst: Travis Dulany

Date: February 7, 2012

Bill Summary:

SJM 26 requests that the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) form a work group to explore the transformational educational methods offered by digital learning tools and related topics to improve and increase opportunities for student learning in New Mexico.

More specifically, the work group is to examine:

- national and state trends in digital learning policy;
- distance, hybrid, and blended learning models;
- alternative opportunities that digital learning and blended learning provide to current graduation policies;
- funding models to support digital learning;
- best practices in using and implementing distance, hybrid, and blended learning models in traditional classrooms;
- national models for assuring quality education in distance learning programs;
- opportunities to expand student access to high quality instructional materials through digital formats; and
- cost benefits to New Mexico of having teachers develop and implement an affordable curriculum that reflects the rich diversity of cultures in New Mexico.

Finally, the joint memorial requests the work group to report its findings and recommendations to the LESC by November 30, 2013, and again by November 30, 2014.

Fiscal Impact:

Legislative memorials do not contain an appropriation.

Fiscal Issues:

Memorials requesting interim committees to convene work groups are likely to have a fiscal impact in terms of staff time, travel, office supplies, and other items.

Substantive Issues:

According to a fall 2011 report from the National Conference of State Legislatures and Penn Hill Group, titled *The Digital Learning State and Federal Policy Landscape*:

- U.S. Department of Education (USDE) data show that:
 - 100 percent of public schools in the United States have instructional computers with internet access, 97 percent of which have computers in the classroom;
 - 97 percent of schools provide liquid crystal display and digital light processing projectors for instruction;
 - 38 percent of schools provide classroom response systems for instruction; and
 - 87 percent of schools use technology to assess students and provide individualized instruction;
- although public schools provide access to technology in the classroom, 28 percent of fourth-graders and 24 percent of eighth-graders who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch do not have a computer at home;
- Title II, Part D funding of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (Enhancing Education Through Technology, or E2T2), has experienced a steady decline in financial support since FY 02; and
- Latinos are more likely to access the internet through a mobile device, rather than a desktop or laptop computer.

According to the USDE, 1.5 million elementary and secondary students participated in some form of online learning in 2010.

Related Bills:

None as of February 7, 2012.