

HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 2

44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - 2ND SPECIAL SESSION, 2000

INTRODUCED BY

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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO STUDY ALTERNATIVES TO SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS FROM PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND DEVELOP AN INTERVENTION PLAN THAT SCHOOL DISTRICTS MUST FOLLOW PRIOR TO SUSPENDING OR EXPELLING STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, students at risk are defined by researchers as those students likely to have low academic achievement and apt to drop out of school and enter the job market as unskilled laborers unprepared for full citizenship in our technological culture; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that many students at risk enter school already lacking in linguistic skills and parental involvement; therefore, as these students move through the education system, many drop out and face futures without basic skills such as functional literacy; and

WHEREAS, suspension and expulsion are used too

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1 frequently by some schools as a remedy for aberrant behavior,
2 and those actions do not have any educational benefit; and

3 WHEREAS, it is imperative that students at risk not be
4 denied the benefits of an education;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state department of public
7 education be requested to study alternatives to suspension
8 and expulsion of students from public schools and develop an
9 intervention plan that school districts follow prior to
10 suspending or expelling students; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the intervention plan
12 include course credit completion, community service and
13 counseling; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the goal of the intervention
15 plan be to create other options for the development and
16 success of at-risk students; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state department of
18 public education report its findings and recommendations to
19 the legislative education study committee by October 2000;
20 and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the superintendent of public instruction, the
23 state board of education and the legislative education study
24 committee.
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