

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 20

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

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Cynthia Nava

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9  
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE, IN  
12 COOPERATION WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION, TO  
13 STUDY THE EFFECTS OF EXTENDED DAYS AND AN EXTENDED SCHOOL YEAR  
14 ON THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS OF NEW MEXICO'S PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN  
15 AND THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHERS.

16  
17 WHEREAS, research indicates that continual, comprehensive  
18 and uninterrupted time spent on instruction by certified school  
19 instructors is a major influence on student academic success;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, current statute, Section 22-8-9 NMSA 1978,  
22 requires that no budget for a school district shall be approved  
23 by the state department of public education that does not  
24 provide for a school year consisting of at least one hundred  
25 eighty full instructional days or the equivalent; and

WHEREAS, current statute, Section 22-2-8.1 NMSA 1978,  
establishes the minimum school day lengths for kindergarten and  
grades one through twelve; and

WHEREAS, there is a perception by the public that some

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1 school districts may not be providing the statutory mandate of  
2 one hundred eighty days of instruction; and

3 WHEREAS, maximizing and strengthening direct student  
4 instruction and learning by well-qualified teachers is  
5 essential to increasing student achievement;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
7 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study  
8 committee, in cooperation with the state department of public  
9 education, study the effects of extended days and an extended  
10 school year on the academic success of New Mexico's public  
11 school children and the professional development of teachers;  
12 and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study examine how the  
14 mandates of one hundred eighty instructional days and the  
15 length of the school day are currently implemented by New  
16 Mexico school districts and examine instructional time on task  
17 and time for teacher collaboration for school planning and  
18 improvement of instruction; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include a review of  
20 successful national practices with regard to the feasibility of  
21 extending the school day and school year for New Mexico public  
22 schools; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and  
24 recommendations be presented to the appropriate legislative  
25 interim committee by November 2000; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
transmitted to the superintendent of public instruction and the  
director of the legislative education study committee for  
appropriate distribution.

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