

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ALLOW ACADEMIC
3 ACCELERATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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5 WHEREAS, academic acceleration options such as early
6 entry to kindergarten, grade skipping, single-subject
7 acceleration, faster-paced courses, dual and concurrent
8 credit courses, early entry to college and credit for
9 demonstrated mastery are among the most effective and best-
10 researched educational interventions; and

11 WHEREAS, grouping of similarly able students for
12 acceleration of school curriculum has been shown to have
13 positive social and academic impacts; and

14 WHEREAS, grouping of gifted students exposes them to an
15 appropriately challenging curriculum and provides an
16 opportunity for functional social interactions; and

17 WHEREAS, gifted students are often separated from their
18 similarly able peers and placed in general education
19 classrooms; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico does not have a state policy on
21 acceleration; and

22 WHEREAS, local school boards determine whether and to
23 what extent acceleration is permitted; and

24 WHEREAS, while acceleration costs less than many other
25 educational interventions, acceleration is often

1 underutilized because not all school districts have
2 acceleration policies, existing district-level acceleration
3 policies vary widely and dual credit memoranda sometimes
4 prevent students from taking available dual-credit courses;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, giftedness is supported in the federal Every
7 Student Succeeds Act; and

8 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for the state to allow
9 for early entry into kindergarten, award credit for
10 demonstrated mastery and establish needs and research-based
11 interventions for gifted and high-ability learners as a
12 priority for expending Every Student Succeeds Act funds; and

13 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial if school boards would
14 adopt a policy for academic acceleration that specifies a
15 range of available options, specifies non-discrimination and
16 inclusiveness of all students and empowers teams that
17 identify gifted students and those with disabilities and all
18 other students to make acceleration decisions; and

19 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for schools to include
20 procedures for appeal and due process, safe reversion of
21 placement if the acceleration is ineffective, group and
22 accelerate gifted and high-ability students for their
23 individual needs, provide special supports for disadvantaged
24 and disabled students to participate in acceleration and
25 accept accelerated credit or college credit toward graduation

1 from all accredited schools;

2 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public
4 education department be requested to research options to
5 allow for early entry into kindergarten, permit credit for
6 demonstrated mastery and establish needs and research-based
7 interventions for gifted and high-ability learners as a
8 priority for expending Every Student Succeeds Act funds; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local school boards be
10 requested to consider the adoption of policies for academic
11 acceleration that specify a range of available options, that
12 provide for non-discrimination and inclusiveness of all
13 students and empower teams that identify gifted students and
14 students with disabilities and all other students to make
15 acceleration decisions; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that school boards be requested
17 to consider: the inclusion of procedures for appeal and due
18 process; safe reversion of placement if acceleration is
19 ineffective; grouping and accelerating gifted and high-
20 ability students as appropriate for their individual needs;
21 provision of special supports for disadvantaged and disabled
22 students, thus allowing them to participate in acceleration;
23 and acceptance of accelerated credit or college credit toward
24 graduation from all accredited schools; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be

1 transmitted to the governor and the secretary of public
2 education; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the secretary of public
4 education be requested to transmit copies of this memorial to
5 school districts and charter schools.

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