

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 145

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Mimi Stewart

5
6
7
8
9
10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE, IN
12 CONSULTATION WITH THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, TO CONVENE A
13 SCHOOL GRADES WORK GROUP TO COLLECT AND ANALYZE EDUCATION DATA
14 ON BEST PRACTICES AND INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING THAT IMPROVE
15 STUDENT LEARNING AND SCHOOL GRADES; COLLECT AND ANALYZE
16 EDUCATION STAKEHOLDER DATA AND OTHER INPUT REGARDING SCHOOL
17 GRADES; CONSIDER THE DISPARITY OF LEARNING AND TEACHING
18 RESOURCES THROUGHOUT THE STATE; AND PROVIDE FINDINGS AND
19 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR SCHOOLS AND THE
20 SCHOOL GRADING SYSTEM TO THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY
21 COMMITTEE BY DECEMBER 1, 2018.

22
23 WHEREAS, the A-B-C-D-F Schools Rating Act has not been
24 without controversy since it was enacted in 2011; and

25 WHEREAS, most of the controversy surrounds the opacity of

.208006.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 the system's complicated calculations and the wide swings in
2 individual school grades from year to year; and

3 WHEREAS, various stakeholders have different opinions as
4 to the factors that should be considered when grading schools,
5 such as improvements in truancy and absenteeism rates, parent
6 engagement activities, additional learning opportunities for
7 students, college and career readiness indicators and a broader
8 exploration of growth for all students; and

9 WHEREAS, better, more focused data collection and
10 reporting that defines student categories more precisely, such
11 as racial and ethnic group, gender, economic disadvantage,
12 disabilities, English proficiency status, homeless status,
13 foster care, military deployed parent, et cetera, will assist
14 local superintendents, head administrators and other school
15 personnel to pinpoint instructional or community resources to
16 those student groups needing concentrated attention;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
18 OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study committee,
19 in consultation with the public education department, be
20 requested to convene a school grades work group to meet during
21 the 2017 and 2018 interims to:

22 A. study the results of literature searches on best
23 practices and innovative school programming;

24 B. collect and analyze data from school districts
25 and charter schools and high-performing and low-performing

.208006.1

underscoring material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 public schools;

2 C. collect and analyze data and comments from
3 education stakeholders, including school personnel, parents and
4 community and civic organizations, regarding school grades and
5 student performance vis a vis school, home and community
6 environments and resources; and

7 D. consider learning and teaching resource
8 disparities throughout the state; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the school grades work group
10 consist of:

11 A. two public school teachers in traditional
12 schools;

13 B. two charter school representatives;

14 C. two education labor union representatives;

15 D. two school principals;

16 E. two local superintendents;

17 F. two school board members;

18 G. two parents of students currently enrolled in a
19 New Mexico public school;

20 H. two tribal leaders or tribal liaisons;

21 I. two representatives from a community
22 organization with an education focus;

23 J. the chair and vice chair of the legislative
24 education study committee, or designees from the committee; and

25 K. two representatives from the public education

.208006.1

underscored material = new
~~[bracketed material] = delete~~

1 department; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the school grades work group
3 present its findings and recommendations to the legislative
4 education study committee no later than December 1, 2018. The
5 work group's report shall include:

6 A. the appropriate point distribution between
7 student achievement measures and other school quality
8 indicators;

9 B. turnaround models for low-performing public
10 schools;

11 C. best practices from high-performing public or
12 private schools in high-poverty areas, including schools in
13 urban, rural and tribal environments;

14 D. innovative school programs from public or
15 private schools and how those programs affect student and
16 school performance;

17 E. best practices that focus on individual grading
18 indicators to increase improvement in those indicators;

19 F. best practices that increase the performance of
20 English language learners; and

21 G. other findings and recommendations of the work
22 group; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
24 transmitted to the legislative education study committee and
25 the public education department for appropriate distribution.

.208006.1