

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 20

2 **53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Linda M. Lopez

5
6
7
8
9
10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE OF COMMUNITY,
12 ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL PARTNERS TO IDENTIFY THE NEXT STEPS
13 REQUIRED TO DEVELOP ETHNIC STUDIES CURRICULA IN VOLUNTEER
14 SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

15
16 WHEREAS, approximately one-fourth of New Mexico's
17 population is under eighteen years of age; and

18 WHEREAS, approximately seventy-six percent of New Mexico's
19 public school students are students of color; and

20 WHEREAS, these students and their families from diverse
21 populations bring rich history and heritage to New Mexico's
22 public schools; and

23 WHEREAS, ethnic studies builds on the legacies of past
24 teachers and scholars from New Mexico, such as George I.
25 Sanchez and other courageous individuals, whose teachings of

.209958.2

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

1 New Mexico's rich culture and history continue to inspire
2 curricula and research regarding ethnic studies; and

3 WHEREAS, community organizations and coalitions have over
4 decades built a strong support of ethnic studies in the public
5 schools; and

6 WHEREAS, school board members and administrators in some
7 of the largest and smallest school districts in New Mexico
8 strongly support the development and teaching of ethnic studies
9 in New Mexico; and

10 WHEREAS, these same school districts are voicing the need
11 for support from the community and the state for developing
12 ethnic studies curricula, teacher licensure and professional
13 development; and

14 WHEREAS, university ethnic studies faculty are developing
15 dual credit classes already attended by hundreds of high school
16 students who go on to enroll and graduate from institutions of
17 higher education; and

18 WHEREAS, we are the seeds, a community coalition focused
19 on ethnic studies, organized annual statewide gatherings and
20 provided space for students, faculty, administrators and
21 community members to provide testimony on the powerful impact
22 of ethnic studies on their lives; and

23 WHEREAS, a gathering of New Mexico education and community
24 leaders from across ethnic groups convened at dual language
25 education of New Mexico's international la cosecha conference

.209958.2

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

1 and committed to support, develop and teach ethnic studies in
2 New Mexico; and

3 WHEREAS, Article 12 of the constitution of New Mexico
4 promises to provide educational opportunities to all of New
5 Mexico's students, which New Mexico cannot do if educators,
6 administrators and students are not cognizant of cultural,
7 linguistic and other richness among New Mexico families; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico routinely ranks at the bottom
9 nationally on student performance measures; and

10 WHEREAS, less than twenty percent of students meet
11 expectations in math, and less than thirty percent of students
12 meet expectations in English, according to the most recent
13 partnership for assessment of readiness for college and careers
14 test results; and

15 WHEREAS approximately one in three students does not
16 graduate from high school; and

17 WHEREAS, all students can learn and succeed, yet
18 achievement and graduation rates are even lower for New
19 Mexico's most vulnerable populations and economically
20 disadvantaged students, English language learner students,
21 Native American students and students with disabilities; and

22 WHEREAS, only fourteen and one-half percent of
23 economically disadvantaged students and five percent of English
24 language learner students meet expectations in math; and

25 WHEREAS, ethnic studies benefits students in observable

.209958.2

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

1 ways, such as students becoming more academically engaged,
2 increasing their performance on academic tests, improving their
3 graduation rates and developing a strong sense of self and
4 personal empowerment; and

5 WHEREAS, the use of ethnic studies curricula has
6 dramatically raised both achievement and graduation rates when
7 taught in neighboring states; and

8 WHEREAS, ethnic studies courses with the goal of preparing
9 students to be global citizens, with an appreciation for the
10 contributions of multiple cultures, will close the achievement
11 gap, reduce student truancy, increase student enrollment,
12 reduce dropout rates and increase graduation rates;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
14 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study
15 committee, the public education department and the university
16 of New Mexico college of education convene a task force to
17 study and identify the next steps in developing ethnic studies
18 curricula in volunteer school districts across New Mexico,
19 including the development of department-approved academic
20 standards; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force include one or
22 more representatives from each of the following:

23 A. university and public school ethnic studies
24 programs;

25 B. we are the seeds and partner organizations;

.209958.2

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

- 1 C. the colleges of education and institutions of
2 teacher preparation;
- 3 D. the office on African American affairs;
- 4 E. the Indian affairs department;
- 5 F. the all pueblo council of governors;
- 6 G. engaging Latino communities in education;
- 7 H. public school representatives, particularly from
8 urban and rural and small, medium and large school districts;
- 9 I. the public education department Hispanic
10 education liaison;
- 11 J. the director of the Indian education division of
12 the public education department;
- 13 K. the director of the language and culture bureau
14 of the public education department;
- 15 L. teacher unions;
- 16 M. dual language education of New Mexico or other
17 professional organizations for teachers; and
- 18 N. other organizations or persons whose work or
19 interests can provide valuable insights into the benefits and
20 costs of ethnic studies; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
22 findings and recommendations to the legislative education study
23 committee by November 1, 2018; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
25 transmitted to the chair of the legislative education study

.209958.2

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

1 committee; the secretary of public education; the dean of the
2 university of New Mexico college of education; the public
3 education department for distribution to all department
4 offices; state agencies and organizations mentioned in this
5 memorial; and others the public education department believes
6 would be interested in the task force and its charge.

7 - 6 -
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

.209958.2