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HOUSE MEMORIAL 44

**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

INTRODUCED BY

Tara L. Lujan and Susan K. Herrera and Raymundo Lara and  
Joy Garratt and Debra M. Sariñana

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO CONVENE A  
COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FUNDING TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ISSUE OF  
SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS IN NEW MEXICO, TO  
DEVELOP CRITERIA FOR CERTIFYING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS, TO RECOMMEND  
FUNDING BASED ON CERTIFICATION AND TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY  
SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN.

WHEREAS, according to the criteria of the federal Every  
Student Succeeds Act, the community schools strategy is an  
evidence-based intervention that leads to improvement in  
student and school outcomes and, in particular, contributes to  
meeting the educational needs of low-achieving students in  
high-poverty schools; and

WHEREAS, the community schools strategy has been shown to  
have a positive effect on student attendance, test scores,

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1 graduation rates and students' social, emotional and physical  
2 development; and

3 WHEREAS, the community schools strategy is cost-effective,  
4 with an estimated return on investment of seven dollars (\$7.00)  
5 to fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for every one dollar (\$1.00) spent  
6 on community school coordinators; and

7 WHEREAS, the Community Schools Act was revised in 2019 to  
8 establish a community schools fund administered by the public  
9 education department to award grants to public schools to  
10 support the development and implementation of community schools  
11 initiatives in New Mexico; and

12 WHEREAS, more than one hundred planning and implementation  
13 community school grants have been awarded to public schools in  
14 New Mexico since April 2019, totaling over fourteen million  
15 dollars (\$14,000,000) in state and federally appropriated  
16 funds; and

17 WHEREAS, there are currently more than one hundred  
18 community schools in sixteen school districts across the state;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, there is currently no designation for community  
21 schools that demonstrates that a particular school meets the  
22 statutory requirements for a community school or that the  
23 school is implementing a high-quality community schools  
24 strategy; and

25 WHEREAS, there is no recurring funding in the general

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1 appropriation acts to sustain the cost of community schools  
2 initiatives beyond the planning and implementation grants  
3 awarded by the public education department;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
5 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary  
6 of public education be requested to convene a community schools  
7 funding task force composed of:

8 A. the secretary of public education or the  
9 secretary's designee, who shall chair the task force;

10 B. three representatives from the coalition for  
11 community schools;

12 C. two staff members of the legislative education  
13 study committee appointed by the chair of the legislative  
14 education study committee;

15 D. two staff members of the legislative finance  
16 committee appointed by the chair of the legislative finance  
17 committee; and

18 E. two members of the Indian education advisory  
19 council appointed by the assistant secretary for Indian  
20 education; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that vacancies on the task force  
22 may be filled by the original appointing authority and the  
23 chair of the task force may request the appointing authority to  
24 replace a task force member, if needed; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to

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1 analyze and evaluate grantee data collected by the public  
2 education department to study the:

3 A. adequacy of current grant funding to hire a  
4 full-time school-based community schools coordinator and  
5 support high-quality implementation of the community schools  
6 strategy;

7 B. effect of the lack of recurring state funding on  
8 the sustainability of community schools initiatives;

9 C. need for indicators of high-quality community  
10 schools, including implementation of a certification program  
11 for eligibility for annual funding; and

12 D. cost and return on investment to the state of  
13 supporting and funding community schools; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
15 partner with the coalition for community schools to develop a  
16 comprehensive set of criteria by which applicant public schools  
17 may be certified as high-quality community schools and eligible  
18 for recurring funding; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
20 partner with the coalition for community schools to develop a  
21 community schools strategic plan that:

22 A. includes one- to two-year goals, five- to  
23 ten-year goals and short- and long-term action steps to achieve  
24 those goals;

25 B. identifies whether action is required by the

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1 legislature, the public education department or any other  
2 public body; and

3 C. includes detailed cost estimates accompanied by  
4 agreed-upon research-based indicators of high-quality  
5 implementation of the community schools strategy; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
7 provide an interim report on its analyses, evaluations and  
8 initial recommendations to the legislative education study  
9 committee and the legislative finance committee by December 1,  
10 2023; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the final report of the task  
12 force be provided to the governor and the legislature by  
13 November 1, 2024 and that the final report include the task  
14 force's findings and recommendations for statutory and other  
15 changes necessary to support and improve the state's community  
16 school strategy; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
18 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the chair of  
19 the legislative education study committee, the chair of the  
20 legislative finance committee and the coalition of community  
21 schools.