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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 12

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

INTRODUCED BY

Mimi Stewart

FOR THE EDUCATION INITIATIVES AND ACCOUNTABILITY TASK FORCE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO DESIGN  
A STATEWIDE READING INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE READING  
PROFICIENCY.

WHEREAS, the education initiatives and accountability  
task force was established in 1999 by the New Mexico  
legislative council; and

WHEREAS, the task force has determined that reading  
proficiently at grade level is its number one priority to be  
addressed by the 2000 legislature; and

WHEREAS, one of the many goals of the education  
initiatives and accountability task force is for all students  
in New Mexico to meet or exceed standards for reading  
proficiently at grades three through graduation; and

WHEREAS, the education initiatives and accountability  
task force desires that by New Mexico's one hundredth  
birthday of statehood, in 2012, all students graduate from

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1 high school multilingual and prepared for higher education  
2 and productive careers; and

3 WHEREAS, reading, or the inability to do so, is  
4 inextricably tied to the student dropout rate and many of the  
5 social problems that go along with students dropping out of  
6 school; and

7 WHEREAS, studies show that children who cannot recognize  
8 their names in writing before they start kindergarten are  
9 already behind in learning to read; and

10 WHEREAS, studies show that children who cannot read are  
11 disadvantaged in competing for jobs in today's high  
12 technology work force, cannot make intelligent consumer  
13 choices or cannot participate fully as citizens;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that, to improve reading proficiency in  
16 the state of New Mexico, the state department of public  
17 education design a statewide reading initiative in the year  
18 2000; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the superintendent of public  
20 instruction involve reading specialists, teachers, parents  
21 and others in the design process of the reading initiative;  
22 and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the design of the reading  
23 initiative focus on providing consistent assessment and  
24 evaluation of student reading levels, providing appropriate  
25 staff development at the public schools and school districts  
to assist teachers in the instruction of the reading  
initiative program and providing extra time in the student's

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1 day for the implementation of reading programs that reflect  
2 quality, research-based programs shown to improve reading  
3 proficiency; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the design of the reading  
5 initiative also focus on rewarding teachers and staff in  
6 schools and districts that are improving student success; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the superintendent of public  
8 instruction report to the legislative education study  
9 committee and the appropriate legislative interim committee  
10 about the designed reading initiative by August 2000; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
12 transmitted to the chairman of the legislative education  
13 study committee, the chairman of the appropriate legislative  
14 interim committee, the president of the state board of  
15 education and the superintendent of public instruction.