

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CHILDREN'S CABINET, STUDY THE CREATION AND OPERATION OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, community school students show significant gains in academic achievement and in essential areas of nonacademic development; and

WHEREAS, families of community school students show increased stability, communication with teachers and school involvement; and

WHEREAS, parents of community school students demonstrate a greater sense of responsibility for their children's learning success; and

WHEREAS, community schools enjoy stronger parent-teacher relationships, increased teacher satisfaction, a more positive school environment and greater community support; and

WHEREAS, community schools promote better use of public school buildings and their neighborhoods enjoy increased security, heightened community pride and better rapport among students and residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department, in conjunction with the children's cabinet, be requested to study the need for and possible approaches to structuring community

schools in the state's public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include:

A. identification of challenges and problems that New Mexico faces in reaching its educational goals;

B. inventory of community-schools-type programs at public school sites funded by different sources, such as municipal and county governments, foundations and other private-sector groups;

C. assessment of how those programs are addressing problems in their public schools and communities;

D. evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of those programs;

E. review of community school models in other states;

F. identification of key dimensions to implementing community schools in New Mexico, including program models, core activities, cost per student, governance and partnership models and staffing patterns;

G. costs of implementing community schools in New Mexico and funding sources other than public school funding; and

H. consideration of state policies that are needed to implement community schools in New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education department and the children's cabinet involve public schools,

local governments and community stakeholders in rural, urban and suburban school districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education department and the children's cabinet work closely with the funding formula study task force and its contractor, the American institutes for research, while conducting the study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education department and the children's cabinet report their findings and recommendations to the legislature by December 1, 2007; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the public education department; the secretary of children, youth and families for further distribution to the children's cabinet members; the legislative education study committee; and the legislative council service for further distribution to the American institutes for research.