

1 A JOINT MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT UNDERTAKE A
3 STUDY OF THE POSSIBLE BENEFITS OF ESTABLISHING AN ALTERNATIVE
4 PATHWAY TO LICENSURE FOR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS.
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6 WHEREAS, research shows that the work of school
7 administrators has a powerful impact on student achievement,
8 second only to the quality of curriculum and teaching among
9 school-related factors that influence learning; and

10 WHEREAS, a growing body of evidence indicates that
11 leadership is the make-or-break factor for schools and school
12 districts under increasing pressure to produce dramatic
13 improvements in student performance; and

14 WHEREAS, many of the qualities of effective leadership
15 are universal, including the ability to articulate a clear
16 vision, build an effective team united around ambitious
17 goals, marshal the resources needed to achieve those goals,
18 communicate effectively with internal and external
19 constituencies and keep the organization on course as it
20 moves forward; and

21 WHEREAS, at a time when state and federal educational
22 accountability systems have made effective school leadership
23 vitally important, New Mexico schools and school districts
24 face a shortage of successful leaders and an unacceptably
25 high rate of turnover among school principals and

1 superintendents; and

2 WHEREAS, in 2003, the New Mexico legislature included in
3 its comprehensive package of school reforms the creation of a
4 three-tiered teacher licensure system that rightly encourages
5 master teachers to remain in the classroom if they wish
6 rather than move into administrative positions, thus
7 potentially adding to the administrator shortage; and

8 WHEREAS, the three-tiered licensure system provides for
9 candidates with appropriate educational credentials to earn a
10 level one teaching license through alternative licensure by
11 demonstrating competencies, but no parallel provision exists
12 for alternative licensure of school administrators in
13 New Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, at least twenty states in the union have
15 enacted laws or established policies providing for
16 alternative licensure for school principals or school
17 district superintendents, and several other states are
18 considering similar measures;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be
21 requested to study whether an alternative pathway to
22 licensure should be created in New Mexico for school
23 administrators and to develop a model or models for
24 alternative level three-B licensure; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education

1 department provide a written report of its findings and
2 recommendations regarding establishing an alternative pathway
3 to licensure for school administrators to the legislative
4 education study committee no later than November 1, 2007; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
6 transmitted to the secretary of public education and the
7 director of the legislative education study committee.

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