

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THAT THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PROVIDE
3 SCHOOL DISTRICTS A GUIDE FOR INTERWEAVING A TOLERANCE
4 CURRICULUM INTO THE EXISTING CONTENT STANDARDS FOR
5 KINDERGARTEN THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE WITH THE AIM OF CREATING
6 SCHOOLS ACROSS NEW MEXICO IN WHICH CHILDREN CAN LEARN IN AN
7 ENVIRONMENT OF RESPECT, SAFETY AND DIVERSITY.

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9 WHEREAS, children learn best in an environment in which
10 they know they are safe from bullies and others, as they can
11 open their minds to new information when they are not under
12 attack; and

13 WHEREAS, children who do not look or act like the
14 majority of their peers often struggle to maintain an
15 appearance of normalcy, denying that they need special
16 attention, though they could more readily accept academic
17 help in an atmosphere where the help itself does not cause
18 ridicule; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico prides itself on its diversity, but,
20 even so, those who are a bit different are often under such
21 social pressure that their learning suffers; and

22 WHEREAS, a damaged learning environment can damage
23 students; damaged students often lag behind their peers in
24 academic performance; and damaged and ridiculed students
25 often have more reason to drop out of school than to stay;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, school drop-outs suffer personal tragedy, the
3 burden of inadequate skill sets and, ultimately, the burden
4 of poverty; and

5 WHEREAS, poverty is a plague that affects every New
6 Mexican because taxpayers underwrite the children of those
7 who are unable to earn a living, because state-funded prisons
8 feed the poor who have turned to crime and because
9 out-of-state businesses reject New Mexico workers again and
10 again for their lack of academic achievement; and

11 WHEREAS, the kindergarten-through-twelfth-grade
12 curriculum that is already in place throughout New Mexico
13 contains standards and benchmarks that define the academic
14 content that every school child is responsible to know; and

15 WHEREAS, that same curriculum could be enhanced by a
16 companion curriculum that emphasizes diversity and tolerance
17 within the content standards; and

18 WHEREAS, schools could incorporate diversity exercises
19 and lessons into their academic curricula, for instance, in
20 math, there could be a discussion of minority representation;
21 in English, a discussion of language acquisition such that
22 English language learners are respectfully included in the
23 discussion; in history, a lesson on the means of
24 incorporating cultural differences across the world and
25 within the history of the United States; and in health, a

1 discussion of the challenges faced by those with physical,
2 developmental and mental health disabilities;

3 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
4 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department be
5 requested to provide suggestions for interweaving a tolerance
6 and diversity curriculum into the existing content standards
7 for kindergarten through twelfth grade; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
9 department be requested to prepare and disseminate to all New
10 Mexico school districts a guide for inclusion of tolerance
11 and diversity teaching; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
13 department include in its rules an expanded emphasis on
14 tolerance and diversity as part of the standard curriculum,
15 based on the guide it develops in response to this memorial;
16 and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
18 department present its report and guide to the legislative
19 education study committee in the 2009 interim; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the secretary of public education and the
22 governor. _____

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