

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 18

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO REPORT TO THE
12 LEGISLATURE ON FUNDS SPENT ON CONTRACTS FOR STANDARDIZED TESTS.

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14 WHEREAS, providing a quality education to New Mexico's
15 children is a top priority; and

16 WHEREAS, accountability of New Mexico educators to provide
17 the tools and resources that students need to succeed is
18 essential; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico, along with forty-five other states
20 and the District of Columbia, has adopted the common core state
21 standards for public schooling, establishing new guidelines for
22 both teachers and students; and

23 WHEREAS, the New Mexico common core standards are a
24 different approach to learning, teaching and testing, and are
25 designed to emphasize critical thinking skills and to ensure

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1 that students leave high school with the necessary skills for
2 college or a career; and

3 WHEREAS, the quality of the education that children
4 receive is, in part, measured by the results of standardized
5 tests; and

6 WHEREAS, standards-based assessment testing is required of
7 all New Mexico public school, charter school and private school
8 students in third grade through high school; and

9 WHEREAS, standardized testing materials are a significant
10 expenditure in the application of common core standards; and

11 WHEREAS, these expenditures will continue to be a
12 significant budget item during the public education
13 department's implementation of common core state standards; and

14 WHEREAS, the Procurement Code governs how goods and
15 services are procured by state agencies to ensure that tax
16 dollars are spent responsibly; and

17 WHEREAS, competitive bidding is required for the purchase
18 of tangible goods, including software licenses and intellectual
19 property;

20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that, during the 2014 interim, the public
22 education department be requested to provide an accounting of
23 funds spent for standardized testing materials; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
25 department be requested to provide documentation on how the

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1 procurement process for standardized testing materials was
2 conducted, including the bidding process and selection of
3 vendors chosen; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
5 department be requested to prepare a report and present
6 findings to the legislative education study committee by
7 November 1, 2014; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the secretary-designate of public education and
10 the director of the legislative education study committee.