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HOUSE MEMORIAL 84

52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015

INTRODUCED BY

Antonio "Moe" Maestas

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO EXPLORE FUNDING
OPTIONS FOR THE CREATION OF DESIGN EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR AT-
RISK YOUTH.

WHEREAS, New Mexico's seventy percent high school
graduation rate ranks near the bottom when compared to other
states; and

WHEREAS, most of the assessments of students' proficiency
in schools are made through verbal testing; and

WHEREAS, at-risk youth may be challenged intellectually if
offered teaching modalities outside of the traditional
classroom; and

WHEREAS, a different approach is the design studio model,
which is a way of learning that mimics the training of
architects and industrial designers, using a workshop,

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1 laboratory or studio format; and

2 WHEREAS, a similar model for learning in the sciences
3 might be the laboratory where scientific experimentation
4 occurs; and

5 WHEREAS, design studio teaching involves a process that
6 values the new and unknown, not the "what was" or the "what
7 is", but the "what can be"; and

8 WHEREAS, students learn through creative problem solving
9 through the design of buildings, furniture, machines, toys or
10 bridges or landscape design; and

11 WHEREAS, all learning experiences reinforce core
12 curriculum standards; and

13 WHEREAS, the architecture and children curriculum is a
14 tool for teachers to encourage children's confidence to develop
15 and communicate ideas visually; and

16 WHEREAS, the architecture and children project uses the
17 study of the built environment as a window to study the world
18 and the ideas, laws and principles that govern it, the physics
19 of structures, design in nature and the similarities between
20 body systems and building systems; and

21 WHEREAS, students learn to create new ideas through
22 architectural drawings and model building, storytelling,
23 science, technology, engineering, art, architecture and math;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, the architecture and children project has been

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1 offered successfully as a summer program at Albuquerque academy
2 for many years; and

3 WHEREAS, Eubank elementary school is the site of the first
4 public school pilot design education program in New Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, it would be beneficial if design education
6 programs were options for at-risk youth as well;

7 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
8 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public
9 education department be requested to explore funding options
10 for the creation of design education programs for at-risk
11 youth; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
13 department present its findings to the legislative education
14 study committee and the legislative finance committee before
15 December 1, 2015; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
17 transmitted to the secretary of public education.