



State of New Mexico

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SECRETARY OF STATE

Susana Martinez
Governor

April 6, 2017

HOUSE EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 49

The Honorable Brian Egolf, Jr., Speaker of the House and
Members of the House of Representatives
State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Honorable Speaker Egolf and Members of the House:

Pursuant to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, Article IV, Section 22, I hereby VETO and return HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL 185, enacted by the Fifty-Third Legislature, First Session, 2017.

Reducing the amount of time our students spend test-taking is a good thing—that's why I have reduced test-taking time statewide. But this bill fails to consider that the daily cap of three hours for testing would hurt our students. Currently, students have as much time as they need to take the statewide Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) assessment. Disrupting their test-taking to stop at three hours could not only hurt their scores, but it would also lead to more days schools must dedicate to testing in order to give every student the opportunity to finish the test.

Since I took office, the Public Education Department (PED) has worked to successfully reduce statewide testing by an average of 60 minutes per grade. Our schools now spend less than two percent of the school year on state-mandated testing, and the US Department of Education has praised New Mexico for our progress. The PED continues to work with districts to identify duplicative assessments and discontinue them, and I encourage our districts and schools to continue to look to our students' best interests as they evaluate their test policies.

For these reasons, I veto House Bill 185.

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Respectfully yours,



Susana Martinez
Governor

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Time: 6:58 a.m. p.m.
Date: April 6th, 2017 By Anna [Signature]
Secretary of State

Time: _____ a.m. p.m.
Date: _____, 2017 By _____
Chief Clerk of the House