

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION TO CONVENE A
3 COMMUNITY SCHOOLS FUNDING TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE ISSUE OF
4 SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY SCHOOLS IN NEW MEXICO, TO
5 DEVELOP CRITERIA FOR CERTIFYING COMMUNITY SCHOOLS, TO
6 RECOMMEND FUNDING BASED ON CERTIFICATION AND TO DEVELOP A
7 COMMUNITY SCHOOLS STRATEGIC PLAN.

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9 WHEREAS, according to the criteria of the federal Every
10 Student Succeeds Act, the community schools strategy is an
11 evidence-based intervention that leads to improvement in
12 student and school outcomes and, in particular, contributes
13 to meeting the educational needs of low-achieving students in
14 high-poverty schools; and

15 WHEREAS, the community schools strategy has been shown
16 to have a positive effect on student attendance, test scores,
17 graduation rates and students' social, emotional and physical
18 development; and

19 WHEREAS, the community schools strategy is
20 cost-effective, with an estimated return on investment of
21 seven dollars (\$7.00) to fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for every
22 one dollar (\$1.00) spent on community school coordinators;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, the Community Schools Act was revised in 2019
25 to establish a community schools fund administered by the

1 public education department to award grants to public schools
2 to support the development and implementation of community
3 schools initiatives in New Mexico; and

4 WHEREAS, more than one hundred planning and
5 implementation community school grants have been awarded to
6 public schools in New Mexico since April 2019, totaling over
7 fourteen million dollars (\$14,000,000) in state and federally
8 appropriated funds; and

9 WHEREAS, there are currently more than one hundred
10 community schools in sixteen school districts across the
11 state; and

12 WHEREAS, there is currently no designation for community
13 schools that demonstrates that a particular school meets the
14 statutory requirements for a community school or that the
15 school is implementing a high-quality community schools
16 strategy; and

17 WHEREAS, there is no recurring funding in the general
18 appropriation acts to sustain the cost of community schools
19 initiatives beyond the planning and implementation grants
20 awarded by the public education department;

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
22 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary
23 of public education be requested to convene a community
24 schools funding task force composed of:

25 A. the secretary of public education or the

1 secretary's designee, who shall chair the task force;

2 B. three representatives from the coalition for
3 community schools;

4 C. two staff members of the legislative education
5 study committee appointed by the chair of the legislative
6 education study committee;

7 D. two staff members of the legislative finance
8 committee appointed by the chair of the legislative finance
9 committee; and

10 E. two members of the Indian education advisory
11 council appointed by the assistant secretary for Indian
12 education; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that vacancies on the task force
14 may be filled by the original appointing authority and the
15 chair of the task force may request the appointing authority
16 to replace a task force member, if needed; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
18 to analyze and evaluate grantee data collected by the public
19 education department to study the:

20 A. adequacy of current grant funding to hire a
21 full-time school-based community schools coordinator and
22 support high-quality implementation of the community schools
23 strategy;

24 B. effect of the lack of recurring state funding
25 on the sustainability of community schools initiatives;

1 C. need for indicators of high-quality community
2 schools, including implementation of a certification program
3 for eligibility for annual funding; and

4 D. cost and return on investment to the state of
5 supporting and funding community schools; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
7 to partner with the coalition for community schools to
8 develop a comprehensive set of criteria by which applicant
9 public schools may be certified as high-quality community
10 schools and eligible for recurring funding; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
12 to partner with the coalition for community schools to
13 develop a community schools strategic plan that:

14 A. includes one- to two-year goals, five- to
15 ten-year goals and short- and long-term action steps to
16 achieve those goals;

17 B. identifies whether action is required by the
18 legislature, the public education department or any other
19 public body; and

20 C. includes detailed cost estimates accompanied by
21 agreed-upon research-based indicators of high-quality
22 implementation of the community schools strategy; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
24 to provide an interim report on its analyses, evaluations and
25 initial recommendations to the legislative education study

1 committee and the legislative finance committee by December
2 1, 2023; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the final report of the task
4 force be provided to the governor and the legislature by
5 November 1, 2024 and that the final report include the task
6 force's findings and recommendations for statutory and other
7 changes necessary to support and improve the state's
8 community school strategy; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
10 transmitted to the secretary of public education, the chair of
11 the legislative education study committee, the chair of the
12 legislative finance committee and the coalition of community
13 schools.

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