

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL

53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2017

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A NEW STUDENT ASSESSMENT POLICY ALIGNED WITH THE ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT MODELS ALLOWED BY THE FEDERAL EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT.

WHEREAS, the recently enacted federal Every Student Succeeds Act empowers states to develop their own accountability systems to measure student performance and encourages states to begin pilot projects that use a variety of ways to measure student success; and

WHEREAS, for states wishing to develop alternative, evidence-based assessment systems, the Every Student Succeeds Act creates an enhanced assessment instruments program, which will provide funding to seven states to develop pilot programs

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1 of innovative assessment programs that use a variety of
2 indicators to show how a student is performing; and

3 WHEREAS, applications for the pilot programs were accepted
4 through September 22, 2016, and it is anticipated that
5 additional applications will be accepted in the future; and

6 WHEREAS, the Every Student Succeeds Act provides states
7 with the flexibility to adopt high-quality academic assessments
8 in mathematics, reading, language arts or science, which may
9 allow students to demonstrate proficiency in the form of
10 portfolios, projects or extended performance tasks and other
11 locally designed formative assessments that, along with
12 standardized tests, create a summative score for a student; and

13 WHEREAS, the Every Student Succeeds Act permits local
14 educational agencies to choose a locally selected assessment in
15 lieu of the state assessment, but only if the local educational
16 agency "selects a nationally recognized high school academic
17 assessment that has been approved for use by the state"; and

18 WHEREAS, the Every Student Succeeds Act requires each
19 state to add at least one non-academic indicator of school
20 quality or student success as part of its statewide
21 accountability system, opening the door to the possibility of
22 using factors such as student engagement, post-secondary
23 readiness, school climate and safety, career readiness and
24 other metrics to measure student success; and

25 WHEREAS, at this time, New Mexico is not yet prepared to

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1 take advantage of the flexibility provided in the Every Student
2 Succeeds Act and the associated pilot program funding
3 opportunities; and

4 WHEREAS, studies by learning alliance New Mexico and the
5 New Mexico center for school leadership show that there is a
6 demand throughout the state for alternative assessment models
7 that use a variety of approaches to measure a student's
8 progress; and

9 WHEREAS, while the New Mexico center for school leadership
10 is working with stakeholders to develop alternatives to the
11 current assessment process, that project is local to
12 Albuquerque, and a broader statewide effort, including
13 participation from the diverse communities in the state, has
14 not been made; and

15 WHEREAS, statewide studies, research and analyses are
16 necessary for New Mexico to be ready to propose a pilot program
17 and take advantage of the new flexible assessment possibilities
18 provided by the Every Student Succeeds Act;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the public education department and
21 the legislative education study committee be requested to
22 convene a working group composed of educational practitioners;
23 academic and pedagogical researchers; community, tribal and
24 civic leaders; union members; industry representatives; higher
25 education representatives; and others who have an interest in

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1 developing an alternative assessment model to build upon the
2 work that is already taking place in the state and to develop
3 recommendations for a new assessment policy; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be requested
5 to report its recommendations and a proposed new assessment
6 policy to the legislative education study committee by November
7 2017; and

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