

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 18

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO APPOINT A TASK FORCE, INCLUDING THE
12 CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC EDUCATION
13 DEPARTMENT AND HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, TO STUDY THE MEANS
14 WHEREBY THE STATE CAN PROVIDE A MORE COORDINATED AND INTEGRATED
15 EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM TO CHILDREN FROM BIRTH THROUGH COLLEGE
16 GRADUATION.

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18 WHEREAS, approximately forty-six percent of New Mexico's
19 population is functionally illiterate, which means they cannot
20 function above a fifth grade level and do not qualify for two-
21 thirds of all jobs in America; and

22 WHEREAS, while a high school diploma used to be the
23 minimal universal educational expectation, it now appears that
24 a two-year post-secondary degree or credential is required for
25 many occupations; and

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1 WHEREAS, New Mexico needs to educate more of its citizens
2 to a higher level than ever before; and

3 WHEREAS, many employers and higher education institutions
4 in New Mexico are increasingly disappointed with the
5 proficiencies of New Mexico high school and college graduates,
6 and grade inflation and the loss of academic rigor have
7 devalued many higher education degrees; and

8 WHEREAS, the delivery of educational services in New
9 Mexico is fragmented. To wit, early childhood services,
10 including child care and pre-kindergarten, are mostly private
11 and overseen by the children, youth and families department;
12 public schools are overseen by local elected school boards with
13 a great deal of control given by the legislature to the public
14 education department; state higher education institutes are
15 governed by separate, powerful boards of regents; and
16 independent community colleges are overseen by their own
17 governing boards; and

18 WHEREAS, it is vital that New Mexico have a coordinated
19 educational system that begins at the beginning and carries
20 through to graduate school and beyond: parents must know how
21 to encourage curiosity and learning at home; preschool and
22 kindergarten programs must ensure that children are ready to
23 learn as they enter elementary school; students in elementary
24 school must be taught the key foundation skills in reading and
25 mathematics to ensure success in middle and high school; high

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1 school students must have adequate learning options to
2 accomplish their aspirations for a trade or higher education;
3 and higher education must instill in students a love of
4 lifelong learning as it prepares them for careers in today's
5 demanding world; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexicans cannot afford to sacrifice time,
7 money or their children's future on failure and remediation at
8 every step of the educational process;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE
10 OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the governor be requested to
11 appoint a task force that includes the secretaries of children,
12 youth and families, public education and higher education to
13 study and design options for better coordination and
14 integration of all parts of the educational system and that
15 builds accountability into learning from the beginning; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force consider a
17 budget and distribution system that is predictable, that
18 invests in educational results and that encourages the system
19 to work in an integrated manner in support of early childhood
20 learners and students; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force examine
22 necessary improvements to ensure effective information sharing
23 between all educational institutions for the purpose of better
24 targeted instruction; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its

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1 findings and recommendations to the governor and the
2 legislature by December 15, 2011; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the governor and the secretaries of children,
5 youth and families, public education and higher education.

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