

The Legislature
of the
State of New Mexico

50th Legislature, 2nd Session

LAWS 2012

CHAPTER _____

SENATE MEMORIAL 86

Introduced by

SENATOR HOWIE C. MORALES



1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE AND THE
3 LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE RECENT
4 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE A-B-C-D-F SCHOOLS RATING SYSTEM.

5
6 WHEREAS, in 2011, the legislature passed, and the
7 governor signed, Senate Bill 427, the A-B-C-D-F Schools
8 Rating Act (Laws 2011, Chapter 10); and

9 WHEREAS, the legislation created a new state public
10 school accountability system that operates side by side with
11 existing school and school district accountability systems
12 based on adequate yearly progress, which was established
13 pursuant to the federal Elementary and Secondary Education
14 Act of 2001, also known as the No Child Left Behind Act; and

15 WHEREAS, the schools rating system requires all public
16 schools to be graded with a letter grade of A, B, C, D or F
17 annually by the public education department, pursuant to
18 department rules; and

19 WHEREAS, the public education department adopted rules
20 for the schools rating system in December 2012; and

21 WHEREAS, preliminary grades were issued for New Mexico
22 schools in January 2012; and

23 WHEREAS, education stakeholders report that the specific
24 and technical details of the schools rating system are
25 unclear and lack transparency; and

1 WHEREAS, concerns have been expressed to the department
2 regarding attempts in the rating system to adjust school
3 grades based on student demographics;

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
5 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative education study
6 committee and the legislative finance committee, with the
7 assistance of the public education department, be requested
8 to form a work group of education stakeholders to review the
9 recent implementation of the A-B-C-D-F schools rating system;
10 and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group be requested
12 to examine:

13 A. the technical details of the formula used to
14 calculate school grades, including, but not limited to, the
15 working matrices used to grade schools, the methodology used
16 to determine statistical peer groups, all data and tools used
17 to determine school grades and the technical step-by-step
18 instructions used by department staff for assigning school
19 grades;

20 B. what information and data are available to
21 school districts and charter schools regarding each
22 district's or school's respective grade, and what further
23 information should be available to provide for a more
24 transparent schools rating system;

25 C. the extent to which department rules implement

1 the provisions of Senate Bill 427;

2 D. whether department rules depart from the
3 provisions of Senate Bill 427;

4 E. whether the grade calculations can be
5 simplified so that school officials, teachers, parents and
6 policymakers can readily understand the elements of a
7 calculated school grade;

8 F. alternate value-added models and their
9 implications for measuring school growth; and

10 G. how the formula used to calculate school grades
11 takes into account factors such as charter status, urban or
12 rural location and student socioeconomic status; and

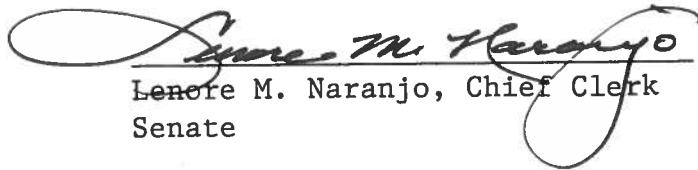
13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group be requested
14 to report its findings and recommendations to the legislative
15 education study committee and the legislative finance
16 committee by October 31, 2012; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the directors of the legislative education
19 study committee and the legislative finance committee and to
20 the secretary-designate of public education. _____

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25



John A. Sanchez, President
Senate



Lenore M. Naranjo, Chief Clerk
Senate