

# INDEPENDENT COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF NEW MEXICO



## PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDING

NM FUNDING FORMULA



STUDY TASK FORCE

## OVERVIEW OF THE AIR STUDY

### Introduction

The Funding Formula Study Task Force (FFSTF), a committee appointed by the New Mexico State Legislature and under the direction of the Legislative Council Service, has commissioned the American Institutes for Research (AIR) to conduct a comprehensive study on the current New Mexico public school funding formula. AIR is a not-for-profit organization devoted to improving policy research and practice in social policy arenas, including education, with an emphasis on helping disadvantaged and other special need populations.

### Study Components

The ultimate goals of this study include (1) determining what it would cost to provide an adequate education for all New Mexican students, (2) examining and potentially modifying the current funding formula to distribute the necessary resources and (3) assessing available revenue sources to fund these changes. To accomplish these goals, the New Mexico Public School Funding study will be carried out in four major phases:

#### ***Phase One: Setting Goals***

The purpose of this phase is three-fold: to inform the public about the project, to identify how New Mexicans envision the goals of its public schools, and to seek public input on what needs to be done to achieve those goals. To identify these goals, the AIR research team will examine the existing definition of educational 'adequacy' as implied by state law and solicit input through a series of surveys of key constituencies and open town hall meetings that will be held in various venues around the state.

#### ***Phase Two: Costing-Out***

This second phase involves determining the costs of ensuring that all students in the state of New Mexico have access to the programs and resources necessary to achieve the goals set out in Phase One of the project. AIR will work with teams of programmatic experts and New Mexico educators who have been recognized for their contributions to design alternative instructional programs, to specify the resources to deliver those programs to the diversity of students across the state, and to estimate a range of costs for these programs and resources. This comprehensive cost analysis will take into account variations in pupil needs (e.g., student poverty, English language skills, disabilities, exceptionalities, vocational interests, and mobility), the scale of school and district operations, and variations in the cost of comparable resources (e.g., teachers and other school personnel) across different regions of the state.

#### ***Phase Three: Developing a Funding Formula***

In the third phase, AIR will use the results of the costing-out exercise as the foundation for recommending changes or modifications to the way schools are currently funded in New Mexico. This funding formula will address how best to distribute resources to ensure the provision of an adequate education to all students, regardless of circumstance or location.

#### ***Phase Four: Assessing Revenues***

AIR will conduct an analysis on the prospective existing revenue sources and identify potential revenue sources that could be called upon in order to provide the necessary funding to support an adequate education across all school districts.

## AIR Research Team

The AIR research team is led by Dr. Jay G. Chambers, who is a senior research fellow at AIR and who has three decades of experience working in collaboration with local, state and federal policy makers in the area of school finance. AIR is committed to collaborating with key individuals representing a wide range of critical constituencies to produce an independent analysis of the policy issues in evaluating and building a foundation for the school funding system in New Mexico. We are also committed to the transparency of the process so that the public can understand the rationale for the recommendations and how they have been crafted to meet the needs of the public schools and students they serve in the state of New Mexico.

## Key Project Staff

<b>AIR Research Team</b>	<b>New Mexico Advisory Panel and Support</b>
<p><b><i>Leadership Team</i></b> Dr. Jay G. Chambers, Principal Investigator Dr. Jesse Levin, Project Director Danielle DeLancey, Project Manager</p> <p><b><i>Task Leaders and Key Contributors</i></b> <b><i>Public Engagement Analysis</i></b> Dr. Karen DeMoss, University of New Mexico</p> <p><b><i>Research Expert Panel</i></b> Dr. Henry M. Levin, Columbia University Dr. Margaret McLaughlin, University of Maryland Dr. Kenji Hakuta, Stanford University Jerry Johnson, Rural Education Trust</p> <p><b><i>Practitioner Expert</i></b> Dr. Anthony Cavanna, AIR</p> <p><b><i>Geographic Cost Analysis</i></b> Dr. Lori Taylor, Texas A&amp;M University</p> <p><b><i>Taxation and Revenue Analysis</i></b> Dr. George Zodrow, Rice University</p> <p><b><i>Other AIR Support Staff</i></b> Karen Manship, Research Analyst Maria Segarra, Research Assistant Tassie Jenkins, Administrative Specialist</p>	<p><b><i>New Mexico Project Advisory Panel</i></b> Mimi Stewart, State Representative, Panel Chair* Robert Archuleta, Superintendent* Del Archuleta, CEO, Molzen Corbin Vernon Asbill, State Senator* Dr. V. Sue Cleveland, Superintendent* Randy Manning, School Board* Don Moya, Public Education Department James Mulcock, NM Association of School Administrators* Cynthia Nava, State Senator* James M. Phipps, Superintendent* Dick Pool, Superintendent* Dennis Roch, Educator*</p> <p>*These individuals are also part of the Funding Formula Study Task Force (FFSTF) appointed by the State Legislature.</p> <p><b><i>Legislative Support Staff</i></b> Jonelle Maison, Legislative Council Services Sharon Ball, Legislative Council Services Kathleen Forrer, Legislative Education Study Committee Frances Maestas, Legislative Education Study Committee Paul Aguilar, Legislative Finance Committee</p>
<p><b><u>For more information, contact:</u></b> Danielle DeLancey American Institutes for Research 1070 Arastradero Road, Suite 200 Palo Alto, CA 94304 Email: <a href="mailto:ddelancey@air.org">ddelancey@air.org</a></p>	