

NEW MEXICO SENATE DEMOCRATS

For immediate release

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Education Committee Passes Bill to Evaluate Current A-F School Grading System

On a party line vote, the Senate Education Committee approved a bill Wednesday morning that would create a school grades council to study and make recommendations on school grading and provide for criteria to be developed that would include reliable factors in determining school grades.

Senate Bill 587, sponsored by Senator Morales Catron, Grant, Socorro, District 28, dubbed the "State School Grades Council," would amend a section of law to eliminate reference to school grading, and eliminate the current administration's policy of grading schools on an A-F grading scale without well-developed criteria. The council would be composed of classroom teachers, instructional support providers, principals, superintendents, local school boards, charter schools and other educational experts, business or community leaders or interested citizens.

The council would present the newly developed grading criteria to the Legislature for implementation starting in the 2015-2016 year. SB 587 now heads to the Senate Finance Committee for review.