



# NEW MEXICO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL



An International Baccalaureate **World** School

**From the desk of  
Todd Knouse, Head of School**

January 18, 2019

Dear friend of NMIS:

Currently [HBO05](#) is in the House Education Committee. Please click on the link to see the text and its sponsors. Also, here are the members of the [House Education Committee](#) that are considering this bill.

I am finding alarming the new proposed language in **section 9, item D (found on page 20)**. This new language creates a state-wide cap on all charter school enrollment. If such enrollment exceeds the cap, the **PED will have authority to tell each charter what its maximum cap shall be**, regardless of what the enrollment cap has been determined between the school and its authorizer. If a charter seeks to exceed this PED-imposed enrollment cap, the PED will allow it only if the school has a "demonstrated track record of success" but fails to say what that means.

**Such language will hurt a school like NMIS, and our school would be better off if this language were removed. You may wish to **contact these committee members**, or your own member of the House, if you share my concerns.**

**NMIS currently has a plan to increase our enrollment over time.** This is why we are moving our campus and expanding our grade levels. Any legislation that seeks to limit this growth beyond what we can sustain within the limitations of our campus or the public demand for our school can and will hurt us significantly. **This enrollment cap would only allow NMIS to grow to the extent that other charter schools fail.**

Indeed, we believe that only our authorizer should set our enrollment cap, based on the successes of our charter and the needs of the local community.

Here are a few talking points about my concerns on **section 9, part D of HB5**:

- We currently have 26,508 students in charters statewide right now. How did they come up with a state cap of 27,000? It seems they have a "one child out, one child in" plan for the total charter enrollment – thus to stop all charter growth in the state. If we place state-wide limits on enrollment for charters, will we place limits on enrollment in non-charters? Such a cap is one-sided and inequitable.
- The nature of the school-choice movement says we should let parents choose their charter school. Creating this cap limits the entire school-choice movement.
- Charters have contracts that already have enrollment caps that were made in agreement with their authorizer. This new language could result in charters or their authorizers being in breach of contract. It weakens the authority of the authorizer.
- The criteria of a "demonstrated track record of success" is vague. The PED may result on using school letter grades as the sole criterion, which is in conflict with measuring the success of charters and their missions.

Thank you for your attention, and if you share these concerns of the school, take a moment to contact the [House Education Committee](#).

**New Mexico International School**  
 An International Baccalaureate World School  
 8650 Alameda Blvd. 150W/Bldg. 2B NE • Albuquerque, NM, 87122 • U.S.A.  
 Ph: (505)503-7670 • Fax (505)503-7989  
[www.nmis.org](http://www.nmis.org)

