

**State of New Mexico**  
**House of Representatives**  
Ben Lujan, Speaker of the House  
Ken Martinez, House Majority Leader  
Sheryl Williams Stapleton, House Majority Whip

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**Rep. Stewart's High Performance School Buildings Act  
Gets Support of the House**

**Santa Fe, NM** – Cost-effective, high-performance technologies would be implemented in school buildings under legislation sponsored by Rep. Mimi Stewart (D-Albuquerque). The House approved measure would establish a framework to fund and install cost-effective high performance technologies to reduce energy consumption in existing school buildings. The House of Representatives supported HB 145 with a vote of 57-9.

Rep. Stewart said, “Twenty percent of our population spends their days in 730 school buildings around the state. These high performance measures can improve student attendance and achievement by creating a better learning environment. This legislation will also have a positive impact in job creation while increasing energy conservation and lowering operational costs.”

HB 145 directs the Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) to set up a high performance schools initiative. It would accept applications from school districts who wish to acquire and install high performance energy technology. High performance technology means improving a building so energy or water consumption or costs are reduced. It also means any modifications made that provide renewable energy sources.

The bill would require the PSCOC to review the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department's assessments of districts' energy cost savings and cost-effectiveness ratios, adopt a methodology for assessing and ranking applications, and make grants to school districts to use to implement energy-saving technologies. These improvements could include: new insulation; weather stripping windows and doors; installing automated energy and water control systems; modifying lighting systems to maximize energy efficiency; addition of on-site solar heating and cooling systems or other renewable energy systems;

House Bill 145 now heads to the Senate for consideration.