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## **Senator Craig Brandt Releases Statement After PED Blunder Costs State Millions**

SANTA FE — Yesterday, the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) revealed they would not be appealing a decision handed down from the federal government barring them from \$35 million dollars in federal impact aid credit. PED failed to meet a deadline to apply for the credit and submitted the application over a month late in early 2020. The Legislature is now responsible for covering the \$35 million dollar shortfall caused by the error.

Senate Republican Whip, **Senator Craig Brandt** (District 40 - Sandoval), issued the following statement following these recent revelations:

“The buck stops with the Governor when it comes to ensuring that our executive departments execute their duties. Failing to meet a deadline is a high school mistake, not a mistake made by an agency trusted with the future of New Mexico’s young minds. It takes a present and involved department leader to ensure contingencies are in place so errors do not come at the expense of our students.”

“This administration frequently talks about how important our children are, but sadly, their actions suggest otherwise. In reality, New Mexico children are an afterthought for this Governor and a blunder of this magnitude is just further proof.”

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