



# NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

## 2025 PUBLIC EDUCATION LEGISLATION

### PASSED BY HOUSE AND SENATE AND AWAITING GOVERNOR'S ACTION

*The 2025 Legislative Session was a 60-day session, with over 1,300 bills introduced. Of these, approximately 87 bills addressed public education. Twenty eight (28) of these bills were approved by both the House of Representatives and Senate and are now awaiting action by the Governor. A listing of these bills follows.*

#### HOUSE BILLS

**HB 2 General Appropriation Act 2025** (Nathan P. Small, Meridith Dixon) – Approved a state budget of just over \$10.79 billion, almost \$611 million more than FY25, while maintaining a 30% reserve. HB2 includes \$4.7 billion in recurring general fund appropriations for public education, a 6 percent increase over the FY25 operating budget.

#### Recurring appropriations for public schools include:

- 4 percent average salary increase for school personnel and
- Increases in annual salary minimums for teachers of \$5,000 per license level.

#### Nonrecurring appropriations for public education include nearly half a billion dollars:

- \$40 million for career and technical education and innovation zones,
- \$30 million for secondary education reforms,
- \$20 million for educator fellows initiatives,
- \$3 million for STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) initiatives,
- \$4 million for special education initiatives,
- \$30 million for Indian education initiatives,
- \$500 thousand each for the Black Education Act, the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act, and the Hispanic Education Act.
- \$6.3 million to support unhoused students,
- \$1 million for wellness rooms, and
- \$1.5 million for school panic buttons.

**HB 54 Defibrillators in Every High School** (Pamelya Herndon, Yanira Gurrola) – Requires every high school to no later than January 1, 2026, install an automated external defibrillator; requires all high school employees to be trained in the use of automated external defibrillators.

**HB 63/aaa Public School Funding Formula Changes** (G. Andres Romero, Mimi Stewart) – Makes changes to the Public School Funding Formula; increases the basic program unit for sixth through 12<sup>th</sup> grades; defines the Family Income Index Rate; changes the At-Risk Program Unit; calculates the At-Risk Index for charter schools on their membership after the first year of operation; creates an English learner program unit; provides a hold harmless provision for formula changes.

**HB 65 Instructional Days in School Year** (Gail Armstrong) – Clarifies that local school boards and governing bodies of charters school shall determine the total number of instructional days per year and the number of instructional days per week that students are required to be in school programs; declares an emergency. **Vetoed - 3/22/25**

**HB 143/a Lobbying Activity Reports** (Sarah Silva, Jeff Steinborn) -Requires a lobbying activity report on the legislation lobbied and position taken by a lobbyist or lobbyist's employer; preserves lobbying activity reports for at least ten years.

**HB 156/aa Increase Educational Salaries** (Joy Garratt, Mimi Stewart) – Increases the minimum salaries for teachers (Level 1 \$55,000, Level 2, \$65,000, and Level 3 \$75,000), school counselors and school administrators. Also requires Science of Reading for all Higher Education teacher preparation programs.

**HB 157/aa New School Licenses** (Joy Garratt, Brian G. Baca, Raymundo Lara) – Creates new licenses for site administrators, superintendents, and other school administrators; provides enhanced qualifications and requirements; enacts the School Administrator Development Act; provides powers and duties; sets criteria, provides for a delayed repeal of current school administrator licenses.

**HB 167/aa Higher Ed. Payment for Certain Tests** (Joy Garratt, E. Diane Torres-Velasquez) – Provides the HED shall pay the cost of high school equivalency credential tests and associated test preparation costs for New Mexico residents.

**HB 195/a School Nurse Salary Tiers & Minimums** (Joy Garratt) – Provides a tiered salary system for school nurses; provides minimum salaries at the same rate as teachers, creates a program unit for National Board certification of certain registered nurses.

**HB 251 Education Retirement Beneficiary Changes** (William A. Hall II, Tanya Mirabal Moya, Brian G. Baca, Luis M. Terrazas, Catherin J. Cullen) - Provides additional options to change the beneficiary for retired members who have designated a spouse as a beneficiary.

**HB 450 Capital Outlay Projects** (Derrick J. Lente) - Authorizes the issuance of Severance Tax bonds; makes appropriations from the general fund and other state funds; establishes conditions for the issuance of severance tax bonds and the expenditure of severance tax bond proceeds; requires certifications to the DFA; establishes conditions for the reversion of unexpended balances; makes appropriations; declares an emergency. ***Totals \$.50.4 million to Public Education Department for 248 projects.***

**HB 487 Protection of Hispanic Education** (E. Diane Torres-Velasquez, Linda M. Lopez, Patricia Roybal Caballero, Yanira Gurrola, Tanya Mirabal Moya) – Relates to Hispanic education; includes the protection and preservation of New Mexico's heritage Spanish language and culture and other elements in the purpose for the Hispanic Education Act; requires the Hispanic Education Advisory Council to meet at biannual Hispanic education summits; allows per diem and mileage for council members.

**HB 532 Student Water Safety Guidance** (Joseph L. Sanchez) – Requires each local school board and governing body of a charter school to develop or adopt guidance for student water safety; requires that water safety guidance be provided to parents of each student at the beginning of each school year.

**HM 32 Means of Teacher Advancement** (Pettigrew/Cullen) – Requests PED to study the possibility of granting teacher master's level college credit for earning micro credentials to advance from level one to level two licensure and from level two to level three licensure, including the identification of potential barriers and pathways.

**HM 43 Hispanic & Bilingual Education Programs** (Yanira Gurrola, E. Diane Torres-Velasquez, Patricia Roybal Caballero) - Acknowledges the significance of the Hispanic Education Act and the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act and requests the LESC to study Hispanic and Bilingual Educational Programs.

## **SENATE BILLS**

**CS/SB/a 11 Anti-Distraction Policy in Schools** (Crystal R. Brantley) – Requires that each school district and charter school adopt and implement a policy for the use of wireless communication devices by students in public schools; requires the PED to provide policy guidelines.

**SB 13/a State-Tribal Education Compact Schools Act** (Benny Shendo, Jr.) – Enacts the State-Tribal Education Compact Schools Act; provides authorization to the PED to enter into State-Tribal Education Compacts; provides for the application process of becoming a Compact School; provides rulemaking authority; provides requirements for the operation of Compact Schools; exempts Compact Schools from certain state statutes and rules; provides reporting requirements; allows Compact Schools to receive state and federal funding; allows for employment preferences and admissions prioritization; including Compact Schools in the Public School Capital Outlay Act.

**SB 75/a Educational Retirement Changes** (Natalie Figueroa) – Makes changes to the Educational Retirement Act; clarifies restrictions on receipt of gifts; provides for unclaimed member contributions to be deposited into the Educational Retirement Fund; clarifies certain terms; allows for a member on disability status who is over sixty and who receives an annuity adjustment to continue receiving the annuity adjustment; requires payment of allowed service within ninety days; allows for disclosure of member or retired member information to the Public Employees Retirement Board to administer.

**SB 82 Public School Capital Outlay Changes** (William P. Soules) – Extends through fiscal year 2027 the provision that reduces local shares by one-third for some school districts and one-half for certain small school districts; raises the maximum full-time-equivalent students a school district may have to qualify for a local match waiver from 800 to 1,500; eliminates some of the criteria the PSCOC is required to consider before making adjustments to a school district's local share.

**SB 133/a Educational Retirees Returning to Work** (Peter Wirth) – Relates to Educational Retirement; increases the salary a retired member may earn from \$15,000 to \$25,000 without a suspension of the member's retirement benefits when returning to work. Also increases the maximum length return to work employment period from 36 months to 60 months.

**SB 163/a Tribal Regalia at School Events** (Benny Shendo, Jr.) – Permits public school students who are enrolled, or eligible for enrollment, in federally recognized Indian Nations, Tribes and Pueblos to wear tribal regalia at graduation ceremonies or public-school events.

**SB 343 Teacher Salary Rates Changes** (William P. Soules) – Removes exceptions to level one, level two, and level three-A licensed Teacher Salary Rates; amends Sections 22-10A-7, 22-10A-10, and 22-10A-11 1978 (Being Laws 2003, Chapter 153, Sections 38, 41 and 42, as amended).

**SB 345 Teacher & Instructional Support Licensure** (Natalie Figueroa) – Allows the use of a teacher portfolio for level one licensure; allows reciprocity for levels two and three New Mexico Licensure for instructional support providers who are licensed in other states.

**CS/SB 387 Community School Fund & Framework** (Natalie Figueroa) – Changes the community framework; renames the community schools fund in honor of Dr. Jeannie Oakes.

**SB 401 Broadband for Education** (Michael Padilla, Debra M. Sarinana) – Amends the Severance Tax Bonding Act to provide for the issuance of supplemental severance tax bonds for education technology infrastructure; amends the Broadband Access and Expansion Act; adds definitions; creates the Education Technology Infrastructure Fund; provides for rulemaking; authorizes grants; transfers the Public School Facilities Authority's Broadband Deployment and Connectivity Program

and State Education Network to the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion; makes an appropriation.

**CS/SB 480 Student Graduation Reporting** (Cindy Nava, Linda M. Trujillo, Craig W. Brandt) – Requires the PED to create an annual report of all students who are school-age and have not graduated from high school within four years from entering ninth grade and to provide the report to certain recipients who provide adult education or programming to attain a high school equivalency credential.

**SM 19 New Mexico Meat, Cheese & Produce in Schools** (Brantly, Boone, Ezzell, Woods) - Requires PED and Department of Agriculture to convene a working group to design a plan in which fifty percent of the beef, cheese, and milk served to students in public schools originates from and is processed by New Mexico producers.

**SM 22 K-12 Water Conservation Curriculum** (Roberto “Bobby” J. Gonzales) - Requires the PED to study the feasibility of developing a water conservation and management curriculum to be incorporated into multiple subjects in kindergarten through twelfth grade education.

## **2025 LEGISLATION OF NOTE – DID NOT PASS**

**HB 11 Paid Family & Medical Leave Act** (Christine Chandler, Mimi Stewart, Patricia Roybal Caballero) – Relates to employment; enacts the paid family and medical leave Act; creates the paid family and Medical Leave Fund; provides for the Paid Family and Medical Leave Program to pay an eligible applicant a percentage of the employee’s wages to allow the applicant to bond with a new child, care for a family member, prepare for and adjust to a spouse’s military deployment or to take action to protect the employee or the employee’s family member from certain forms of violence; limits the time allowed for paid family and medical leave; excepts certain employees.

**HB 32 Electric or Alt Fuel School Busses** (Debra M. Sarinana, Yanira Gurrola, Tara L. Lujan) – Provides school districts the option to replace school buses with electric or zero emission alternative fuel school buses; allows school districts to enter into agreements for the use of their electric school buses as electrical energy storage for providing grid services or for use by schools.

**HB 185 Protection of Women’s Sports Act** (Andrea Reeb, Jenifer Jones, Rebecca Dow) – Enacts the Protection of Women’s Sports Act; provides definitions; requires equal athletic opportunities for males and females; requires separate athletic opportunities in certain circumstances; requires designation of athletic teams, sports, athletic competitions and athletic events as for either sex separately or as coeducational; prohibits male participation for, against or with athletic teams designated for females; allows male athletes to participate as practice players on teams designated for females in certain circumstances; provides private causes of action.

**HB 201 Raise School Employee Minimum Wage** (Herrera, Baca, Romero, Gurrola, Mirabal Moya) – Raises the minimum wage for all school employees to \$15 per hour, or a minimum annual salary of \$30,000 to all (noncertified) school personnel, whether licensed or unlicensed.

**HB 238 Middle & High School Professional Work Hours** (Catherine J. Cullen, Joshua N. Hernandez, Alan T. Martinez) – Allows up to sixty instructional hours per school year to be used for professional work hours for middle and high school grades.

**HB 254 Ed. Retirees Returning to Work Time Period** (Tanya Mirabal Moya, Joy Garratt, Brian G. Baca, Anita Gonzales) – Increases the period of time, from thirty-six to eighty-four consecutive or nonconsecutive months, that certain retirees are able to return to employment. ***Incorporated into HB 133 provisions.***

**HB 277 Millage for Certain School Districts** (Tanya Mirabal Moya, Rebecca Dow, Raymundo Lara, Harlan Vincent, Jack Chatfield) – Decreases the millage required for school districts with insufficient bonding capacity. ***Incorporated into SB 82 provisions***

**HJR 4 State Board of Education, CA** (Alan Martinez, Catherine Cullen) – Proposes to amend Article 12 of the Constitution of New Mexico by repealing Section 6 and adding a new Section 6 to replace the current Public Education Commission with an elected 10 member State Board of Education that appoints a Superintendent of Public Instruction to carry out the policies of the board and to provide by law for an independent state chartering authority for state chartered charter schools.

**CS/SB 235/a School Math Changes** (William P. Soules) – Amends the Mathematics and Science Education Act; defines terms; provides that the Mathematics and Science Bureau of the PED monitor the implementation of instructional and professional development programs; requires school districts and charter schools to develop mathematics professional learning plans; requires the PED to establish a mathematics instructional leadership framework; requires mathematics coaches to hold mathematics specialist endorsements; requires mathematics screeners for students in kindergarten through fifth grade; requires immediate interventions and parental notification if a student is identified as having characteristics of dyscalculia.

**SB 242/a Advancing the Science of Reading Act** (Mimi Stewart) – Enacts the Advancing the Science of Reading Act; requires teacher licensing candidates to demonstrate competency in structured literacy and the science of reading; requires the use of high-quality instructional materials for all student teaching and supervised field experiences; disallow balanced literacy as a teaching method in public schools and state institutions; provides for literacy coordinators; provides monitoring and enforcement. ***Incorporated into HB 156 provisions.***

**SB 245 Charter Schools as Boards of Finance** (Antonio Maestas) – Requires all charter schools to be Boards of Finance; separates charter school audits from those of their chartering authorities.

**CS/SB 434 Math & Reading Academic Support** (Lanier, Tobiassen, Townsend, Woods) – Requires academic support, intervention, and accelerated instruction for students with a mathematics or reading deficiency; establishes requirements for accelerated instruction.

**SB 465 Participation in School Sports** (Antonio Maestas) – Prohibits schools from restricting participation in an athletic activity because the student participated in that athletic activity while attending a different school; permits students to participate in club or outside sports without penalty; permits students to participate in athletic training camps without penalty; allows private schools to offer scholarships to students to participate in athletic activities; allows eight grade students to play high school sports without losing a season of eligibility.

**SJR 11 School Elections Timing, CA** (Linda M. Trujillo, Gail Armstrong, David M. Gallegos) – Amends Article 7, Section 1 of the Constitution of New Mexico to permit school elections to be held at the same time as partisan elections.

**SJR 15 Appointed State Board of Education, CA** (William P. Soules, Willian E. Sharer, Benny Shendo, Jr.) - Proposes an amendment to Article 12, Section 6 of the Constitution of New Mexico to provide for an appointed State Board of Education that appoints a superintendent of public instruction as the head of the PED and sets policy for public schools as provided by law and to retain the elected Public Education Commission to serve as the chartering authority for state-chartered charter schools and have other powers and duties as provided by law.