

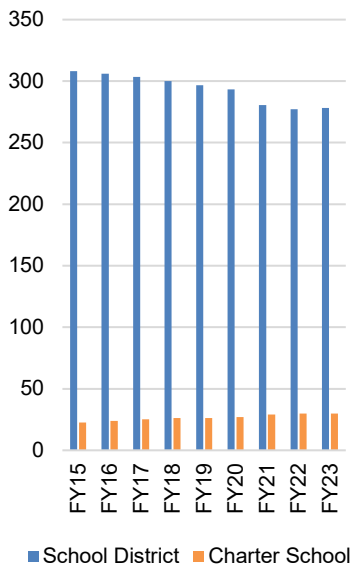
ACTION PLAN

Submitted by agency?	No
Timeline assigned?	No
Responsibility assigned?	No

Public Schools

The Public Education Department (PED) reported slight increases in student enrollment, changes to teacher licensure advancement, and continued delays in processing reimbursements. PED continues to turn over key leadership positions, including the secretary of education, and to maintain vacancies for two deputy secretary positions. Despite standing up statewide capabilities in FY22 to track interim assessment data, the department has not publicly reported data for beginning- or middle-of-the-year tests in FY23.

New Mexico Public School Enrollment
(in thousands)



Source: PED

Enrollment Changes

New Mexico public school enrollment has begun to stabilize but has not recovered to pre-pandemic levels. Kindergarten through 12th grade enrollment as of the 40th day count (typically the first reporting interval in the school year) reached 308.3 thousand students, an increase of 1,339 students, or 0.4 percent, from the prior year. The slight reversal from declining enrollment trends this year likely reflects the return of some students to school after closures during the Covid-19 pandemic. Overall, school districts and charter schools both saw increased enrollment of 1,149 students and 190 students, respectively.

High School Graduation Rates

As the end of the 2022-2023 school year approaches, PED has not publicly reported on or otherwise provided graduation data from the 2021-2022 school year.

Teacher Licensure Advancement

PED has replaced professional development dossiers, the traditional application to advance from level 1 to level 2 licensure, with a pathway for licensure advancement via certification through five micro-credentials: classroom environment, multi-layered system of supports, assessment literacy, culturally and linguistically responsive instruction, and family engagement. A micro-credential consists of several “stacked” courses, each focused on a discrete skill or area, and teachers must demonstrate at least 85 percent mastery of these skills to earn a micro-credential.

Micro-Credentials. Teachers who were already starting their dossier will be allowed to complete that process. While the advancement process via micro-credential takes 1.25 years, micro-credential pathways, unlike the dossier, allow educators to pause in between micro-credential courses and are also designed to have more direct input with a facilitator, rather than dossiers, which were a largely independent application review process. Current micro-credential pathways apply only to license progression for level 1 to level 2 licenses. While PED has referenced development for a micro-credentialing pathway to progress from a level 2 to level 3 license, there is not a confirmed deadline.

Dossier vs. Micro-Credential Licensure Advancement		
	Dossier	Micro-credential
Initial Cost	\$320 one-time fee	\$60 for each credential; total \$300 over 1 year
Correction Cost	\$110 to \$330	None
Time to Complete	Dossier assembly takes 3-9 months	Completed over the course of 1 year
Opportunity to Correct	Can resubmit partial or full dossier	Can correct micro-credentials while taking course; must pass course in order to progress

Source: PED

Department Operations

As of March 2023, PED filled 274 FTE out of 285.2 budgeted positions, an increase from the first quarter average of 263 FTE, providing increased salaries and competitive flexibility to fill high-need positions. However key roles, including two deputy directors,

PERFORMANCE REPORT CARD

Public Education Department
Second Quarter, Fiscal Year 2023

have remained unfilled over the past two quarters. The governor also appointed a new secretary of education, the fourth secretary appointment for the position since 2018.

PED reported a slight decrease in processing time for budget adjustment requests (BAR), down to 7.7 days, which they attribute to the lower volume of BARs during the beginning of the fiscal year. However, average reimbursement processing time to schools was 34 days, well above the target of 24 days. PED cites the end of FY22 and beginning of FY23 led to an increase in requests for reimbursement, and the department has not been able to absorb this increase over the last two quarters.

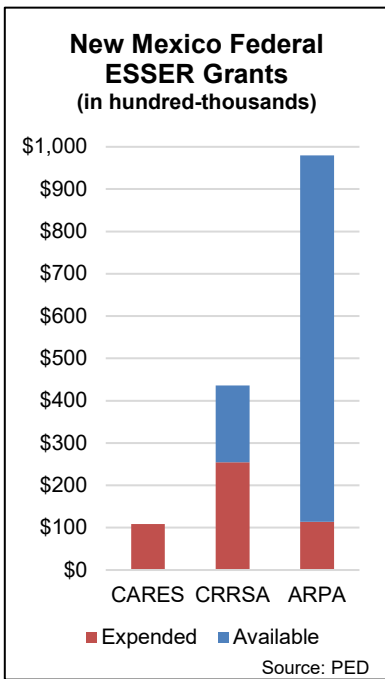
Federal Pandemic Relief Funds

According to the U.S. Department of Education, New Mexico schools have only spent 58.5 percent of the second round of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA), leaving about \$181 million on the table. PED's own dashboard reports slightly less spending by districts, with only 36.6 percent, or \$147 million, of CRRSAA funds available for expenditure by the deadline of September 2023. School districts have only spent 11.6 percent of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) ESSER funds, the third and largest round of federal aid, leaving \$865.9 million available for expenditure by the deadline of September 2024. At least 20 percent of ARPA ESSER funds must be spent on interventions to recover lost instructional time during the pandemic, including extended learning time programs.

PED and federal guidelines encourage schools to focus spending on educational technology, tutoring and supports for students, and facility improvements. As schools and districts continue to maintain record-high cash balances, PED will need to work closely with the largest ESSER fund balances to ensure the funds are spent in a manner consistent with nonrecurring school needs.

Career Technical Education Programs

Out of \$10 million in appropriations for CTE in FY23, PED allocated \$4 million for NextGen pilot programs and \$4.7 million for a new Innovation Zones program, leaving \$1.3 million in funding for unspecified uses. Given that CTE funding has quadrupled to \$40 million for FY24, PED will need to closely report on outcomes and challenges in existing CTE programs to steer choices for the increased appropriation.



	Total	Programs
FY20	\$4,500	NextGen: \$4,500
FY21	\$5,000	NextGen: \$5,000
FY22	\$3,000	NextGen: \$3,000
FY23	\$10,000	NextGen: \$4,000.00 Innovation Zones: \$4,700
FY24	\$40,000	*NextGen: \$15,000.00 *Innovation Zones: \$25,000

Source: PED

*LFC estimate only. PED has not released CTE program funding for FY24

PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Target	FY23 Q1	FY23 Q2	FY23 Q3	Rating
Budget: \$20,869.0 FTE: 285.2							
Average budget adjustment request processing, in days	6.7	8.0	10.0	7.9	7.7		G
Special appropriations distributed	87.9%	90.3%	N/A*	86.4%	89.1%		Y
Data validation audits of funding formula	24	20	30	1	9		R
Average reimbursements processing, in days	40	37	24	31	34		R
Students in K-5 Plus programs	14,242	8,334	N/A*	3,805	4,436		R
Program Rating	Y	Y		R	Y		R

*Measure is classified as explanatory and does not have a target.