

1 SENATE BILL 396

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Linda M. López and Antoinette Sedillo Lopez and Leo Jaramillo  
5 and Harold Pope and Shannon D. Pinto  
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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; AMENDING SECTIONS OF THE HISPANIC  
12 EDUCATION ACT TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR ENSURING THE  
13 MAINTENANCE OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE; REQUIRING THE HISPANIC  
14 EDUCATION LIAISON TO ADVISE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FIVE-YEAR  
15 PLANS FOR POST-SECONDARY SCHOOLS; REQUIRING THE STATEWIDE  
16 HISPANIC EDUCATION STATUS REPORT TO INCLUDE INITIATIVES TO  
17 INCREASE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND REPORT ON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AS  
18 MEASURED BY A STATEWIDE TEST; CREATING A SYSTEMIC FRAMEWORK FOR  
19 IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR HISPANIC STUDENTS.  
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21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

22 SECTION 1. Section 22-23B-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2010,  
23 Chapter 108, Section 1 and Laws 2010, Chapter 114, Section 1)  
24 is amended to read:

25 "22-23B-1. SHORT TITLE.--~~[This act]~~ Chapter 22, Article  
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1 23B NMSA 1978 may be cited as the "Hispanic Education Act".

2 SECTION 2. Section 22-23B-2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2010,  
3 Chapter 108, Section 2 and Laws 2010, Chapter 114, Section 2)  
4 is amended to read:

5 "22-23B-2. PURPOSE.--The purpose of the Hispanic  
6 Education Act is to:

7 A. provide for the study, development and  
8 implementation of educational systems that affect the  
9 educational success of Hispanic students to close the  
10 achievement gap and increase graduation rates;

11 B. encourage and foster parental involvement in the  
12 education of their children; ~~and~~

13 C. provide mechanisms for parents, community,  
14 community-based and business organizations, public schools,  
15 school districts, charter schools, public post-secondary  
16 educational institutions, the higher education department, the  
17 department and state and local policymakers to work together to  
18 improve educational opportunities for Hispanic students for the  
19 purpose of closing the achievement gap, increasing graduation  
20 rates and increasing post-secondary enrollment, retention and  
21 completion; and

22 D. ensure the maintenance of the Spanish language."

23 SECTION 3. Section 22-23B-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2010,  
24 Chapter 108, Section 4 and Laws 2010, Chapter 114, Section 4)  
25 is amended to read:

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1 "22-23B-4. HISPANIC EDUCATION LIAISON--CREATED--DUTIES.--

2 A. The "Hispanic education liaison" is created in  
3 the department.

4 B. The liaison shall:

5 (1) focus on issues related to Hispanic  
6 education and advise the secretary on the development and  
7 implementation of policy regarding the education of Hispanic  
8 students;

9 (2) advise the department and the commission  
10 on the development and implementation of the five-year  
11 strategic plan for public elementary, [~~and~~] secondary education  
12 and post-secondary education in the state as the plan relates  
13 to Hispanic student education;

14 (3) assist and be assisted by other staff in  
15 the department to improve elementary, secondary and post-  
16 secondary educational outcomes for Hispanic students;

17 (4) serve as a resource to enable school  
18 districts and charter schools to provide equitable and  
19 culturally relevant learning environments, educational  
20 opportunities and culturally relevant instructional materials  
21 for Hispanic students enrolled in public schools;

22 (5) support and consult with the Hispanic  
23 education advisory council; and

24 (6) support school districts and charter  
25 schools to recruit parents on site-based and school district

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1 committees that represent the ethnic diversity of the  
2 community."

3 SECTION 4. Section 22-23B-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2010,  
4 Chapter 108, Section 6 and Laws 2010, Chapter 114, Section 6,  
5 as amended) is amended to read:

6 "22-23B-6. STATEWIDE STATUS REPORT.--

7 A. The department, in collaboration with the higher  
8 education department, shall submit an annual preschool through  
9 post-secondary statewide Hispanic education status report no  
10 later than November 15 to the governor and the legislature  
11 through the legislative education study committee. A copy  
12 shall be provided to the legislative library in the legislative  
13 council service.

14 B. The status report shall include the following  
15 information, by school district, by charter school and  
16 statewide, which may be compiled from data otherwise required  
17 to be submitted to the department:

18 (1) Hispanic student achievement at all grades  
19 as measured by a statewide test approved by the department with  
20 results desegregated by ethnicity;

21 (2) attendance for all grades;

22 (3) the graduation rates for Hispanic  
23 students; [and]

24 (4) the number and type of bilingual and  
25 multicultural programs in each school district and charter

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1 school; and

2 (5) school district initiatives to decrease  
3 the number of school dropouts and increase attendance.

4 C. The status report shall include the following  
5 information, by post-secondary educational institution, which  
6 may be compiled from data otherwise required to be submitted to  
7 the higher education department:

- 8 (1) Hispanic student enrollment;
- 9 (2) Hispanic student retention; and
- 10 (3) Hispanic student completion rates."

11 SECTION 5. A new section of the Hispanic Education Act is  
12 enacted to read:

13 "[NEW MATERIAL] SYSTEMIC FRAMEWORK.--

14 A. School districts shall develop and publish a  
15 systemic framework for improving educational outcomes for  
16 Hispanic students. A school district shall develop the  
17 framework in collaboration with school employees, Hispanic  
18 students and families, social service providers and community  
19 and civic organizations. The Hispanic education liaison shall  
20 assist the school district as required during the development  
21 and implementation of the framework. The school district may  
22 request assistance from schools of education at state post-  
23 secondary educational institutions to identify best practices  
24 in collecting and using student-centered data to inform  
25 teaching strategies and schoolwide efforts to close the

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1 achievement gap between Hispanic students and all other student  
2 demographic groups.

3 B. The systemic framework shall include culturally  
4 relevant programs, services, curricula, instructional  
5 materials, activities and professional development that need to  
6 be provided to improve Hispanic education in the state.

7 C. Academic and other programs may include:

8 (1) high-quality professional development for  
9 teaching professionals and paraprofessionals;

10 (2) family-based early childhood programs that  
11 provide screening and referral and provide services to children  
12 with developmental delays or disabilities;

13 (3) bilingual and bicultural programs and  
14 projects; and

15 (4) programs designed to encourage and assist  
16 Hispanic students to work toward, and gain entrance into,  
17 institutions of higher education.

18 D. Culturally related activities may include:

19 (1) culturally related activities that support  
20 the academic program of the public school;

21 (2) activities that support the Spanish  
22 language programs;

23 (3) activities that promote the incorporation  
24 of culturally responsive teaching and learning strategies into  
25 the public school's educational program; and

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1 (4) activities to educate students about the  
2 prevention of violence, suicide and substance abuse.

3 E. Services to be provided may include:

4 (1) early interventions to help struggling  
5 students, such as after-school programs, tutoring and mentoring  
6 and school and community interventions to prevent truancy and  
7 reduce dropout rates;

8 (2) comprehensive guidance and counseling  
9 services;

10 (3) integrated educational services in  
11 combination with other programs that meet the needs of Hispanic  
12 students and their families, including programs that promote  
13 parental involvement in school activities and increase student  
14 achievement; and

15 (4) family literacy services, including adult  
16 basic education programs."