

Hearing Brief

2025 Committee Endorsed Legislation Proposals

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- ***Revision of the State Equalization Guarantee (SEG).*** The bill would amend the existing public school funding formula by modifying the at-risk index, creating a standalone factor for English learners, and amending basic program units for students in grades six through 12. The bill would amend Section 22-8-23.3 NMSA 1978 by removing the three existing indicators of the at-risk index and replacing these with the methodology of the family income index as the sole component of the at-risk index, as well as creating a standalone factor of 0.33 for English learners and students who have been reclassified as fluent English proficient in the prior two academic years. Finally, the bill would amend Section 22-8-20 NMSA 1978 by increasing the basic program weight for grades six through 12 to 1.30 (an increase from 1.045 for students in grade six and 1.25 for students in grades seven through 12).
- ***Capital Outlay Waiver Criteria Refinement and Extension of Temporary Local Match Reduction.*** This bill simplifies local match waiver criteria in Section 22-24-5 NMSA 1978 by removing the 70 percent free and reduced lunch threshold and the 50 percent local share requirements for small, high-poverty districts (waiver criteria B), and eliminating criteria for rapid growth districts (waiver criteria C). These changes would allow school districts unable to meet local share requirements to access necessary waivers and allow the Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) to operate within its delegated authority using existing tools within its award process. The bill also extends the provisions of Laws 2023, Chapter 98 (SB131) through FY27, maintaining temporary local match reductions of 33 percent and 50 percent for qualifying districts. This extension would enable school districts to proceed with essential school facility projects while providing LESC, Legislative Finance Committee (LFC), and Public School Facilities Authority (PSFA) staff sufficient time to analyze and address state and local match formula challenges.
- ***Changes to Administrator Preparation Programs and Establishing Separate Licenses for Principals and Superintendents.*** The bill would require the Public Education Department (PED) to establish, by rule, criteria for administrator preparation programs that include specific evidence-based standards and robust clinical experience. All administrator preparation programs would be required to apply for approval by January 15, 2026. The department would be required to approve programs by July 1, 2026. The bill would also establish provisional, initial, and professional principal licenses, as well as provisional and professional superintendent licenses. Three-B administrator license holders would be granted a professional principal license on July 1, 2028. Superintendents hired before July 1, 2028, would be granted a professional superintendent license. Principal and superintendent licenses would be renewable upon meeting certain requirements, including department-determined professional development. The bill would go into effect on July 1, 2025. The three-B administrator license would be repealed on July 1, 2028.
- ***Restraint and Seclusion.*** This bill proposes amendments to Section 22-5-4.12 NMSA 1978, which addresses the use of restraint and seclusion in schools statewide. The bill focuses on clearly defining restraint and seclusion and adds additional definitions—such as time out and physical escort—so practices are clarified, and school staff know clearly what actions are and are not allowed. The bill also adds specificity to training and reporting requirements within existing school safety plans.
- ***Raising Minimum Teacher Salaries at Each Tier Level.*** The bill would amend existing law to increase minimum annual salaries for teachers statewide. Section 22-10A-7 NMSA 1978 would be amended to require a minimum annual salary of \$55 thousand for level 1 teachers, Section 22-10A-10 NMSA 1978 would be amended to require a minimum annual salary of \$65 thousand for level 2 teachers, and Section 22-10A-11 NMSA 1978 would be amended to require a minimum annual salary of \$75 thousand for level 3 teachers. The bill would go into effect in the 2025-2026 school year.
- ***Establishing a STEM Innovation Network.*** This bill would establish an innovation network for science, technology, mathematics, and engineering (STEM) and provide a corresponding appropriation. This network

would connect existing STEM education, workforce, and community resources statewide to improve access to STEM resources, ensure a cohesive state approach to STEM, and create workforce pathways for New Mexico students. The bill would create the following constituent entities of the STEM network: 1) A steering committee comprising government agencies, kindergarten through grade 12 (K-12) educators, industry leadership, tribal education officials, and community partners; and 2) A center of excellence for STEM education and workforce development housed at New Mexico State University's STEM Outreach Center. To support a regional and community-based approach, the bill would also allow for the selection of regional and tribal hubs. Finally, this bill would appropriate \$6 million over three fiscal years (FY26-FY28) to support the operations of the network.

- ***Universal Basic Income Pilot Program.*** This bill would create a two-year pilot program to evaluate the financial impact on a low-income pregnant person of providing a universal basic income of \$1,500 per month from pregnancy through the first year of life of an infant, and would appropriate \$80 million from the general fund for this purpose. This pilot program would be administered by the Department of Health (DOH) and would consist of a control group and a test group of participants who must comply with the provisions of the program to maintain eligibility, such as attending prenatal appointments and receiving home visitation services. DOH would report the findings of the program to LESC by December 1, 2027.
- ***Establishing a Minimum Annual Salary of \$30 Thousand for Public School Personnel.*** The bill would amend Section 22-10A-39 NMSA 1978 to expand applicability of minimum salaries from noncertified school personnel to all public school personnel. The bill would establish a minimum hourly rate of \$15, or a minimum annual salary of \$30 thousand for full-time public school employees effective in the 2025-2026 school year.
- ***Career Development Success Pilot Program.*** This bill would create a Career Development Success pilot program and a corresponding fund for appropriations for the proposed pilot program. This program would be a three-year pilot administered by the Public Education Department (PED) to provide financial incentives to school districts whose students earn industry-recognized credentials by completing qualified industry credential programs or qualified workplace training programs. This would allow for additional career and technical education funding for school districts by providing retroactive funds after a student earns a credential.
- ***Memorial to Study Data Governance and Artificial Intelligence.*** The memorial requests LESC to convene a working group to study and make recommendations regarding education data governance and the use of artificial intelligence in educational settings. The memorial requests LESC to work in partnership with the Legislative Finance Committee and numerous state agencies including PED, the Higher Education Department, the Early Childhood Education and Care Department, the Department of Workforce Solutions, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Department of Information Technology, and experts in data governance and artificial intelligence. The working group would be requested to report its findings and recommendations to LESC by October 31, 2025.
- ***Expand LESC to Study All Public Education.*** This bill would expand the scope of the LESC to study all public education, including early childhood and higher education. Current law restricts LESC study to kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) issues, with the exception of teacher preparation programs.