



HIGHER EDUCATION SPENDING STATUS REPORT



WORKFORCE TRAINING

GRO, FY2025: \$20,000,000

Status: A total of \$60 million over a three-year period in funding was appropriated this past legislative session and must support students in pursuing workforce training courses, apprenticeships, and internships at New Mexico's public community colleges and regional universities. A guidance memo was sent to all eligible higher education institutions during the summer. The Higher Education Department required an implementation plan and, currently, all memoranda of understanding and funding for Fiscal Year 2025 has been distributed. Both the Department of Workforce Solutions and the Legislative Finance Committee were consulted in the drafting of the guidance.



INTEGRATED EDUCATION TRAINING (IET)

GRO, FY2025: \$2,000,000

Status: Most funding was distributed to adult education programs for the development of new Integrated Education Training (IET) programs. To date, IET enrollment has increased over 30 percent and we anticipate a sharp increase of over 100 percent in types of credentials offered as the year progresses and programs are designed, including new credentials in welding, solar technician, dental assistant, and broadband technician. A portion of funding was also budgeted by the Adult Education Division to provide professional development on workforce training to adult education teachers, for tests that demonstrate learning gains within IET programs, and for tuition in workforce training programs that are part of IETs.

IET PILOT – HB 303

GRO, FY2025: \$1,000,000

Status: Eligibility guidelines have been drafted and the Adult Education Division is engaged in the rule-making process as directed by the legislation, with a rule hearing scheduled for December 10, 2024. Additionally, the division has initiated the development of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a contractor to assist with distributing the stipends and that will conclude in January, ahead of the April deadline in legislation.



ADULT EDUCATION

\$3,000,000 in TANF funding

Status: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding was distributed to adult education programs for the first time in 2023. Since then most of these funds were used to increase teacher pay, improve professional development programming, support enrollment increases, develop high-quality curriculum, set up career navigation services for students, and expand Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs statewide. As a result, there was a 27 percent increase in the number of IET participants, with students attaining 317 industry-recognized credentials. The majority of credentials earned were in child development, emergency medical services, certified nursing assistance, and wildland firefighting.



STEM GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

\$10,000,000

Status: New Mexico residents who are enrolled in graduate STEM programs have the opportunity to access state funds up to \$7,200 per academic year. Public colleges and universities reported 291 students who benefited from this appropriation in Fiscal Year 2024. A guidance memo was sent to financial aid directors this summer for disbursement in the 2024-25 academic year.



SOCIAL WORK

\$10,000,000

Status: This funding must support endowed faculty teaching positions and student financial aid, including scholarships and paid practicums in bachelor's and master's degree social work programs at public colleges and universities in New Mexico. A guidance memo was sent to financial aid directors during the Fall 2024 semester. All higher education institutions must submit an implementation plan to the Higher Education Department so the agency can better understand the intended use and distribution of these funds in the three designated areas – endowments, scholarships, and practicums.



DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM

\$1,000,000

Status: Thousands of New Mexico high school students have accessed dual credit courses. The Dual Credit Program serves as a vital starting point for students to consider pathways that lead them to certifications or two-year and four-year degrees, while also providing them a glimpse of education opportunities beyond high school. A guidance memo was sent to public colleges and universities discussing best practices, prioritizing General Education coursework, and focusing on high-need, high-demand workforce fields. To date, all memoranda of understanding have been signed by all participating higher education institutions.



TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT FUND

\$15,000,000 transfer from fund

Status: This year, a total of \$14.2 million was distributed to research institutions focused on statewide economic impact and research. Quarter 1 awards letters were sent to higher education institutions in the Fall 2024 semester and memoranda of understanding are in process for the final distribution of funds. After recent awards, approximately \$10.8 million remains in the Technology Enhancement Fund.



NEW MEXICO LONGITUDINAL DATA SYSTEM

\$3,000,000

Status: This longitudinal data system is a modern, cloud-based, centralized data platform for reliable statewide, cross-agency data, reports, visualizations, and analysis. A total of \$1.2 million was certified for use through the Department of Information Technology's Project Certification Committee (PCC) in July 2024 to finish paying out completed deliverables and cover the first year of maintenance and operations. The Higher Education Department presents to PCC this month to certify the remaining funds for upcoming project work next year and hiring independent verification and validation (IV&V) services. Additionally, approximately \$1.5 million in federal grant funding will be certified to supplement state investments.



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BUILDING RENEWAL & REPLACEMENT **\$32,500,000**

Status: Building Renewal and Replacement (BR&R) is distributed based on a reimbursement process in which colleges and universities must expend their funds then submit a draw request to be reimbursed. To date, this appropriation – which is relatively new to the institutions – has reimbursed \$123,661.56 of the \$32,500,000; however, the entirety of the appropriation has been encumbered via purchase orders.



EQUIPMENT RENEWAL & REPLACEMENT **\$5,000,000**

Status: All distributions for Equipment Renewal and Replacement funding was paid out on November 18, 2024, meaning all funding has been fully distributed to the New Mexico's higher education institutions.



NEW MEXICO LITERACY INSTITUTE **\$30,000,000**

Status: The New Mexico Literacy Institute will house student interventions, a laboratory school, educator trainings and professional development, and family and community engagement opportunities. With support from the General Services Department, New Mexico-based firm Design Plus Architects received the award the complete the design of the New Mexico Literacy Institute. The design will be completed in the spring and a contractor for construction will be selected by the early summer.



OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE PARTNERSHIP **\$1,500,000**

Status: A "Sole Source" purchase was posted by the General Services Department in November 2024. The Burrell College of Osteopathic Medicine in Las Cruces, New Mexico, will develop a comprehensive outreach program to recruit New Mexicans into their osteopathic medical program.



MESALANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE **\$2,250,000**

Status: Legislative language required a special audit by the state auditor and a feasibility study which allowed the Higher Education Department to gather community feedback, study the college's fiscal condition, and make recommendations on solvency measures and governance changes at Mesalands Community College. The special audit is ongoing will be completed in four months. Additionally, the feasibility study is also ongoing with two parts: (1) an economic analysis is done on the impact of the college's day-to-day operations along with student spending and alumni who are still employed in the service area workforce and (2) a stakeholders and investment analysis to determine how the money spent by students' education performs as an investment over time.

AGENCY SPECIAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS



- **\$4 million** for the Higher Education Retention Fund to support student success services and address student basic needs
- **\$25 million** for the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program
- **\$25 million** for a faculty endowment at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine to supplement current salaries or hire new faculty members
- **\$25 million** for a student endowment at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine to provide scholarships and stipends to New Mexico high school graduates accepted into the program
- **\$10 million** for the Teacher Loan Repayment Program
- **\$10 million** for the state's Dual Credit Program
- **\$3 million** for New Mexico Longitudinal Data System
- **\$20 million** for the Technology Enhancement Fund
- **\$10 million** for cybersecurity efforts at public higher education institutions
- **\$30 million** for deferred maintenance at higher education institutions via Building Renewal and Replacement funding
- **\$5 million** for Equipment Renewal and Replacement funding
- **\$238,000** supplemental for agency operations (salaries)

Photo courtesy of Complete College America, Northern New Mexico College