

Minutes
Santa Fe, NM
November 14 - 15, 2022

Monday, November 14

The following voting and advisory members were present. Voting: Vice Chair Andrés Romero, Representatives Brian G. Baca, T. Ryan Lane, Derrick J. Lente, Christine Trujillo and Susan K. Herrera, and Senators Gay Kernan, Harold Pope Jr., and Mimi Stewart.

Advisory: Representatives Joanne J. Ferrary and Joy Garratt, Willie D. Madrid, Patricia Roybal Caballero, and Senator Linda M. Lopez.

Call to Order, Introductions, and Approval of October 12-14 minutes and November Agenda. Representative G. Andres Romero, Vice Chair of the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC), chairing the LESC November hearing, called the meeting to order and facilitated introductions of the members and staff of LESC.

Community Welcome. Hilario "Larry" Chavez, Superintendent, Santa Fe Public Schools (SFPS); Vanessa Romero, Deputy Superintendent, Teaching and Learning, SFPS; and Robert Martinez II, Chief Financial Officer, SFPS provided an overview of programs, services, and initiatives at Santa Fe Public Schools. The panel discussed standards- and work-based learning, summer programming, attendance initiatives, and initiatives supported by ESSER funds.

New Mexico Employer Advisory Group. Kurt Steinhaus, Ed.D., Secretary, Public Education Department (PED), Sarita Nair, Secretary, Department of Workforce Solutions, and Lutz Arnhold, Managing Director, Rosewood Hotels, presented on PED efforts to prepare New Mexico students for the future workforce. Presenters also highlighted partnerships between PED, the Department of Workforce Solutions (DWS), and community partners and employers to support these efforts and provide more opportunities for students. In addition to addressing the strategies being implemented by PED, DWS, and school districts to establish and expand career technical education and work-based learning experiences, the presenters highlighted research that these programs have the potential to support a variety of positive outcomes for students including improved engagement and attendance.

New Mexico Voices for Children. Paige Knight, Senior Research and Policy Analyst, New Mexico Voices for Children; and Emily Wildau, Research and Policy Analyst and KIDS COUNT Coordinator, New Mexico Voices for Children presented on tax policy proposals their organization believes can create stable, sustainable revenue to support New Mexico's educational needs. The analysts outlined recent progress in early childhood, K-12, and higher education, but also asserted unmet education needs remain, such as the need to increase support for Native American students, students from low-income families, English learners, and students with disabilities. New Mexico Voices for Children suggested tax policy changes

including increasing the Child Tax Credit, raising the personal income tax for the state's highest earners, repealing the capital gains deduction, increasing the corporate income tax for large corporations and enacting a corporate minimum tax, repealing ineffective gross receipts tax breaks, and targeted alcohol and tobacco taxes to fund behavioral health programs.

Potential Committee Endorsed Legislation. John Sena, Deputy Director, LESC, presented a number of items for potential LESC endorsement for the 2023 session, including a bill to change the state's graduation requirements, a public school capital outlay omnibus bill, a bill to increase instructional hours to 1,140 for all students, a bill to increase educational assistant salaries, a bill to increase principal responsibility factors, a bill to simplify the family income index, amendments to the Attendance for Success Act, a bill to establish an Indian education endowment fund, a bill to change how Indian education fund distributions are made, a bill to establish a public education oversight commission, and a bill to increase the at-risk funding factor from 0.30 to 0.35. The items were presented for discussion but the committee did not take formal action to endorse any legislation.

Recommendations for Strong School Leaders. Terri Cole, President and CEO, Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, presented an overview of the Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce's study of school leadership, describing the importance of school leadership and the need for reform. Then, Mike Canfield, President and CEO, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center addressed the research on the importance of improving school leadership and the impact school principals have on student outcomes and teacher retention. Next, Scott Darnell, Director of Policy and Programs, Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce, provided further information from the Albuquerque Greater Chamber of Commerce's report on school leadership and provided an overview of recommendations. Then, Erika Hunt, School Leadership Consultant, Education Research and Development LLC, provided a research basis for the report's recommendation and provided a background on work to improve school leadership in other states.

Members asked presenters about the cost associated with reforming principal preparation programs, university buy-in to change principal preparation programs, lessons from making changes to principal preparation programs in Illinois, and the structure of principal preparation programs.

Director's Report. Gwen Perea Warniment, Ph.D., Director, LESC, reported to the committee an update on the LESC budget and LESC staffing. Related to the budget, Ms. Warniment noted a successful budget audit and professional learning opportunities for staff. Related to staff, Ms. Warniment noted LESC is fully staffed, discussed contract hires for the upcoming legislative session, and noted upcoming staff performance evaluations.

Tuesday, November 15

The following voting and advisory members were present. Voting: Vice Chair Andrés Romero, Representatives Brian G. Baca, T. Ryan Lane, Susan K. Herrera, and Senators Harold Pope Jr. and Mimi Stewart.

Advisory: Representatives Kelly K. Fajardo, Joanne J. Ferrary, Joy Garratt, Willie D. Madrid, Patricia Roybal Caballero, Debra M. Sariñana, and Senators Shannon D. Pinto, and Linda M. Lopez.

Math in New Mexico. LESC staff—Marit Andrews, Senior Policy Analyst II, Tim Bedeaux, Senior Policy Analyst II, Jessica Hathaway, Senior Policy Analyst II, and Emily Hoxie, Senior Policy Analyst I—presented about the status of mathematics in New Mexico. LESC staff facilitated a LESC member discussion about the importance of mathematics, shared state and national data about how New Mexico's students are performing on math assessments, and discussed a three-part framework to offer strong math instruction that focused on educator preparation, high-quality instructional materials, and developing a coordinated state vision. The presentation closed with LESC staff discussing short- and long-term policy proposals as well as budget considerations.

Graduation Alliance and Dropout Recovery. Jessica Hathaway, Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC, opened the panel presenting a staff handout that outlined data about students who do not complete high school in New Mexico. Chad Craycraft, Senior Vice President and Senior Counsel, with the Graduation Alliance, a national organization that focuses on students completing high school, then presented state policy options to support students at risk of dropping out, including information about a policy framework the Graduation Alliance has worked with other states to adopt. Hilario "Larry" Chavez, Superintendent, Santa Fe Public Schools (SFPS), and Crystal Ybarra, Chief Equity, Diversity, and Engagement Officer, SFPS, then shared information about SFPS' approach to supporting students at risk of dropping out, including how they support families and students and offer targeted supports for students.

Attendance and Community Schools. Bridget Condon, Policy Analyst, LESC, Timothy W. Hand, Ph.D., Anna Age Eight Institute, New Mexico State University, and Angelo Gonzales, Ph.D., Interim Deputy Secretary, School Transformation and Innovation, PED, presented on growing chronic absenteeism rates both nationally and in New Mexico, and evidence-based strategies education leaders are using to increase attendance. The presenters emphasized that while community schools are not *the* solution to absenteeism, their focus on a more holistic approach to student well-being and their evidence-based approaches have the potential to increase student attendance, in addition to many other positive student outcomes. Additionally, presenters provided a current landscape of community schools in New Mexico and the emerging efforts and research to support their needs, increase their effectiveness, and establish more community schools throughout the state.

House Memorial 43: Mental Wellness Spaces. Myra Lacy, student, Eldorado High School, Sean Thomas, teacher, Eldorado High School, Leslie Kelly, Behavioral Health Coordinator, PED, and Pamelya Herndon, State Representative, District 28, presented the findings and recommendations of a statewide taskforce focused on studying the use of mental wellness spaces in schools. The presentation included two student-developed videos, a history of a wellness space at Eldorado High School, research about best practices in developing mental wellness spaces, and a legislative recommendation to fund a pilot program to support a limited number of wellness spaces in schools across New Mexico.