

LFC Requestor: Choose an item.

**2025 LEGISLATIVE SESSION  
AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS**

**Section I: General**

**Chamber:** Senate

**Category:** Bill

**Number:** 11

**Type:** Introduced

**Date (of THIS analysis):** 01-22-25

**Sponsor(s):** Crystal Brantley

**Short Title:** Anti-Distracted Policy In Schools

**Reviewing Agency:** Agency 665 - Department of Health

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**Section II: Fiscal Impact**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation Contained		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 25	FY 26		
\$0	\$0	Nonrecurring	SGF

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY 25	FY 26	FY 27		
\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-recurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	N/A	N/A

While there is no direct fiscal impact to NMDOH, ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the Public Education Department (NMPED) for expenditure in fiscal years 2026 through 2028 to reimburse school districts and charter schools for the acquisition of specialized storage equipment necessary to implement an adopted anti-distraction policy. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2028 shall revert to the general fund. It is unclear whether school districts would be able to front the cost for this equipment initially before reimbursement.

### **Section III: Relationship to other legislation**

Duplicates: None

Conflicts with: None

Companion to: None

Relates to: None

Duplicates/Relates to an Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None

### **Section IV: Narrative**

#### **1. BILL SUMMARY**

a) Synopsis

SB11 requires NMPED to encourage school districts and charter schools to adopt anti-distraction policies to promote academic success and positive social development for students by providing reimbursement for the acquisition of specialized equipment necessary to implement and adopt anti-distraction policy.

Is this an amendment or substitution?  Yes  No

Is there an emergency clause?  Yes  No

b) Significant Issues

Both challenges and benefits exist with the integration of electronic devices in educational settings:

Challenges include distractions caused by smartphone app updates and notifications diverting attention from academic work. Reliance and distraction caused by social media may impact time management skills during school hours and potentially result in feelings of loneliness, anxiety, and melancholy. Misinformation on-line may lead to errors or misinterpretation of academic content or subjects, or distract from instructor led learning plans during classroom hours. Collaborative projects which encourage participation and information sharing outside the classroom can be supported by smartphones, improving access to the most current information and a variety of perspectives, however this benefit does not necessarily support having access to and using smartphones during classroom

hours. ([Exploring the role of social media in collaborative learning the new domain of learning | Smart Learning Environments | Full Text](#))

With careful monitoring and guidance, students could be supported in assessing the quality of on-line information in education including, teaching students how to identify credible sources of information and red flags, promoting academic integrity and ethical norms. This guidance could support students generally in their research and pursuit of answers in a technological age defined less by the need to find information and more by the need to evaluate the quality of an abundance of all sorts of information. Districts should consider strategies to ensure equitable access to internet-based learning for all students. Evidence from 22 studies concluded that a one size fits all approach is unlikely to have a uniform, positive effect ([What the Science Says: Smartphones in Schools - The Digital Wellness Lab](#)), but it is generally observed that while smartphones can be tools for learning, in practice, they often obstruct the learning environment instructors need to establish for the benefit of the whole classroom.

Utilization of some forms of technology in education can produce meaningful, dynamic learning experiences and is essential in day-to day learning and activities. Schools may consider policies to assist students in achieving successful utilization of technology in learning by teaching digital literacy, and critical evaluation of on-line content and conduct. Professional development for educators on utilization of technology in education may be necessary, including privacy, security, educational efficacy and validity. Consideration of standards for educational use of technology emphasizing integrity of information and responsible behavior could be considered for successful use of technology in the classroom. Obtaining stakeholder buy-in from teachers, students, administrators and families to ensure success in implementation of policy.

[The Significance of Social Media in Shaping Students' Academic Performance: Challenges, Benefits, and Quality Assurance Outlook Featured, Translation Education adelakunnajeem@gmail.com](#) [The Significance of Social Media in Shaping Students' Academic Performance: Challenges, Benefits, and Quality Assurance Outlook - The Significance of Social Media in Shaping Students' Academic Performance: Challenges, Benefits, and Quality Assurance Outlook - Information Matters](#)

While technology use to enhance learning is a critical component of living in a digital age, research has shown that that following a ban on phone use during the school day there is improvement in test scores, particularly among students who have lower levels of achievement. ([Ill Communication: Technology, distraction & student performance - ScienceDirect](#)).

## 2. PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

- Does this bill impact the current delivery of NMDOH services or operations?  
 Yes  No
- Is this proposal related to the NMDOH Strategic Plan?  Yes  No
  - Goal 1:** We expand equitable access to services for all New Mexicans
  - Goal 2:** We ensure safety in New Mexico healthcare environments

**Goal 3:** We improve health status for all New Mexicans

**Goal 4:** We support each other by promoting an environment of mutual respect, trust, open communication, and needed resources for staff to serve New Mexicans and to grow and reach their professional goals

### 3. FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the Executive Budget Request?  
 Yes  No  N/A
- If there is an appropriation, is it included in the LFC Budget Request?  
 Yes  No  N/A
- Does this bill have a fiscal impact on NMDOH?  Yes  No

### 4. ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Will this bill have an administrative impact on NMDOH?  Yes  No

### 5. DUPLICATION, CONFLICT, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

None

### 6. TECHNICAL ISSUES

Are there technical issues with the bill?  Yes  No

### 7. LEGAL/REGULATORY ISSUES (OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES)

- Will administrative rules need to be updated or new rules written?  Yes  No
- Have there been changes in federal/state/local laws and regulations that make this legislation necessary (or unnecessary)?  Yes  No
- Does this bill conflict with federal grant requirements or associated regulations?  
 Yes  No
- Are there any legal problems or conflicts with existing laws, regulations, policies, or programs?  Yes  No

New Mexico is a Local Education Agency (LEA) state; therefore, the ban would have to be instituted on a local level. The State Education Agency (SEA), or NMPED, will not have the authority to mandate such bans, but will have to maintain a support and encouragement role.

### 8. DISPARITIES ISSUES

None

### 9. HEALTH IMPACT(S)

Policymakers and school administrators should emphasize the importance of teaching critical digital literacy and responsible device use in schools. Without the necessary education and support to safely navigate this digital space in their lives, providing children with unrestricted and unfiltered access to mobile devices and technology may place them at greater risk of harm from digital predators or unfiltered content ([Evidence for and against banning mobile phones](#))

[in schools: A scoping review - Marilyn Campbell, Elizabeth J Edwards, Donna Pennell, Shiralee Poed, Victoria Lister, Jenna Gillett-Swan, Adrian Kelly, Dajana Zec, Thuy-Anh Nguyen, 2024\).](#)

## **10. ALTERNATIVES**

None

## **11. WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL?**

If SB11 is not enacted, the NMPED would not be required to encourage school districts and charter schools to adopt anti-distraction policies to promote academic success and positive social development for students and an appropriation of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) for expenditure in fiscal years 2026 through 2028 to reimburse school districts and charter schools for the acquisition of specialized storage equipment necessary to implement an adopted anti-distraction policy would not be made.

## **12. AMENDMENTS**

None