

LFC Requester: Klundt



**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
BILL ANALYSIS
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date Prepared: 02/04 /25
Bill No: SB261

Agency Name and Code: PED - 924

Sponsor: Campos/Gonzales

PED Lead Analyst: -

Phone: - **Email:** -

Short Title: HUB & SPOKE HEALTH CARE
PILOT PROJECT

PED Policy Director: Denise Terrazas
Phone: (505) 470-5303 **Email:** denise.terrazas@ped.nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
\$1,750.00	None	Nonrecurring	General Fund

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
None	None	None	N/A	N/A

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	None	None	None	None	N/A	NFA

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: [HB141](#), the current version of the General Appropriation Act of 2025, includes a proposed appropriation to the Department of Health (DOH) of approximately \$81 million for public health which includes a performance measure for school-based health centers funded by DOH demonstrating improvement in their primary care or behavioral healthcare focus area.

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Bill 261 (SB261) proposes to create the hub-and-spoke pilot project as a five-year pilot to study and improve preventive healthcare access in underserved areas. The project aims to provide for the delivery of health services at public schools through a hub-and-spoke care model. The DOH would oversee the project and the Public Education Department (PED) would be required to assist DOH with the collection and compilation of data relative to student academic outcomes associated with the project. A cooperative care team, including a school nurse, primary care provider, behavioral health provider, athletic trainer, and community health worker, would provide preventive care at participating schools. SB261 would also require the collection and compilation of data on the impact of this model on student health, academic outcomes, and public health.

The bill does not provide an effective date. Laws go into effect 90 days after the adjournment of the Legislature enacting them, unless a later date is specified. If enacted, this bill would become effective June 20, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB261 would appropriate \$1.75 million from the general fund to the DOH for expenditure in F26-FY30 to implement and administer the hub-and-spoke pilot project. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY30 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The model proposed in SB261 is comparable to current school-based health centers (SBHCs) that provide physical and behavioral health services for students in some school settings. SBHCs provide services regardless of a student's ability to pay and eliminating related transportation needs. The provisions of SB261 may assist students and communities without access to an SBHC and in need of access to healthcare.

In 2022, the DOH School-Based Health Center (SBHC) program provided \$3.6 million in funding to 17 medical organizations to operate the 54 school-based health centers statewide. An additional \$400,000 was spent on comprehensive data collection, evaluation, training, technical assistance, and workforce development for school-based health centers.

San Miguel county covers Las Vegas, West Las Vegas, and Pecos school districts with an approximate total K-12 student enrollment of 3,268. Currently, two SBHCs serve San Miguel County, but service delivery days and hours are very limited.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Increased access to healthcare services as proposed in SB261 have been shown to improve outcomes such as student wellbeing and academic performance.

A study of SBHCs and educational outcomes funded by the DOH Office of School and Adolescent Health (OSAH) from 2014-2019, [published in 2025](#), noted the following positive

associations prior to the COVID-19 pandemic in New Mexico:

- OSAH-funded SBHCs are reaching higher-need students in under-resourced and rural communities. A higher proportion of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch and receiving special education services use OSAH-funded SBHCs compared to the overall New Mexico public school population. Also, 75 percent of OSAH-funded SBHCs were in town or rural regions and 89 percent of OSAH-funded SBHCs were in counties rated medium-high to high on the Social Vulnerability Index.
- Students who used an OSAH-funded SBHC for any reason in high school were eight percentage points (83 percent compared to 75 percent) more likely to graduate on time compared to their peers who did not use OSAH-funded SBHCs.
- Using OSAH-funded SBHCs may serve as a protective factor mitigating the academic impact of chronic absenteeism. Among the students who were chronically absent for one year during high school, the graduation rate of those who used OSAH-funded SBHC services was six percentage points higher than students who had also been chronically absent but didn't use OSAH-funded SBHC services.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The provisions of the bill would require DOH to collaborate with PED to measure student academic outcomes from the project.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

SB261 relates to:

- House Bill 15, Health Care Strategic Recruitment Program
- House Bill 35, Children's Health Protection Zones
- House Bill 52, Rural Health Care Tax Credit Eligibility
- House Bill 58, Mental Health Programs in Schools Funding
- House Bill 196, Behavioral Health and Child Care Funding
- House Bill 397, Behavioral Health Student Stipends
- Senate Bill 2, Public Health and Safety Initiatives
- Senate Bill 238, Youth Behavioral Health Prevention Program

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

In 2021, in partnership with the New Mexico Alliance for School-Based Health Care, the University of New Mexico College of Nursing, the Department of Psychiatry, and the DOH School-Based Health Center Program initiated TeleECHO for SBHCs. This initiative created a community of practice to support school-based health centers statewide to address the impacts of COVID-19. It also provides professional education relevant to caring for students and adolescents. TeleECHO sessions have included topics such as trauma, conducting comprehensive risk assessments, screening, brief intervention, referral to treatment, depression and anxiety, nutrition, prevention of nicotine use, resources for teen parents, and sexual- and gender-minority youth.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

None.

AMENDMENTS

None.