

1 SENATE BILL 461

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Shannon D. Pinto

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS; CREATING THE LEGISLATIVE EQUITY AND
12 EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION TASK FORCE TO FUNCTION FROM JULY 1,
13 2025 TO JULY 1, 2029; PROVIDING FOR APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS BY
14 THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL; REQUIRING THE TASK FORCE TO
15 REVIEW THE MARTINEZ AND YAZZIE CONSOLIDATED LAWSUIT, STUDY
16 EDUCATION SYSTEMS, EXPENDITURE OF STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDING AND
17 MAKE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS; CREATING THE EQUITY AND
18 EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FUND; MAKING APPROPRIATIONS.

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20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

21 SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] EQUITY AND EXCELLENCE IN
22 EDUCATION TASK FORCE.--

23 A. The legislative interim "equity and excellence
24 in education task force" is created and shall function from
25 July 1, 2025 to July 1, 2029. The task force is charged with

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1 developing a long-term vision and plan with associated goals to
2 ensure that public school students are prepared for post-
3 secondary education and the workforce, capable of success in
4 the national and global economies and able to effectively
5 participate in civic society.

6 B. The task force consists of:

7 (1) six legislative members appointed by the
8 New Mexico legislative council, including three members from
9 each chamber of the legislature so as to give the two major
10 political parties the same proportionate representation on the
11 task force as prevails in each chamber; provided, however, that
12 there shall be at least one member from the minority party from
13 each chamber; and

14 (2) the following public members appointed by
15 the New Mexico legislative council:

16 (a) three teachers who are current or
17 former "teachers of the year", appointed from a list of
18 recommendations by the two organizations that represent
19 teachers in public schools;

20 (b) two persons with expertise in Indian
21 education;

22 (c) two persons with expertise in
23 bilingual education;

24 (d) two persons with expertise in
25 special education;

1 (e) three elementary school principals
2 of Title I schools pursuant to the federal Elementary and
3 Secondary Education Act appointed from a list of
4 recommendations by the New Mexico coalition of educational
5 leaders, one member from an urban school district, one member
6 from a rural school district and one member from a small town
7 or suburban school district;

8 (f) three superintendents of school
9 districts appointed from a list of recommendations by the New
10 Mexico superintendents' association, one member from an urban
11 school district, one member from a rural school district and
12 one member from a small town or suburban school district;

13 (g) two representatives of the business
14 community that are chief executive officers or owners of
15 businesses in New Mexico, one member appointed from a list of
16 recommendations by the New Mexico chamber of commerce and one
17 member appointed from a list recommended by the greater
18 Albuquerque chamber of commerce; and

19 (h) two representatives of a department-
20 approved four-year teacher preparation program at a public
21 post-secondary educational institution appointed from a list of
22 recommendations by the New Mexico association of colleges of
23 teacher education.

24 C. All members of the task force shall be appointed
25 by July 1, 2025, and the task force shall hold its first

1 meeting by September 1, 2025. The New Mexico legislative
2 council may appoint advisory members as it deems necessary.
3 Public members of the task force are entitled to per diem and
4 mileage at the same rate as public employees pursuant to the
5 Per Diem and Mileage Act and shall receive no other
6 compensation, perquisite or allowance. The legislative
7 education study committee and the legislative finance committee
8 shall provide staff for the task force.

9 D. The task force shall:

10 (1) hold at least three meetings during the
11 legislative interim;

12 (2) review the *Martinez and Yazzie, et al., v.*
13 *the State of New Mexico* consolidated lawsuit, including the
14 decision and order, the finding of fact and conclusions of law
15 and the final judgment issued by the first judicial district
16 court and any pleadings filed after February 28, 2019;

17 (3) study high-performing education systems,
18 locally, regionally and nationally, to learn best practices;

19 (4) study how the department, school districts
20 and public schools are using state and federal funding to close
21 achievement and opportunity gaps and improve educational
22 outcomes for all students; and

23 (5) make findings and recommendations to
24 ensure:

25 (a) equitable access to high-quality and

1 culturally and linguistically relevant curriculum, instruction
2 and instructional resources;

3 (b) that the public school workforce is
4 competent, stable and culturally and linguistically
5 representative of the students in the state;

6 (c) the development of culturally and
7 linguistically relevant whole-child supports, including trauma-
8 informed teaching practices, wraparound services and community
9 partnerships and parent and family engagement; and

10 (d) the effective coordination and
11 collaboration among state agencies, boards of education of
12 school districts, charter school governing bodies, public
13 schools, tribal governments, the business sector and post-
14 secondary educational institutions.

15 E. On or before September 1, 2026 and September 1
16 of each succeeding year, the task force shall provide an
17 interim report of its findings and recommendations to the
18 governor and the legislature. On or before July 1, 2029, the
19 task force shall provide its final report to the governor and
20 the legislature and if the task force provides legislative
21 proposals, the legislative education study committee and the
22 legislative finance committee shall consider those proposals
23 before the end of the 2029 legislative interim.

24 F. The "equity and excellence in education fund" is
25 created as a reverting fund in the state treasury. The fund

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1 consists of appropriations, gifts, grants and donations. The
2 fund shall be administered by the public education department,
3 and money in the fund is appropriated to the department to pay
4 per diem and mileage expenses of public members of the task
5 force, expert witnesses and other necessary expenses of the
6 task force. Expenditures from the fund shall be by warrant of
7 the secretary of finance and administration pursuant to
8 vouchers signed by the secretary of public education or the
9 secretary's authorized representative.

10 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Two hundred fifty thousand
11 dollars (\$250,000) is appropriated from the public education
12 reform fund to the equity and excellence in education fund for
13 expenditure in fiscal years 2026 through 2029 to carry out the
14 purposes of the equity and excellence in education fund. Any
15 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of
16 fiscal year 2029 shall revert to the public education reform
17 fund.