



# NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

## 2024 PUBLIC EDUCATION LEGISLATION PASSED BY HOUSE AND SENATE AND SIGNED BY GOVERNOR

*The 2024 legislative session was 30-days, with a total of 777 bills introduced. Of these, 54 bills were related to K-12 education, but only 24 were eligible for debate. Only five of these bills were passed by the whole legislature and made it to the governor's desk for signature.*

### HOUSE BILLS

- 1. HB 2 General Appropriation Act 2024** (Nathan P. Small) – Approved at \$10.22 billion, a 6.8% increase over last year's budget, while maintaining a 31% reserve. The bill includes \$4.17 billion in recurring general fund appropriations for public schools, a 5.1% increase over the prior year. The appropriation includes expansions in K-12 plus programs above projected enrollment and prioritizes local discretion and capacity for evidence-based programs, such as career technical education, structured literacy, teacher mentorship and community schools. It also includes nonrecurring appropriations to support tribal education, career technical education, structured literacy, universal school meals, and educator fellow initiatives, and a pilot to fill hard-to-staff special education positions.

Language in HB2 supporting 4 day school week was line item vetoed by Governor "*Money appropriated to the public education department shall not be used to implement or enforce any rule establishing a minimum requirement of one hundred eighty instructional days per school year.*"

SEG includes:

\$15 per hour minimum salary

94.1 million for 3% salary increase for all personnel

55 million for culturally and linguistically appropriate materials

59 million for teacher mentorship, education plans, literacy, and CTE programs

NMPED Reports

8% increase over Education Budget (\$394M)

201.0 increase to SEG (5.1% increase)

88.0 increase over LFC recommendation

49.0 for structured literacy

61.0 for universal free meals this year and next

30.0 discretionary use in SEG

15.0 for high dosage of tutoring and out of school programs

45.0 for career technical ed and summer internships

20.0 for Educator Fellows Program

20.0 for paid student teaching and teacher residencies

- 2. HB 171 School Graduation Requirements** (G. Andres Romero, T. Ryan Lane, Mimi Stewart) – Amends current law to update New Mexico's high school graduation requirements. Maintains the current requirement of 24 units to earn a high school diploma, increases unit requirements in core academic subject areas, requires the development of graduate profiles, requires school districts and charter schools to set two of the required units for graduation, and allows additional courses in career technical education (CTE) and work-based learning to count toward core academic requirements. The bill goes into effect for high school students beginning ninth grade in the 2025-

2026 school year. Graduation requirements would not change for students currently in high school. (LESC)

- 3. 207 Public School Capital Outlay Grants** (Joy Garratt, Joshua Hernandez) – Requires the Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) make an annual distribution for the lease assistance program. Currently, disbursements for the lease assistance program are optional and are made at PSCOC’s discretion.

#### **SENATE BILLS**

- 4. SB 76 School Local Share Adjustment Waiver** (Mimi Stewart) – Amends statutory requirements regarding school districts’ eligibility for waivers of the local match for projects funded through the Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC). The bill clarifies that a school district may be eligible for a waiver if its local match under the phase two formula is greater than 50 percent. (LESC)
- 5. SB 137 School Board Training** (Mimi Stewart, William P. Soules) - Enhances mandatory training for local school boards and governing bodies of charter schools; adds the number of training hours attended by members to the school support and accountability system; limits a local school board’s extension and termination of a superintendent after a school board election; amends the campaign reporting act as it applies to local school board candidates; requires local school board or governing body meetings to be webcast and archived. (LESC) *See detailed Section by Section Provisions*
- 6. SB 239 Lottery & Opportunity Scholarship Changes** (George Munoz, Siah Correa Hemphill) - Amends both the Legislative Lottery Tuition Scholarship Act and the Opportunity Scholarship Act to make changes to, and clarify, eligibility criteria.
- 7. SB 275 Capital Outlay Projects** (Nancy Rodriguez) appropriates approximately \$1 billion to capital projects statewide, including \$932.2 million from the general fund and \$73.5 million from other state funds. The appropriation includes \$77.8 million to NMPED for an estimated 240 public school and charter school capital outlay projects and \$29.1 for School Bus Replacements Statewide, \$1.5 million for fueling and charging stations for alternatively fueled buses; \$547.5 for cameras for newly purchased buses statewide.

#### ***MEMORIALS PASSED BY 2024 LEGISLATURE***

#### **HOUSE MEMORIALS**

- 1. HM 4 LESC Middle School Study** (Joy Garratt) Requests the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) study the structure, curriculum, funding, and design of middle schools and make recommendations to the Legislature and the governor on methods and means of enhancing the quality of middle school education in New Mexico that equitably serves all students in New Mexico.
- 2. HM 20 Study Class Size Reduction** (G. Andres Romero) requests the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) to study kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) class size reductions, including the potential effects on student outcomes, staffing, and funding.



## Senate Bill 137 – School Board Training Section by Section Provisions

Sections 1 & 2. Requires all school board candidates or campaign committees that receive contributions or makes expenditures of \$1,000 or more to file a campaign finance report with the Secretary of State.

Section 3. Requires NMPED to publicly disclose the number of training hours completed by each school board member as well as whether they fulfilled all relevant statutory training requirements. This information would be displayed on the school support and accountability system dashboard, otherwise known as New Mexico Vistas.

Section 4. Prohibits a school board from extending a superintendent's contract or terminating a superintendent's contract without cause at any time between a regular local election and sixty days after the first convening of a newly elected school board.

Section 5. Requires all school board members to complete a minimum of 10 hours of training in the first year of their term, followed by a minimum of five hours in each subsequent year of their term.

All school board members in the first year of their term are required to complete at least two hours in each of the following subtopics:

- (1) Laws and department policies and procedures affecting local school boards or public schools, including ethics and personnel;
- (2) Public school finance, budgeting, and fiduciary responsibilities of local school boards;
- (3) Legal concepts pertaining to local school boards and school districts, including the Open Meetings Act and the Inspection of Public Records Act;
- (4) Effective governance practices and effective methods of supporting and supervising the local superintendent; and
- (5) Student achievement and student support services.

All school board members who complete their first year of service are required to complete a minimum of five hours of annual training in the following subtopics:

- (1) Laws and department policies and procedures affecting local school boards or public schools, including ethics and school personnel;
- (2) Public school finance, budgeting and fiduciary responsibilities of local school boards and performance-based budgeting;
- (3) A local school board's role in evaluating and improving student academic achievement and using data to set individual school goals for student academic achievement in each of the school district's public schools;
- (4) A local school board's role in providing a safe learning environment conducive to improving student outcomes;
- (5) Legal concepts pertaining to local school boards and school districts, including the Open Meetings Act and the Inspection of Public Records Act;
- (6) Effective governance practices and effective methods of supporting and supervising the local superintendent; and
- (7) Other matters deemed relevant by the department.

Section 6. Requires all school board meetings to be webcast and archived for a minimum of three years on each school district's website. School districts would be required to have a user interface that enables members of the public to submit written or verbal comments.