

Overview of Legislative Education Study Committee Priorities: Legislative Session 2023

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Overview

1. Introduction to LESC

2. *Martinez and Yazzie* Consolidated Lawsuit
3. FY24 Public Education Budget
4. Interim Session and Policy Considerations



Legislative Education Study Committee



- Created in 1965 as a permanent, bipartisan, bicameral interim committee of the Legislature.
- Conducts a continuing study of all public education and teacher colleges in New Mexico, including funding.
- 10 Voting Members (4 Senate, 6 House)
- 11 Permanent Staff – research analysts, fiscal analysts, support staff.
- LESL is the only committee of its kind nationally.

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The *Martinez* and *Yazzie* Lawsuit

- In the *Martinez* and *Yazzie* consolidated lawsuit, the 1st Judicial District Court ruled the state of New Mexico violated students' fundamental rights by failing to provide a sufficient and uniform system of education as guaranteed by the state constitution
- As evidence, the judge pointed to:
 - Low high school graduation rates
 - Low proficiency rates in reading and math
 - High rates of college remediation



Select *Martinez-Yazzie* Findings

“The evidence of both student outputs and State inputs presented at trial proves that the vast majority of New Mexico’s at-risk children finish each school year without the basic literacy and math rates needed to pursue post-secondary education or a career.”

Judge Singleton’s 2018 Decision and Order, page 37.

“The majority of New Mexican fourth, eighth, and eleventh graders are not proficient in math or reading. On average, they are three years behind grade level.”

Judge Singleton’s 2018 Decision and Order, page 37.



Martinez-Yazzie Focus Areas

The *Martinez-Yazzie* focus areas include:

- Curriculum and instructional programs
- Culturally and linguistically responsive education
- Quality leaders, educators, and school staff
- Funding and accountability
- Student supports (including essential technology for at-risk students)
- Health and social services

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Budget Considerations

To improve educational outcomes, the Legislature should...

- Address disrupted learning now.
- Ensure access to high-quality instructional materials and instruction to support acceleration to on-grade level instruction.
- Provide resources for and prioritize professional development and the workforce.
- High dosage tutoring for students who need help.

The LES C Budget Recommendation includes...

Learning Time

- \$202 million to increase instructional hours for all students

High Quality Instructional Materials and Instruction

- \$13.5 million to support structured literacy
- \$6 million to support STEAM with an emphasis on mathematics
- \$15 million to the instructional material fund to prioritize HQIM

Professional Development and Educator Workforce Development

- \$8 million for teacher and school leader professional development
- \$19.5 million for reading and mathematics education
- \$39 million for teacher, principal residencies and educator recruitment
- \$112 million for an average 4% compensation increase for school personnel

Interventions

- \$53.2 million to increase the at-risk index to 0.35
- \$15 million to the family income index
- \$25 million for summer enrichment and tutoring

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Policy Considerations

Learning Time

- Increasing instructional hours for all students to 1140

Graduation Requirements

- Creating broader opportunities for multiple student pathways while upholding rigor

Increasing Educational Assistant and Principal Salaries

- Setting a new minimum for EAs and increasing the responsibility factor for principals

Capital Outlay in partnership with LFC and PSCOOTF

- Addressing issues with accessing funds for capital projects for all districts

Capital Outlay

- ❑ Temporarily reduce local match requirements by 30 percent for all districts for two years. Staff further recommends temporarily reducing local match requirements by 50 percent for prekindergarten facilities and micro-districts for three years.
- ❑ Eliminate legislative offsets alongside “phase 3” provisions in the local-state match formula that include Impact Aid spending on capital outlay.
- ❑ Given administrative burdens from previous PSCOC security awards, staff recommends allocating \$100 million for prekindergarten, CTE, security, and maintenance purposes, similar to the distribution method used in Laws 2022, Chapter 53 (Senate Bill 212).

Thank you!

Q & A



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