Legislative Impacts on K-12 Education

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2026 Legislative Session Recap

At $5.8B, the General Appropriation Act reflects a decrease of $5 million from FY26

- Recurring increase to State Equalization Guarantee: $113 million
  - $45 million decrease for enrollment decline
  - $72 million increase for 80/20 insurance premiums
  - $45 million increase for insurance cost increases
  - $36 million increase for compensation increases
  - $3 million increase for fixed costs

2026 Legislative Session Recap

- CTE funding - $42 million (including three years of funding for innovation zones)
- Out-of-school-time funding - $20 million
- Math and reading programming - $29 million
- Literacy coaches - $17 million
- At-risk hold harmless (current year) - $6 million
- High-impact tutoring - $5 million (per year for three years)
- Community schools - $6 million (per year for three years)
- PED agency budget effectively reduced by $1.3 million (5% cut)

Signed and Chaptered Legislation

House Bill	Senate Bill
HB2, General Appropriation Act	*SB19, School Finance Unit Value Reset
HB30, Teacher Residency Act Changes	SB29, Math Requirements for Teaching License
HB34, School Nurses Licensure Provisions	SB37, High Quality Literacy Instruction Act
HB47, School Employee Insurance Changes	SB64, Create Office of Special Education
HB156, Repeal Special Session Vaccination Laws	SB73, Driver's Ed Requirements
*HB253, Public Education Changes	SB151, Corporate Income Tax Changes
HB256, Defibrillators at School Athletic Events	SB273, Public Peace, Health, Safety & Welfare Correction Facility Loss of Revenue
	SJR1, School Election and Timing, CA

Fiscal Impact Legislation

Legislation	HB2, General Appropriation Act Funding
HB47, School Employee Insurance Changes *Increases the required share of employer contributions for school employee insurance.*	*$73 million, included in the SEG base of $4.6 billion.*
HB253, Public Education Changes *1) Has temporary provisions to maintain and increase the 2026 unit value;* *2) Requires school district and charter school reporting on distance learning;* *3) Removes rural factor for distance learning students;* *4) Provides for PED certification of distance learning programs; and* *5) Requires a study and report on distance learning.*	*Increases unit value by approximately $75.* *Temporary provisions:* *-Averages current and prior year enrollment for one district* *-Eliminates enrollment growth for distance learning students*
SB151, Corporate Income Tax Changes *Provides funding in the SEG for compensation increases.*	*Includes $37 million for compensation increases.* *(note - not part of HB2 funding)*
SB273, Public Peace, Health, Safety & Welfare Correction Facility Loss of Revenue *Provides funding for school improvement activities.*	*Includes $4 million to PED for school improvement.* *(note – not part of HB2 funding)*

Math and Literacy Bills

Legislation	HB2, General Appropriation Act Funding
SB29, Math Requirements for Teaching Licenses *1) Educator preparation programs to provide a course in math methods for elementary licenses and math endorsement;* *2) Requires high-quality instructional materials;* *3) Requires math professional development plan for school districts and charter schools; and* *4) Requires screening assessment and parent notification in early elementary grades*	*$4.5 million in Public Education Reform Funding supports implementation of math initiatives*
SB37, High Quality Literacy Instruction Act *1) Requires high-quality instructional materials;* *2) Requires screening assessment and parent notification in early elementary grades;* *3) Provides for literacy coaches for lowest scoring elementary schools*	*$16.6 million for literacy coaches*

Special Education

Legislation	HB2, General Appropriation Act Funding
SB64, Create Office of Special Education *Elevate special education within the department and across the education agencies:* *1) Creates the office of special education and provides duties;* *2) Requires the use of a standard individualized education plan template; and* *3) Maintains gifted funding, rights, and oversight*	*Does not require funding*

Other Legislation

Legislation	HB2, General Appropriation Act Funding
HB30, Teacher Residency Act Changes *Makes teaching residency stipends a percentage of the minimum teacher salary. Allows teaching residents to fulfill their three-year service at any public school rather than the sponsoring school district.*	*$20 million as part of the Government Results and Opportunities fund.*
HB34, School Nurses Licensure Provisions *Fixes technical issues with nurse licensure allowing for nurses to increase licensure levels more quickly.*	*Does not require funding.*
HB156, Repeal Special Session Vaccination Laws *Allows NM Department of Health to continue working with PED and the Early Childhood Education and Care Department on promulgation of rules about vaccines for children.*	*Does not require funding.*

Other Legislation

Legislation	HB2, General Appropriation Act Funding
HB256, Defibrillators at School Athletic Events *Requires that: schools consider cardiac emergencies at school athletic events in their emergency plans; an automatic external defibrillator (AED) be easily accessible during athletic events.*	*$400,000 to purchase, install, test or maintain AEDs.*
SB73, Driver's Ed Requirements *Requires PED-approved driver education programs to include education and training on driving with "vulnerable road users," such as a pedestrian, a person riding, or a person leading an animal.*	*Does not require funding.*
SJR1, School Election Timing, CA *Removes the constitutional requirement that school elections be held at different times from partisan elections.*	*Does not require funding.*