LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
57th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2026

Bill Number HB89 **Sponsor** Gonzales/Sariñana/Gurrola/Berghmans

Tracking Number .233102.1 **Committee Referrals** HRC

Short Title Computer Science Teacher Licensure

Analyst Hicks **Original Date** 1/27/2026
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BILL SUMMARY

House Bill 89 (HB89) amends the School Personnel Act to codify four existing pathways to computer science teacher endorsement, reinstate two expired pathways to endorsement, and expand eligibility for computer science endorsement to all kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) teachers who meet endorsement requirements.

HB89 does not contain an effective date and, as a result, would go into effect 90 days after the Legislature adjourns if enacted, or May 20, 2026.

FISCAL IMPACT

HB89 appropriates $250 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY27 and FY28. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY28 shall revert to the general fund.

The House Appropriations and Finance Committee Substitute for House Bills 2 and 3 (HB2/HAFCS) does not include specific funding for professional development in quantum computing for computer science-endorsed teachers or those seeking endorsement.

The costs of implementing HB89 would likely be minimal and limited to PED staff processing additional computer science endorsements for some elementary, middle school, and junior high teachers.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Computer Science Endorsement for K-12 Teachers. HB89 would amend the state's School Personnel Act to expand eligibility for computer science endorsement beyond secondary teachers to all K-12 teachers who meet endorsement requirements as determined by PED. PED rule currently provides four pathways to computer science endorsement for secondary school teachers (seventh through 12th grade) plus two additional pathways that expired on January 1, 2025. Should HB89 be enacted, the two expired pathways would be reinstated. See **Table 1: PED Pathways to Secondary Computer Science Endorsement**.

Table 1: PED Pathways to Secondary Computer Science Endorsement

Pathways	Requirements
Coursework	15 credit hours postsecondary computer science
Exam	Pass the PED-approved licensure exam for computer science
Work Experience	Two or more years of related work experience
Industry Certification	Possess an industry certification in field related to computer science
Professional Development	Complete 60 hours of professional development within the three years immediately prior to applying for endorsement – **expired January 1, 2025**
Teaching Experience	Possess three or more years of computer science teaching experience – **expired January 1, 2025**

Source: NMAC 6.64.20.8

Professional Development for Quantum Computing. HB89 would appropriate $250 thousand from the general fund to support professional development in quantum computing for both currently endorsed teachers and those seeking endorsement. Quantum computing, according to IBM, an industrial research organization, is an emergent field of computer science and engineering that uses quantum mechanics to solve complex problems significantly faster than traditional computers. According to PED, quantum computing is not currently included in New Mexico's K-12 computer science standards.

Technology Education Endorsement for K-12 Teachers. According to PED, teachers of elementary school computer classes are currently required to obtain a technology education endorsement. PED's licensure webpage for technology endorsement describes technology education as including any coursework specific to computers. The endorsement is available for middle level teachers, secondary teachers, prekindergarten through 12th grade specialty teachers, and special education teachers. See **Table 2: PED Requirements for Technology Education Endorsement**.

Table 2: PED Requirements for Technology Education Endorsement

Pathway	Endorsement Requirements
Beginning Teacher (on an alternative license)	• 24-36 semester hours in technology educational coursework; and • Pass the PRAXIS Technology Education exam
Existing Teacher (has completed a standard or alternative preparation program)	• 24-36 semester hours in technology educational coursework; or • Pass the PRAXIS Technology Education exam; or • Certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards in technology education.

Source: NMAC 6.64.16.1

PED determines which licenses are required to teach specific courses and publishes these determinations in the Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System (STARS) manual. LESC staff analysis of the 2022-2023 School Year (SY23) STARS Course Licensure Requirement Manual, the most recent update to this document, found 29 courses that could be taught by a teacher with either a computer science endorsement or a technology education endorsement. Two

computer courses specifically required a technology education endorsement. See **Table 3: SY23 STARS Course Endorsement Requirements**.

Table 3: SY23 STARS Course Endorsement Requirements

Course Name	Technology Education Endorsement	Computer Science Endorsement
Advanced Word Processing for Business	X	
Business Computer Skills	X	
Computer Applications II	X	X
Desktop Publishing I	X	X
Desktop Publishing II	X	X
Computer Graphics II	X	X
Computer Graphics III	X	X
Computer Graphics IV	X	X
Intro to 3D Design and Animation	X	X
Computer Science/Programming	X	X
Computer Networking II	X	X
Computer Technology Assistant I	X	X
Computer Technology Assistant II	X	X
Computer Technology Assistant III	X	X
AP Computer Science	X	X
Advanced Career-Computers/Networks/Databases	X	X
Advanced Career - Design for Digital World	X	X
Advanced Career - Databases in the Cloud	X	X
Advanced Career - Developing Cloud Presence	X	X
AP Computer Science Principles	X	X
PLTW Computer Science Essentials	X	X
AP PLTW Computer Science Principles	X	X
AP PLTW Computer Science A	X	X
PLTW Cybersecurity	X	X
PLTW App Creators	X	X
PLTW Computer Science for Innovators and Makers	X	X
Cyber Literacy	X	X
Cyber Literacy 2	X	X
Cybersecurity	X	X
Cyber and Society	X	X
Art and Computer Science	X	X

Source: LESC Analysis of SY23 STARS Course License Requirements

If there are no courses that specifically require a computer science endorsement, it is unclear how necessary a computer science endorsement is. The purpose of a computer science endorsement for elementary school teachers could be even less clear as computer classes may be more basic than those at a secondary level, which still allow for a technology education endorsement.

However, with more pathways to a computer science endorsement than to a technology education endorsement, computer course teachers in elementary school may opt to attain a computer science

license rather than a technology license. This could benefit instruction, as the requirements for a computer science license are more job-specific than those for a technology education endorsement. For comparison, however, a computer science endorsement requires 15 credit hours of relevant coursework, while a technology education endorsement requires 24 to 36 credit hours.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Should HB89 be enacted, PED staff would need to update administrative code and potentially process additional license applications for computer science endorsement.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

State of Computer Science Education. Code.org, a national advocacy organization focused on expanding access to computer science and artificial intelligence (AI) education, published a report in 2025 on the state of computer science and AI education. According to the report, New Mexico offered a foundational computer science course in 54 percent of its public high schools in the 2023-2024 school year (SY24), up from 50 percent in SY23. Code.org also suggests 10 policies to make computer science "foundational" in schools across the country. The 10 suggested policies are:

1. Create a statewide plan for K-12 computer science.
2. Define computer science and establish standards for K-12 computer science.
3. Allocate funding for rigorous computer science teacher professional learning.
4. Implement clear certification pathways for computer science teachers at elementary and secondary levels.
5. Create university programs to encourage all preservice teachers to gain exposure to computer science.
6. Establish dedicated computer science positions in a state education agency.
7. Require that all schools offer computer science with appropriate implementation timelines.
8. Allow computer science to count toward a core graduation requirement.
9. Allow computer science to satisfy an admission requirement at higher education institutions.
10. Require that all students take computer science to earn a high school diploma.

Of these 10 polices, Code.org notes New Mexico has accomplished items one, two, three, four, six, seven, and eight. When New Mexico's graduation requirements were revised in 2024, the state began requiring all high schools offer a computer science course and allowed computer science to count toward math and science graduation requirements, addressing the seventh and eighth policy recommendations.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- Public Education Department (PED)
- Regional Education Cooperatives (RECs)

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