

HOUSE BILL 89

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026

INTRODUCED BY

Anita Gonzales

AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL PERSONNEL; PROVIDING FOR LICENSURE
ENDORSEMENT IN COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR ALL GRADES; MAKING AN
APPROPRIATION.

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

SECTION 1. Section 22-10A-6 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986,
Chapter 33, Section 8, as amended) is amended to read:

"22-10A-6. EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR LICENSURE.--

A. The department shall require a person seeking
licensure or reciprocity in elementary, special, early
childhood or secondary education to have completed the
following minimum requirements in the college of arts and
sciences:

(1) nine semester hours in communication;

(2) six semester hours in mathematics;

.233102.1

1 (3) eight semester hours in laboratory
2 science;

3 (4) nine semester hours in social and
4 behavioral science; and

5 (5) nine semester hours in humanities and fine
6 arts.

7 B. In addition to the requirements specified in
8 Subsections A and C of this section, the department shall
9 require that a person seeking standard or alternative
10 elementary licensure shall have completed six hours of reading
11 courses, and a person seeking standard or alternative secondary
12 licensure shall have completed three hours of reading courses
13 in subject matter content. The department shall establish
14 requirements that provide a reasonable period of time to comply
15 with the provisions of this subsection.

16 C. Except for licensure by reciprocity, the
17 department shall require, prior to initial licensure, no less
18 than sixteen weeks of student teaching, a portion of which
19 shall occur in the first thirty credit hours taken in the
20 college of education and shall be under the direct supervision
21 of a teacher and a portion of which shall occur in the
22 student's senior year with the student teacher being directly
23 responsible for the classroom.

24 D. Nothing in this section shall preclude the
25 department from establishing or accepting equivalent

1 requirements for purposes of reciprocal licensure or minimum
2 requirements for alternative licensure.

3 E. Vocational teacher preparatory programs may be
4 exempt from Subsections A through C of this section upon a
5 determination by the department that other licensure
6 requirements are more appropriate for vocational teacher
7 preparatory programs.

8 F. ~~[Before December 31, 2021, the department shall~~
9 ~~create a license endorsement in secondary computer science~~
10 ~~available to all teachers who hold a]~~ Teachers seeking to add
11 an endorsement for computer science on a valid license [and]
12 shall demonstrate sufficient content knowledge in computer
13 science ~~[as determined by the department]~~. The department
14 shall consult with computer science education experts with
15 experience in creating or supporting computer science
16 endorsement pathways when developing computer science
17 endorsement requirements. The endorsement requires the teacher
18 to have:

19 (1) earned fifteen post-secondary course
20 credits in computer science;

21 (2) passed the department-approved teacher
22 licensure examination for computer science;

23 (3) a minimum of two years of work experience
24 in an industry related to computer science, which the applicant
25 must validate using a verifiable list of references;

1 (4) an industry certification in a field
2 related to computer science, which the applicant must validate
3 using official documentation of the industry certification;

4 (5) completed sixty hours of professional
5 development within the three years immediately prior to
6 applying for a computer science endorsement, which the
7 applicant must validate using documentation from the
8 organization that provided the professional development,
9 including the number of hours of each training; or

10 (6) three or more years of computer science
11 teaching experience, including computer coding program
12 structure in one or more languages, debugging computer
13 programs, computer modeling and skills relevant to applications
14 such as data management, graphics and text processing, which
15 the applicant must validate with a letter signed by a school
16 district administrator, charter school administrator or school
17 principal."

18 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Two hundred fifty thousand
19 dollars (\$250,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the
20 public education department for expenditure in fiscal years
21 2027 and 2028 for professional development in quantum computing
22 for teachers who want a computer science endorsement or want to
23 maintain the endorsement. Any unexpended balance remaining at
24 the end of fiscal year 2028 shall revert to the general fund.