FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 100
SHORT TITLE: STEM Innovation Network Funding

SPONSOR: Reps. Gonzales/Sariñana/Garratt
LAST UPDATE: **ORIGINAL DATE:** 1/27/26 **ANALYST:** Rovang/Liu

APPROPRIATION*
(dollars in thousands)

FY26	FY27	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
	$3,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

*Amounts reflect most recent analysis of this legislation.

Relates to House Bills 89 and 123 and Senate Bills 29 and 107
Relates to appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

Sources of Information

LFC Files
Legislative Education Study Committee Files
Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation

Agency or Agencies Providing Analysis
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
Regional Education Cooperatives

Agency or Agencies That Were Asked for Analysis but did not Respond
Public Education Department
New Mexico State University

Other Respondents
New Mexico STEM Innovation Network

SUMMARY

Synopsis of House Bill 100

House Bill 100 (HB100) appropriates $3 million from the general fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) innovation network for expenditure in fiscal year 2027. Any unexpended balance will revert to the general fund at the end of fiscal year 2027. The effective date of this bill is July 1, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of $3 million contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY27 shall revert to the general fund. Although this bill does not specify future appropriations, this appropriation essentially renews funding from the FY26 pilot. Appropriations across multiple years, especially if used to fund services and those services perform well, create an expectation that the program will continue in future fiscal years; therefore, this cost could become recurring after the funding period.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In 2024, the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) solicited STEM stakeholders in New Mexico and other states to develop a framework for a STEM innovation network. The committee found a lack of coordination between STEM education resources and programs across the state, underrepresentation of student subgroups in the STEM workforce, and chronically low performance on academic measures of math and science proficiency. The committee recommended the establishment of a network to serve as the "connective tissue" between various STEM learning opportunities and resources in New Mexico, modeled after other similar STEM networks in other states.

The 2024 proposed design of the network included a steering committee, central hub, and regional hubs, with the steering committee setting direction, the central hub coordinating statewide efforts, and the regional hubs conducting outreach and maintaining local partnerships. Proposed activities of the network included:

- Asset mapping – creating an inventory of existing STEM resources and programs,
- STEM school designations – recognizing schools for rigor and focus on STEM education
- STEM summits and convenings – hosting annual and monthly conferences
- STEM vision support – establishing annual reporting and work plans
- Community and postsecondary partnerships – facilitating programing for students
- Regional advocacy – identifying and connecting resources to needs

LESC estimated costs of the STEM network to be $1.5 million in FY26, $2 million in FY27, and $2.5 million in FY28, or a total of $6 million over three years. In 2025, the Legislature appropriated $3 million to PED for the STEM network for FY26.

In August 2025, PED and New Mexico State University (NMSU) signed an intergovernmental agreement to establish NMSU STEM Outreach Center as the principal hub for the STEM network. The network focuses on three key priorities:

1. Inquiry-based STEM learning in all New Mexico K-12 classrooms
2. Access to out-of-school time STEM enrichment
3. Strengthening connections between K-12 education and New Mexico industry

In its first months of operation, the network has convened an executive council of 12 leaders and established five regional hubs across the state:

- Northwest region: San Juan College
- Northeast region: New Mexico Highlands University
- Central region: Explora, R4Creating, and New Mexico Institute of Mining and

Technology

- Southwest region: Western New Mexico University and Southwest Regional Education Cooperative #10 (Deming)
- Southeast region: Regional Education Cooperative #6 (Portales)

These hubs partner with Regional Education Cooperatives (RECs), higher education, career and technical education programs, and the Workforce Solutions Department to further the network's mission.

In addition to establishing partnerships, hubs, and organizational infrastructure, the network cites the following outcomes from its first six months of operation:

- 2,261 students have increased access to in-school and out-of-school STEM programs and competitions,
- 800 more students in rural areas have access to STEM,
- 375 educators have increased access to STEM professional learning and coaching, with a focus on math education, and
- $300 thousand in mini-grants were awarded to 23 entities across New Mexico, with 18 projects serving rural areas and seven projects serving tribal communities.

The STEM network is in the early stages of building a system to track student outcomes data, potentially modeled after those of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (which are supported by federal funds) or the mathematics out of school time (MOST) tutoring program funded last year by the PED Community Schools Bureau.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

As a separate organization tasked with organizing STEM outreach in K-12, the network may potentially duplicate some administrative and oversight functions already embedded within PED or the state's RECs. However, its status as an external entity may also create more organizational flexibility.

PED has multiple appropriations in FY26 related to STEM education, including:

- $3 million for science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) initiatives,
- $6 million for math lab pilot programs over the next 3 years,
- $13.5 million for math achievement over the next 3 years, and
- $3 million for the STEM network.

Other appropriations that are related or duplicative include:

- $15 million for out-of-school time programs,
- $38.5 million for career technical education initiatives, and
- $20 million for a STEM institute building.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

This bill relates to House Bill 89, which establishes requirements for teachers seeking computer science endorsement, House Bill 123, which creates a unified application for state and federal grant programs at PED, Senate Bill 29, which creates new math screening, student intervention, and teacher preparation requirements, and Senate Bill 107, which makes an appropriation for

out-of-school time programs.

SR/sl/ct/dw/ct