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**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**BILL ANALYSIS**  
**56th Legislature, 1st Session, 2023**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<u>SB465</u>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Maestas</u>
<b>Tracking Number</b>	<u>.225257.1</u>	<b>Committee Referrals</b>	<u>SEC/SJC</u>
<b>Short Title</b>	<u>Educational Institution Demographic Data</u>		
<b>Analyst</b>	<u>Bedeaux</u>	<b>Original Date</b>	<u>2/17/23</u>
		<b>Last Updated</b>	<u></u>

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**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 465 (SB465) would require educational institutions to collect data on the educational attainment of students' parents, legal guardians, or fictive kin (adults accountable for the guardianship of a student who are not parents or legal guardians). The educational institution shall report educational attainment data to the Public Education Department (PED) and the Higher Education Department (HED) and make the data available to the public in accordance with state and federal law. Educational institutions shall not report any information that would permit identification of individuals or that would result in statistical unreliability.

The bill defines educational institution as “an institution receiving funding pursuant to the Public School Capital Outlay Act, public post-secondary educational institutions, and secondary institutions as provided pursuant to Article 12, Section 11 of the Constitution of New Mexico.” (See “**Technical Issues.**”)

All data collected pursuant to SB465 would be voluntary and self-identified. Educational institutions would be able to use the data only for improving quality of services; conducting approved research; fulfilling reporting requirements; fulfilling funding requests for federal and private entities; or guiding policy or funding decisions.

The bill would be effective July 1, 2023.

This analysis is limited to the bill's impact on New Mexico's public schools.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

SB465 does not contain an appropriation.

LESC staff estimate the provisions of SB465 would likely coincide with current data collection and reporting requirements and would not create significant new costs for school districts or PED.

## SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

In educational research, parental education level is considered [a strong predictor of long-term student success](#). Parents who are less educated [may lack the knowledge and skills other parents have to help their children succeed](#), ranging from the ability to help with difficult homework to the ability to navigate the college admissions process. By collecting data on parents' education levels, schools may be better positioned to provide targeted supports to students who may need additional tutoring and college counseling. Further, schools may find it beneficial to provide skills seminars for parents, including adult financial literacy, parenting classes, and seminars about the college admissions process. These types of “wraparound supports” for parents are a key pillar of the community schools model, an evidence-based strategy to reduce the impact of poverty in schools.

Parents' level of education is highly correlated with their level of income, another [strong predictor](#) of student success. Students from low-income households are [more likely to engage in risk behaviors like drugs and alcohol](#) and [more likely to experience hunger](#). Moreover, parents with low incomes tend to have [less time and less ability](#) to engage in their students' education. All of these factors contribute to [an achievement gap](#) between economically disadvantaged students and their non-disadvantaged peers. SB465 could better help schools target academic, social, emotional, and behavioral supports, and could even include support for students' health and well-being via school meals and school-based health centers.

Public schools collect and report demographic information about students and report required data to PED via an electronic system called the Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System (STARS). Generally, data in STARS is limited to student-level data and does not include information about parents or guardians.

PED compiles data annually to calculate the [Family Income Index \(FII\)](#), an initiative designed to direct additional funding to schools with measurable concentrated poverty. The FII utilizes income data from the Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD) and the Human Services Department (HSD) to calculate the percent of students from above-average-, moderate-, low-, very-low-, and extremely-low-income households. While the FII does not provide information on the education level of parents, it does provide powerful school-level information on families' economic means, a strong predictor of educational attainment.

## ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

SB465 creates a new reporting requirement for New Mexico schools and PED, which may conflict with ongoing efforts to reduce reporting requirements. During the 2022 legislative interim, LESC heard testimony from several school district officials that reporting requirements are burdensome, costing teachers and school administrators valuable time and interfering with students' education. In May 2022, the governor signed [Executive Order 2022-058](#), directing PED to reduce public school reporting requirements by 25 percent. Since then, PED has worked to identify the purpose of current reporting requirements, eliminate redundancies, and streamline inefficiencies. To coincide with current PED efforts to reduce requirements, the provisions of SB465 would need to seamlessly integrate into schools' current data collection processes.

## TECHNICAL ISSUES

The bill defines educational institution as only those institutions that receive funding pursuant to the Public School Capital Outlay Act. Only a fraction of schools have received funding through

the Public School Capital Outlay Act, a section of statute that includes programs designed to ensure that public school buildings are adequate for student education. The Legislature should amend the definition of educational institutions to correctly refer to the Public School Finance Act, a section of statute that provides annual operational funding for all New Mexico public schools.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- LESC Files

**TB/jkh/cf/mb**