

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

ALIGNING REQUIREMENTS AND SCHOOL BUDGET PROCESSES

SCHOOL BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS

The New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) provides the 910B5 State Equalization Guarantee (SEG) tool so districts and charters can begin building next year's budgets early using current year membership data. The PED is developing school-location SEG views so school leaders can make student-centered budget decisions that:

- Align resources for at-risk funding and for supporting students with disabilities, gifted students, and English learners--while developing Educational Plan priorities that directly match the proposed budget.
- Compare SEG revenue to costs by school location to identify and plan for enrollment-driven revenue gaps (right-sizing, reconfiguration, shared services, or local consolidation conversations when needed).
- Avoid roll-over budgets that simply repeat the previous year.
- Tie investments to measurable goals (attendance, course access, graduation, student sense of belonging, etc.).
- Identify what will change for students and classrooms because of the budget.

COHERENCE & ALIGNMENT OF PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

The PED is strengthening statewide coherence so districts and charters can better align resources with student needs by:

- Establishing a clear vision for how cross-agency requirements work together.
- Creating common definitions and expectations to increase consistency.
- Streamlining submissions, monitoring, site visits, and coaching processes.
- Reducing administrative burden so districts can focus on strategy and student outcomes.

THE UNIFIED APPLICATION: A STRATEGIC, STREAMLINED PLATFORM

The PED's Unified Application (UA) strengthens long-term financial strategy by providing:

- One consolidated platform for all major federal programs.
 - 25% of districts and state charters piloting the UA provided feedback.
- Built-in compliance checks to ensure accuracy and consistency.
- A clear view of gaps, duplication, and opportunities.
- Reduced administrative burden through fewer audit findings, improved efficiency, and time savings.

Next Steps:

- Scale the Unified Application statewide for 2026-2027
- Incorporate state grant programs into the pilot
- Consolidate local planning tools into a single coherent structure