

LESC staff engages in a continuous cycle of adaptive policymaking, where research, analysis, and feedback inform budget and policy proposals for the Legislature. If enacted, these proposals are evaluated for their impact on student outcomes and educator wellbeing, and the results inform revisions to existing programs.

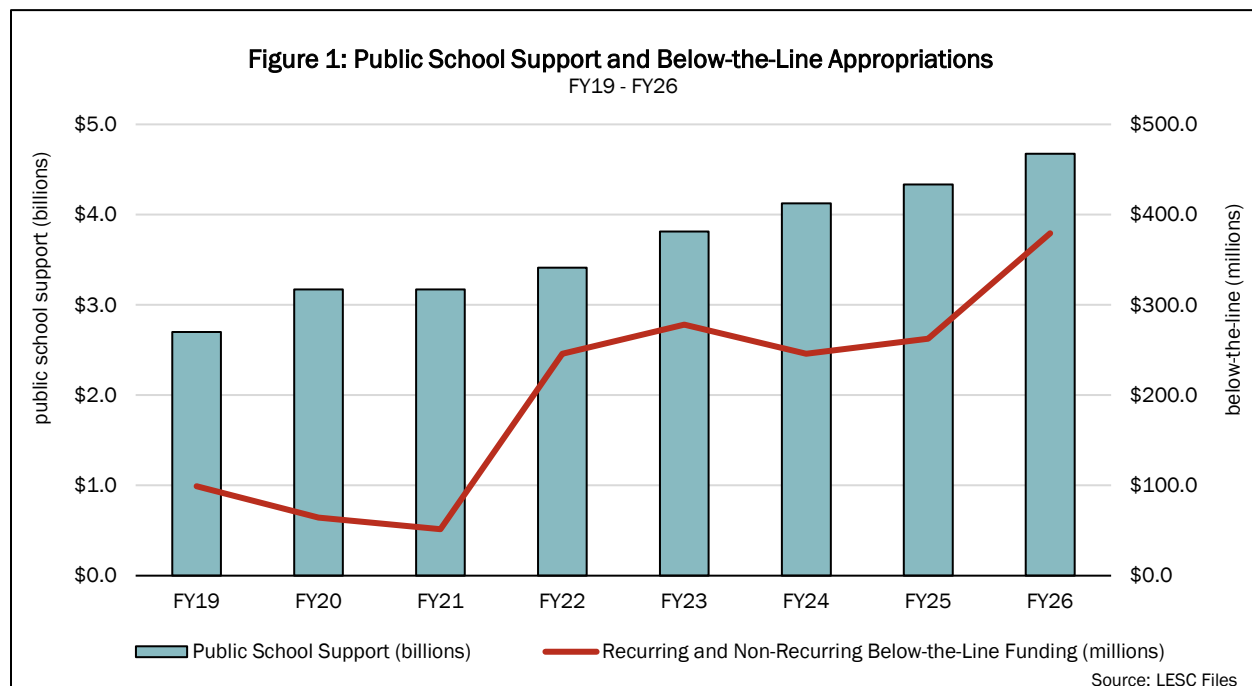
As part of this iterative cycle of adaptive policymaking, LESL staff developed the LESL roadmap, which is a long-term plan for addressing the critical gaps in New Mexico’s public education system. Over the last several years, the Legislature has enacted a range of policies and investments in key areas that align with the LESL roadmap, including educator compensation, support for at-risk students, and an increase in instructional time.

During the 2025 interim, staff presented on the continued challenges in recruiting and retaining high-quality teachers, adequately supporting the unique and complex needs of students, and strengthening the well-being of students and educators. In response to these challenges, LESL members indicated interest in continuing to support regionally competitive compensation, career and technical education, residencies, literacy, math initiatives, and student attendance.

This brief summarizes key LESL budget considerations in each of the roadmap’s four key areas, including the educator ecosystem, academic design, overarching systems, and whole child supports. Each budget consideration aligns with the overarching goals in the roadmap and builds on the Legislature’s progress in addressing the critical gaps in New Mexico’s public education system.

Key Takeaways

- Since FY19, the Legislature has significantly increased its appropriations for public school support and below-the-line programs.
- The LESL roadmap informs each of the budget considerations for FY27.



FY27 Budget Considerations
(in millions)

Educator Ecosystem	FY26	FY27
Compensation Increases for Public School Personnel (<i>Per percentage point</i>)(SEG)	\$33.8	\$36.0
Increasing Insurance Cost-Share to 80 percent (SEG)	\$0.0	\$73.2
Educator Fellows (Nonrecurring)	\$20.0	\$20.0
District and School Leaders Programs (Nonrecurring)	\$2.3	\$5.6
Academic Design		
Literacy (Recurring)	\$14.0	\$14.0
Summer Institute (Nonrecurring)	\$29.0	\$30.0
Institute Operations (Nonrecurring)	\$0.0	\$5.0
STEAM, AI Professional Learning, and Outdoor Learning (Nonrecurring)	\$6.5	\$7.7
Special Education Initiatives (Nonrecurring)	\$4.0	\$4.0
Whole Child Supports		
Out-of-School Time (Nonrecurring)	\$14.0	\$20.0
Community Schools* (PERF)	\$6.0	\$7.0
Universal Meals (Recurring)	\$42.2	\$42.2
High-Impact Tutoring* (PERF)	\$1.0	\$10.0
Career and Technical Education (Nonrecurring)	\$40.0	\$40.0
Summer Internships (Nonrecurring)	\$10.0	\$10.0
Overarching Systems		
Statewide Student Information System (Nonrecurring)	\$12.0	\$8.5

* Indicates the initiative could be considered for inclusion in the public education reform fund as a multi-year appropriation.