

**MINUTES**  
**Legislative Education Study Committee**  
**Santa Fe, New Mexico**  
**January 19**

Monday, January 19

The following voting and advisory members were present:

Voting: Chair William P. Soules, Vice Chair G. Andrés Romero, Senate President Pro Tempore Mimi Stewart; Senator Craig Brandt; Representatives Brian Baca, Joy Garratt, Debbie Sariñana, Raymundo Lara, and Tanya Mirabal Moya.

Advisory: Senators Crystal Brantley, Harold Pope, Linda M. López, Natalie Figueroa; Representatives Patricia Roybal Caballero, Catherine J. Cullen, Yanira Gurrola, and John Block.

**(1) Call to Order, Introductions, and Approval of January Agenda and December Minutes.** Senator William P. Soules, Chair, LESC, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Chair Soules facilitated introductions of the members of LESC. John Sena, Director, LESC, introduced LESC staff. A quorum was present. LESC members approved the January agenda and December minutes.

**(2) Revenue Update and Budget Review.** Daniel Estupiñan, Senior Fiscal Analyst II, LESC, provided an overview of revisions to the FY27 revenue forecasts and the LESC's FY27 budget recommendation for kindergarten through 12th grade (K-12) public education. The overview of the FY27 K-12 public education budget recommendation included a discussion of public school support, nonrecurring recommendations from the general fund, multi-year recommendations from the public education reform fund, and recommendations from other state funds and transfers.

Members asked about the impact of distance learning programs on the public school funding formula distribution, how distance learning students generate funding in the public school funding formula, alignments between the Executive, Legislative Finance Committee, and LESC recommendations, and proposed budget language for public school personnel compensation increases.

**(3) Director's Report.** John Sena, Director, LESC, provided the committee with an overview of LESC's 2026 Annual Report. Director Sena explained each policy section in the report includes a section on the topic's background, research agenda, and policy and budget considerations for the upcoming 2026 legislative session. Director Sena also highlighted the annual report's data reference guide, which LESC staff use in their interim work and could be useful to answer committee members' questions. Committee members were encouraged to contact LESC staff if they require assistance navigating the LESC 2026 Annual Report or data reference guide, or have suggestions to improve them.

**(4) Executive Session.** On a motion by G. Andrés Romero, Vice Chair, LESC, seconded by Senator Craig Brandt, the committee voted unanimously to convene in executive session. During the executive session, John Sena, Director, LESC, provided the committee with an overview of the results of a performance evaluation of the director by LESC staff.