

# LESC 2026 Interim Research Agenda and Roadmap

April 30, 2026

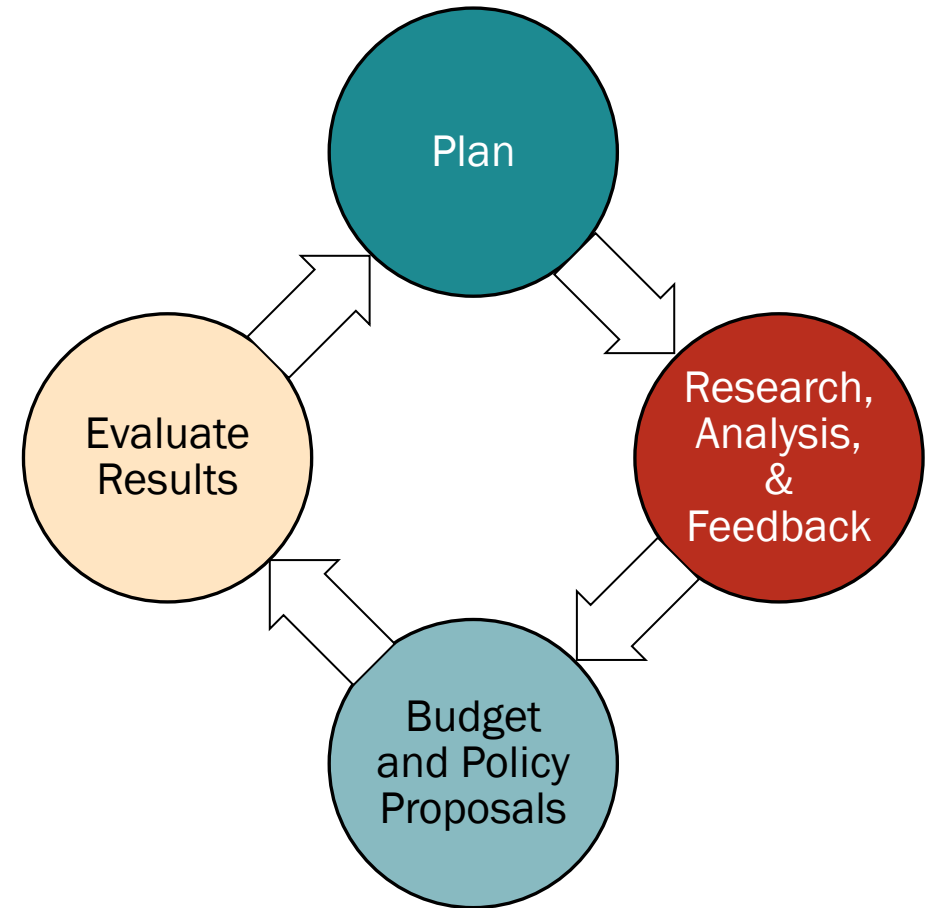
---



Jessica Hathaway | Deputy Director | [jessica.hathaway@nmlegis.gov](mailto:jessica.hathaway@nmlegis.gov)

# Adaptive Policymaking Cycle

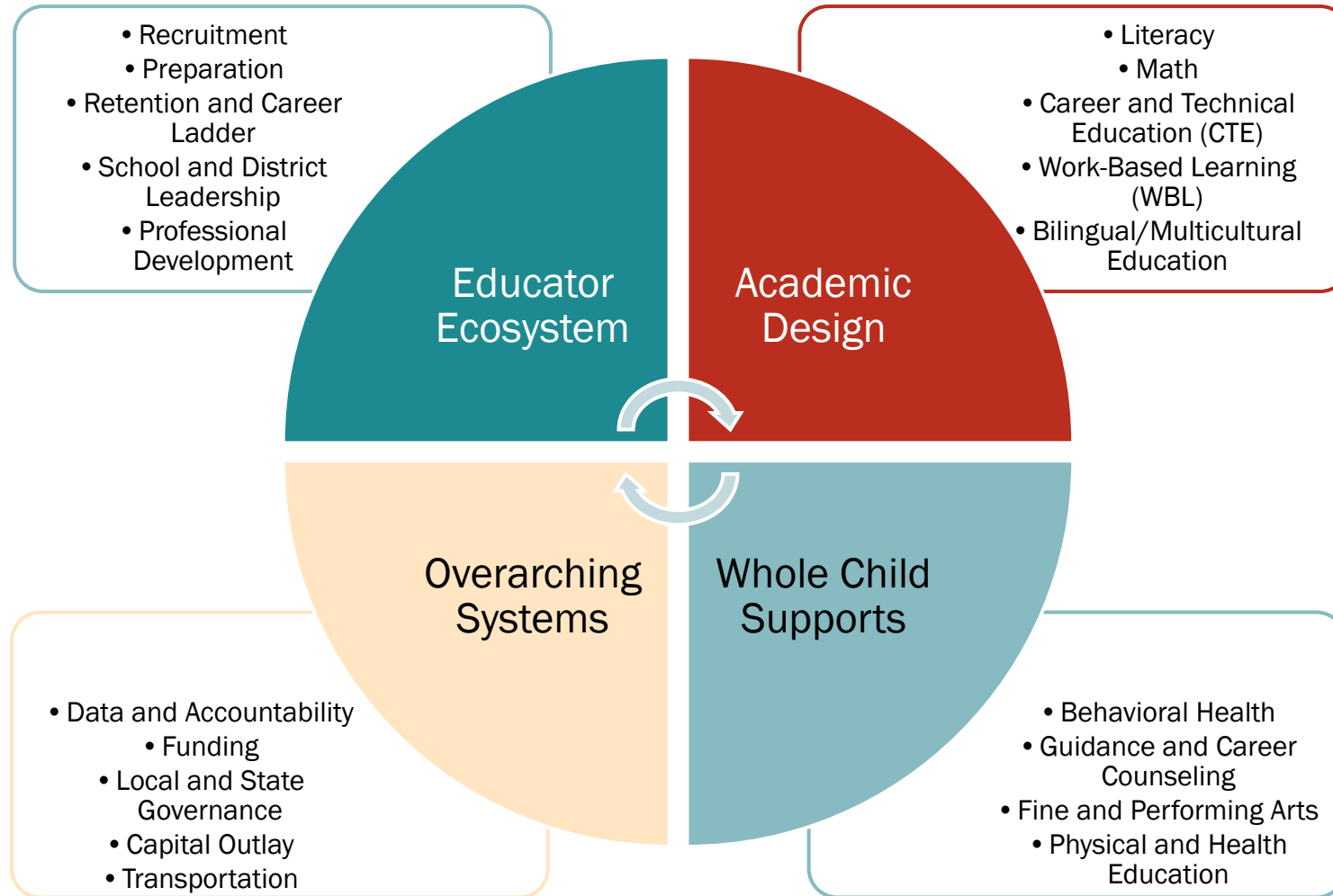
- LESC engages in a continuous cycle of adaptive policymaking.
- LESC strives to uphold several values during its interim studies:
  - Engaging stakeholders and communities.
  - Summarizing leading national research.
  - Providing high-quality original data analysis.
  - Culminating in well-developed budget and policy proposals.



# Developing the LESC Roadmap

- In 2022, LESC analyzed existing plans and research while also identifying critical gaps in New Mexico's education system.
- It developed a plan (the LESC Roadmap) to address those critical education issues.
- Over the last few years, the Legislature has enacted and funded several pieces of legislation intended to improve New Mexico's education system.
- It is critical to stay the course and build on recent action.

# LESC Roadmap



# LESC 2026 Research Agenda

- 21 distinct research projects
- Four working groups
  - Bilingual education
  - Career and technical education study and formula design
  - Long-term strategic resource management
  - Statewide education governance assessment
- Five memorials
  - House Memorial 2 (Study Screen Use in Elementary Classrooms)
  - House Memorial 30 (Public Education Governance Study)
  - House Memorial 47 (Study Teacher Workloads)
  - *Continuation of House Memorial 2 (LESC Artificial Intelligence Work Group) from 2025 interim*
  - *Continuation of House Memorial 43 (Bilingual Education Programs) from 2025 interim*

# Educator Ecosystem

Project	Analyst	Project Scope	Deliverable	Connected Roadmap Areas
Educator Career Continuum (Page 9)	Armatage	Research advancement pathways in high-performing systems; analyze how roles, compensation, and evaluation recognize expertise; examine how career structures impact retention and instructional quality.	<b>Report:</b> October 2026	Overarching Systems
Educator Workforce Analysis (Page 10)	Armatage	Analyze vacancy, turnover, and distribution of educators; examine relationships between teacher characteristics and school context; identify gaps in workforce supply and alignment with student needs.	<b>Report:</b> July 2026	
Teacher Workload Memorial (House Memorial 47) (Page 23)	Armatage LESC Teacher on Special Assignment	Analyze how teacher time is allocated; evaluate statutory and local requirements; examine impact of workload on well-being and instruction; identify opportunities to streamline responsibilities.	<b>Report:</b> September 2026	Overarching Systems

# Whole-Child Supports

Project	Analyst	Project Scope	Deliverable	Connected Roadmap Areas
Access to Arts, Physical Education, and Libraries (Page 2)	Hicks	Analyze funding mechanisms (state equalization guarantee, grants, etc.), availability of programs statewide, and barriers such as staffing, facilities, and funding; evaluate impact on student outcomes and teacher scheduling/time.	<b>Policy Brief:</b> July 2026	Academic Design
Indian Education Fund Update (Page 14)	Chavez	Review funded programs, allocation structures, and outcomes for Native students; assess sustainability and effectiveness of funded initiatives and programs.	<b>Policy Brief:</b> May 2026	Overarching Systems
Student Health Professionals (Pages 21-22)	Hicks	Study availability, roles, and shortages of counselors, nurses, psychologists, and social workers; assess impact on student well-being and school climate.	<b>Policy/Data Brief:</b> May 2026 <b>Final Report:</b> November 2026	

# Academic Design

Project	Analyst	Project Scope	Deliverable	Connected Roadmap Areas
Artificial Intelligence Regulatory Landscape Analysis (Page 1)	Ortiz	Examine how AI is being used in schools, including risks to student learning, cognition, safety, and privacy; analyze roles of Legislature, PED, and schools; Conduct national landscape analysis of state AI regulation.	<b>Policy Brief:</b> May 2026	Educator Ecosystem; Whole-Child Supports
Bilingual Education Study and <b>Working Group</b> (Page 4)	Chavez	Evaluate effectiveness of bilingual program models; analyze costs, staffing, and instructional materials; examine how programs produce language proficiency; assess sustainability of funding and system.	<b>Report:</b> October 2026	Educator Ecosystem; Whole-Child Supports; Overarching Systems
Career and Technical Education Formula Design and <b>Working Group</b> (Page 7)	Ortiz	Analyze student participation and outcomes in CTE; examine program costs and funding gaps; evaluate how funding structures affect access and quality; develop a categorical funding model aligned to program complexity.	<b>Policy Brief:</b> July 2026	Overarching Systems

# Academic Design

Project	Analyst	Project Scope	Deliverable	Connected Roadmap Areas
Distance Learning Study (Page 8)	Estupiñan PED/LFC	Identify students enrolled in distance learning, program types, and providers; evaluate student outcomes; analyze costs and implications for funding formula; assess compliance with new statutory requirements.	<b>Policy Brief:</b> May 2026 <b>Final Report:</b> November 2026	Overarching Systems
Literacy Legislation Implementation (Page 15)	Andrews Armatage	Examine how educator prep programs and teachers implement evidence-based literacy practices; evaluate training, alignment with assessments, and impact of new legislation.	<b>Policy Brief:</b> October 2026 (Further report in 2027)	Educator Ecosystem
Math Legislation Implementation (Page 17)	Andrews Armatage	Monitor implementation of math requirements; examine educator preparation program (EPP) changes, impacts, instructional leadership development, and assessment alignment.	<b>Policy Brief:</b> July 2026 (Further report in 2027)	Educator Ecosystem

# Academic Design

Project	Analyst	Project Scope	Deliverable	Connected Roadmap Areas
Screen Time Memorial (House Memorial 2) (Pages 18-19)	Andrews	Study impact of screen time on learning, development, and well-being; evaluate how technology is used for instruction and assessment; assess need for statewide guidance.	<b>Policy Brief:</b> September 2026	
Special Education (Page 20)	Andrews	Analyze how services are delivered across districts; examine staffing patterns and variability; evaluate how Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) are developed and implemented; assess relationship between services and outcomes.	<b>Report:</b> September 2026	Educator Ecosystem; Whole-Child Supports

# Overarching Systems

Project	Analyst	Project Scope	Deliverable	Connected Roadmap Areas
Assessments and Accountability (Page 3)	Andrews	Map the current assessment landscape (formative, interim, summative); analyze time spent testing; conduct local education agency (LEA) audits to identify redundancy; evaluate alignment with instruction and instructional materials; examine how assessment data is used for accountability.	<b>Report:</b> October 2026	Educator Ecosystem; Academic Design
Capital Outlay Formula/School Infrastructure (Page 5)	Montoya LFC	Analyze and refine state/local match funding formula; study construction costs, timelines, and school district capacity; develop equitable funding strategies for facilities.	<b>Report:</b> November 2026	
Education Governance and Long-Term Planning Study and <b>Working Group</b> (House Memorial 30) (Pages 11-12)	Hathaway	Study state education governance structures, strategic plan alignment, and feasibility of a statewide education commission.	<b>Report:</b> November 2026	

# Overarching Systems

Project	Analyst	Project Scope	Deliverable	Connected Roadmap Areas
Healthcare Insurance (Page 13)	Estupiñan NMPSIA LFC	Analyze consolidation of Albuquerque Public Schools and New Mexico Public School Insurance Authority (NMPSIA) insurance systems; evaluate cost impacts, sustainability, and opportunities for efficiencies.	<b>Report:</b> September 2026	
Long-Term Strategic Resource Management Study and <b>Working Group</b> (Page 16)	Estupiñan	Examine how districts allocate and plan resources; assess alignment between funding, priorities, and long-term planning tools; evaluate PED support capacity.	<b>Report:</b> September 2026	
Tribal Technical Assistance Centers (Page 24)	Chavez	Monitor implementation; assess role in supporting Indigenous education, professional development, and policy alignment.	<b>Policy Brief:</b> May 2026	Educator Ecosystem; Whole-Child Supports; Academic Design

# Overarching Systems

Project	Analyst	Project Scope	Deliverable	Connected Roadmap Areas
Transportation (Pages 25-26)	Montoya	Analyze transportation funding formula; identify gaps between funding and actual costs; examine expanded needs (foster, extracurricular, fleet).	<b>Report:</b> October 2026	

# Considerations

- The LESC Roadmap continues to guide staff work plans, but it can also strengthen other processes.
- It can serve as evaluation tool to vet education-related proposals from staff, PED, external stakeholders, and other legislators.
- As the Legislature continues to respond to the *Martinez-Yazzie* lawsuit, it can be a guidepost for the legislative body.
- As political changes occur, it can provide consistency in policy and budget.

# Committee Feedback

- Staff has continued to refine the LESC Roadmap to focus on key areas and develop a research agenda.
- What else would the committee like to see?



**Questions?**