

Minutes
Santa Fe, NM
July 26-28, 2023

Wednesday, July 26

The following voting and advisory members were present. Voting: Chair G. Andrés Romero, Vice Chair William P. Soules, Representatives Brian G. Baca, Joy Garratt, Raymundo Lara, Susan K. Herrera and Senator Harold Pope Jr.

Advisory: Representatives John Block, Tara L. Lujan, and Senators Craig W. Brandt, Linda M. Lopez.

Call to Order, Introductions, and Approval of July Agenda and June Minutes. Representative G. Andrés Romero, Chair, Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC), called the meeting to order. Chair Romero facilitated introductions of the members of LESC, as well as LESC staff. In a motion by Senator Stewart, and a second by Representative Herrera, the agenda for the July LESC meeting was approved. The meeting minutes for the June LESC hearing were also approved with a motion by Representative Hererra and a second by Senator Stewart.

Community Welcome. Hilario "Larry" Chavez, Superintendent, Santa Fe Public Schools (SFPS), Sarah Boses, President, SFPS Board of Education, and Dr. Carmen Gonzales, Board Member, SFPS Board of Education, welcomed LESC members to the Ramirez Thomas Early Childhood Center and provided an overview of SFPS' strategic plans and initiatives for the upcoming school year. Superintendent Chavez and Ms. Boses noted the district is focusing on a wide range of initiatives such as supporting its educators and staff through initiatives such as its early childhood center, making education relevant for students through programs like its work-based learning initiative, and transitioning to standards-based instruction.

Superintendent Chavez noted the Ramirez Thomas Early Childhood Center is a first of its kind in New Mexico as a fully licensed and district operated early childhood center designed for, and specifically open to, SFPS staff. Superintendent Chavez also noted SFPS has also been recognized by the federal Department of Education for the innovative use of its federal funds.

Indian Education Fund Review and Analysis. Michelle S. Adams, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, Jardin De Los Niños, and Jeff Hoehn, Executive Director, Cuidando Los Niños, provided background on their organizations and their respective missions to serve children and families experiencing homelessness in Las Cruces and Albuquerque. Ms. Adams shared that from 2016 to 2020, New Mexico experienced the largest percentage increase in homelessness in the nation, and their dual-generation model focused on early childhood education, as well as serving parents, addresses critical needs, but there is need for expanded services, as both of their programs

are at capacity. Mr. Hoehn shared that Cuidando Los Niños is working to secure capital outlay funding to expand their facility and serve more families, and Ms. Adams shared that Jardin De Los Niños also will be seeking capital outlay funding to expand.

High School Math: Options for Engagement and Student Success. Jessica Hathaway, Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC, presented a policy brief about math instruction and engagement for middle and high school students. The brief included information about statutory requirements related to math, math assessment results, as well as research and state policy options to support student success and engagement in math. Following Ms. Hathaway's remarks, Amanda DeBell, Deputy Secretary of Teaching, Learning and Innovation, Public Education Department (PED), and Shafiq Chaudhary, Director, Math and Science Bureau, PED, gave a presentation about the department's approach to supporting mathematics instruction for middle and high school students. PED noted a focus on algebra, initiatives to re-imagine math pathways, a potential focus on microcredentials to support math educators, and the idea of a legislative lever similar to New Mexico's literacy initiative. Kersti Tyson, Ph.D., Director of Evaluation and Learning, LANL Foundation, then presented about best practices in math instruction and learning science and policy options to innovate and improve math relevance and success for both educators and students.

Dual Credit Design and Update. Jessica Hathaway, Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC presented a policy brief on dual credit including data and information about the number of students that take dual credit courses and types of courses dual credit is being earned in. Following Ms. Hathaway's comments, the Public Education Department (PED) and the Higher Education Department (HED) offered a joint presentation about the dual credit council and additional detail about statewide dual credit participation. From PED, LESC members heard from Amanda DeBell, Deputy Secretary of Teaching, Learning and Innovation; Rebecca Galves, Dual Credit Council Member and Data Coordinator. From HED, LESC members heard from Mark Chisholm, Director of Academic Affairs and Policy. The panel closed with remarks from David Bowman, Executive Director, Four Corners Regional Education Cooperative #1, who presented about current challenges in offering dual credit to students and potential legislative pilot ideas to expand dual credit licensure for educators while expanding access for students.

Education Leaders Panel. Hilario "Larry" Chavez, Superintendent, Santa Fe Public Schools; Anthony Casados, Superintendent, Chama Valley Independent Schools; Jennifer Guy, Superintendent, Los Alamos Public Schools; and Jason Morgan, Principal, Academy for Technology and the Classics, spoke on a variety of topics, including public school personnel compensation, career technical education programs, federal relief funding, dual credit, and the role of counselors in public schools. Members spoke of the costs of supplies and materials for career technical education programs, the potential for scaling innovative programs, the

lack of certified personnel for career technical education programs, and the educational experiences of unhoused students.

Thursday, July 27

The following voting and advisory members were present. Voting: Chair G. Andrés Romero, Vice Chair William P. Soules, Representatives Brian G. Baca, Joy Garratt, Raymundo Lara, Susan K. Herrera, and Senators Harold Pope Jr., and Mimi Stewart.

Advisory: Representatives John Block, Yanira Gurrola, Debbie Sariñana, and Senators Craig W. Brandt, Linda M. Lopez, Shannon D. Pinto.

Leveraging Learning Time in New Mexico. Tim Bedeaux, Senior Policy Analyst II, LESC, presented a preliminary analysis of school calendars at the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year. Data from the Public Education Department (PED) suggest a majority of students will add additional days and hours in the upcoming school year, with most students adding one to two weeks of additional school time. Schools are taking advantage of the flexibility created by House Bill 130 to add K-12 Plus days, resulting in approximately \$115 million in new funds flowing to schools for extended learning. LESC will continue to monitor school calendars and evaluate their impact on student attendance, engagement, and academic success. Scott Elder, Superintendent, Albuquerque Public Schools (APS), and Channell Segura, Ed.D, Chief of Schools, APS, presented APS's calendar for the upcoming school year. APS discontinued early release Wednesdays, created space for seven full days of professional development, and implemented longer academic breaks throughout the course of the school year. Lawrence Sanchez, Superintendent, Belen Consolidated Schools, explained Belen will provide 191 calendar days, with significant time provided for educator professional development.

School Leadership Landscape. Emily Hoxie, Senior Policy Analyst, LESC, presented a staff brief, noting high-quality school leadership can improve academic outcomes for students. In New Mexico, principal preparation is decentralized, with six universities offering distinct principal preparation programs. PED also offers year-long intensive training in one of several cohort-based programs, including Rise, Thrive, and Lead. The key components of a strong principal pipeline include standards of practice, high-quality preparation, selective hiring, and effective on-the-job support. Russ Romans, Ed.D., Faculty Member, University of New Mexico (UNM), presented the supports offered in the Alliance for Leading and Learning, a first- and second-year principal support program UNM offers to APS teachers. LeAnne Gandy, Leadership Development Program Coordinator, Cooperative Education Services (CES), presented the work of a leadership development task force in New Mexico. The task force is engaged in a study of school leader preparation programs across New Mexico, designed to improve the effectiveness of all

school leadership programs and identify areas where legislative support may be necessary.

FY25 Budget Considerations. Daniel Estupiñan, Senior Fiscal Analyst II, LESC, and John Sena, Deputy Director, LESC, presented on initial fiscal considerations for FY25. Members spoke of the potential for replacing the Title One component of the At-Risk Index with the methodology of the Family Income Index, the potential for incorporating fiscal considerations related to school safety, and asked for additional context on historical changes in distributions to the public school funding formula.

Age Appropriate Design Code. Meetali Jain and Nicole Rocha from the 5Rights Foundation presented on legislation enacted in the United Kingdom and introduced in several U.S. states designed to limit the amount of information social media companies collect from children. The Age Appropriate Design Code requires online services to provide robust privacy settings for children. Under the code, social media apps should place settings on "high privacy" by default when a child creates an account. In addition, the code requires social media companies to restrict the content children are able to see, reducing the impact of targeted messaging on young, impressionable minds.

Ramirez Thomas Early Childhood Center Tour. Patricia Azuara, Ph.D., Director, Early Childhood Center, SFPS, and Hilario "Larry" Chavez, Superintendent, SFPS, gave LESC members and staff a tour of the school district's early childhood center. The tour offered a chance for the director and superintendent to offer insights into the district's early childhood program designed specifically for the children of SFPS staff. Members inquired about costs of the program, availability and capacity in the program, and the curriculum used in the early childhood center.

Friday, July 28

The following voting and advisory members were present. Voting: Chair G. Andrés Romero, Vice Chair William P. Soules, Representatives Brian G. Baca, Susan K. Herrera, and Senator Harold Pope Jr.

Advisory: Representatives Yanira Gurrola, Debbie Sariñana, and Senators Craig W. Brandt, Shannon D. Pinto.

(12) Director's Report. Gwen Perea Warniment, Director, LESC, provided an update to LESC members about current LESC office spaces, the LESC budget, staffing and personnel, and the newsletter prepared for the committee. Director Perea Warniment noted the LESC staff would be located in a different working space while LESC offices are being renovated and that LESC staff had closed out the FY23 budget and looked to again be under budget in FY24 so far. Director Perea Warniment also introduced

LESC interns, highlighted the newsletter's focus on dual credit, and shared information about upcoming LESC staff transitions.

(13) School Counselors Supporting Student Success. Halle Downs, Intern, LESC, presented a staff policy brief about the school counseling profession, including data about New Mexico's workforce, expected responsibilities of school counselors, and distinctions of these professionals compared with similar jobs. LESC members then heard from Amanda DeBell, Deputy Secretary of Teaching, Learning and Innovation, PED; Judith Cruz, Education Administrator, PED; and Benjamin Lukoski, Education Administrator, PED, about the role and scope of school counselors and how the department provides professional learning and support for school counselors. The panel closed with Sue O'Brien, Executive Director, Office of Student Wellness, SFPS, providing information about SFPS' school counseling workforce, current challenges facing students, and how the district is supporting school counselors.

LESC members noted the importance of distinguishing school counselors from similar professions such as school psychologists that may have different clinical training and expertise.

Navajo Nation and Four Corner's Regional School Safety and Health Task Force. Suzette Haskie, Director of JOM Services, Navajo Nation Department of Diné Education and Vice President, Central Consolidated School District (CCSD) School Board; Steve Carlson, Superintendent, CCSD; and Germaine Chappelle, General Counsel, CCSD, shared information about a task force developed in response to various incidents involving student and school safety in the Four Corners region. The panelists shared that the task force was created to address potential threats to students by assessing deficiencies in the region and then developing an action plan and recommendations. The presentation included initial findings from the task force and approaches to school safety in surrounding states, such as Colorado's School Safety Resource Center. The presenters noted the task force held its first meeting in June 2023 in Shiprock, NM to work on an initial action plan and recommendations to address school safety and health issues. A second meeting is scheduled to take place in September 2023 to focus on holistic wellness and proactive measures, as well as finalization of the task force's action plan and recommendations.