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**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**BILL ANALYSIS**  
**55th Legislature, 1st Session, 2021**

<b>Bill Number</b>	<u>SB 337</u>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<u>Gonzales</u>
<b>Tracking Number</b>	<u>.219501.1</u>	<b>Committee Referrals</b>	<u>SEC/SFC</u>
<b>Short Title</b>	<u>Workplace Preparation School Programs</u>		
<b>Analyst</b>	<u>Hathaway</u>	<b>Original Date</b>	<u>2/18/2021</u>
		<b>Last Updated</b>	<u></u>

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**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 337 (SB337) would appropriate \$750 thousand to the Public Education Department (PED) to contract with an organization to address long-term economic development in New Mexico by providing project-based out-of-school and summer programs that support academic achievement and college and career readiness of students in kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. SB337 includes criteria that must be met for both the organization that would be contracted with as well as the project-based programs that must be provided. SB337 would also require PED to work with the New Mexico Alliance for College and Career Readiness to develop the request for proposals.

To be eligible for the funds, SB337 would require the provided programs, which can be offered either in-person or through remote learning, to include and provide seven elements:

- 1) A dual-credit component;
- 2) Access to an industry standard digital media authoring tool set for students;
- 3) Professional mentor training;
- 4) Digital badging and professional certification in partnership with public postsecondary educational institutions;
- 5) A focus on serving low-income Hispanic, Native American, and African American students and other generationally underserved populations statewide;
- 6) Support of academic success; and
- 7) Open career paths into growing industries in New Mexico, including science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), creative arts, healthcare, trades, and energy.

SB337 also requires that a request for proposals and award to an organization to provide these project-based programs shall require the organization has an established academic and career readiness program that includes four elements:

- 1) Comprehensive K-12 programming taught by professionals in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, media arts, media literacy, cultural relevance, leadership, equity, and proven systems that address needs in the modern economy;

- 2) Aligned activities under the data, accountability, sustainability, and high achievement system currently in place by PED;
- 3) The provision of teaching and learning strategies in digital transformation that support all content areas and can impact students on a schoolwide and statewide basis; and
- 4) Direct remedies to the opportunity gaps based on the consolidated *Martinez-Yazzie* education sufficiency lawsuit by providing college and career opportunities for all New Mexico students.

## FISCAL IMPACT

The bill appropriates \$750 thousand from the general fund to PED for expenditure in FY22 through FY24. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY24 shall revert to the general fund.

## SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

New Mexico has a legal responsibility to improve the college and career readiness of its students. As part of the *Martinez* and *Yazzie* education sufficiency lawsuit, the court ruled the New Mexico Constitution requires the state provide every student with the opportunity to receive an education that adequately prepares them for college and career. The court also ruled the state is failing to meet this obligation, citing low graduation rates, insufficient proficiency in reading and math, and high rates of college remediation.

**College and Career Strategies.** College and career pathways are an evidence-based strategy for improving student outcomes. Several studies have found participation in college and career pathways has a positive effect on GPA, graduation, postsecondary enrollment, and acquisition of industry-recognized credentials.

The National Center for College and Career states college and career pathways should include a rigorous blend of career technical and traditional academic instruction, alongside real world technical skills, opportunities for work-based learning, and personalized student supports. Effective college and career pathways encompass many programs commonly referred to as career technical education (CTE).

**Career Technical Education in New Mexico.** New Mexico has made significant investments in CTE. During the 2019 legislative session, Chapter 61 (House Bill 91) and Chapter 2 (House Bill 44) enacted Sections 22-1-12 and 22-1-13 NMSA 1978, which established the Next Gen CTE pilot program and created a CTE fund. The Next Gen CTE pilot authorizes PED to make grants to school districts and charter schools to establish CTE programs or provide professional development and training to CTE teachers. HB91 also includes criteria for effective CTE programs, including rigorous academics, relevant technical instruction, and pathways to postsecondary education. It does not include opportunities for work-based learning or student supports.

CTE funding in New Mexico is the highest it has been in over a decade as a result of both state and federal investments in CTE. In FY20, New Mexico received approximately \$9.3 million in federal funding under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Act and another \$4.5 million in state funding as part of the Next Gen CTE pilot. PED has previously noted the department has a comprehensive strategic plan for college and career readiness that includes a strengthened focus on CTE. The executive recommendation includes \$2.5 million for the career technical education

fund and a recommendation to allow unspent K-5 Plus and Extended Learning Time Program funds to be distributed for CTE at schools that adopt extended school year programs. In addition, the executive recommendation includes \$83 thousand for a college and career readiness program.

The LESC budget recommendation includes \$5 million for the career technical education fund from the public education reform fund and the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) recommendation includes \$2 million for the career technical education fund from the public education reform fund.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

SB337 requires PED to work with the New Mexico Alliance for College and Career Readiness to develop the request for proposals. In accordance with the Procurement Code, PED will need to award the appropriation through a competitive sealed bid process.

Analysis from PED was not available at time of bill analysis, but PED would need to determine how to oversee the program and specify any performance metrics or outcomes. PED would need to establish the framework for the funding stream, evaluate program effectiveness, and designate staff to monitor funds and coordinate the program.

### **RELATED BILLS**

Relates to HB100, College & Career Readiness Systems, which would appropriate \$3 million to PED to contract with organizations to provide evidence-based college and career readiness systems.

Relates to SB107, Career Readiness Systems Statewide, which was tabled in the Senate Education Committee.

Relates to HB 87, which makes an appropriation to state institutions of higher education and tribal colleges to comply with the court's rulings in the *Martinez* and *Yazzie* consolidated lawsuit by improving educational outcomes for certain public school and higher education students and families.

### **SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

- LESC Files

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