



LFC Requester: Liu

**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
BILL ANALYSIS
2026 REGULAR SESSION**

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date Prepared: January 22 2026

Bill No: HB89

Committee Referrals: HPREF

Agency Name and Code: PED - 924

Sponsor: Gonzales / Sariñana

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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY27	FY28		
\$250.0	None	Nonrecurring	GF

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY27	FY28	FY29		
None	None	None	N/A	NFA

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY27	FY28	FY29	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	None	None	None	None	N/A	NFA

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None as of 1/23/26.

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: House Bill 89 (HB89) would amend the [educational requirements for licensure](#) section of the [School Personnel Act](#) to amend requirements for a computer science endorsement for kindergarten through 12th grade teachers. Currently, the establishment of specific requirements for secondary computer science endorsement is delegated to the Public Education Department (PED). HB89 proposes to establish specific requirements in law. To add a computer science endorsement to a valid license according to the bill, educators would be required to demonstrate sufficient content knowledge in computer science by:

1. earning 15 post-secondary course credits in computer science;
2. passing a PED-approved licensure exam in computer science;
3. having a minimum of two years of work experience in an industry related to computer science;
4. obtaining an industry certification in a computer science-related field;
5. completing 60 hours of professional development in computer science within three years before applying for the endorsement; or
6. having three or more years of experience teaching computer science, validated by a school, school district, or charter school administrator.

It should be noted that the bill strikes the language that would limit the computer science endorsement to secondary education, expanding access to the endorsement to primary school educators.

The bill does not provide an effective date. Laws go into effect 90 days after the adjournment of the Legislature enacting them, unless a later date is specified. If enacted, this bill would become effective May 20, 2026.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill would appropriate \$250,000 from the General Fund to the Public Education Department (PED) for expenditure in FY27 and FY28 for professional development in quantum computing for teachers seeking to obtain or maintain a computer science endorsement. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY28 shall revert to the General Fund.

The appropriation is limited to quantum computing, a specialized area within the broader field of computer science that is not currently included in [New Mexico's K-12 computer science standards](#). PED may incur minimal costs related to administering the professional development and processing licensure endorsements.

PED's budget request does not reflect the technical assistance that may be needed to fulfill the requirements of the bill. If no additional appropriation is available to support the requirements of the bill beyond support for professional development in quantum computing, the department may lack the necessary funding to fully execute its requirements.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The educational requirements for licensure section of the School Personnel Act were last amended

in 2021, when the license endorsement in secondary computer science was first created. That amendment (Laws 2021, Chapter 102, Section 1) directed PED to create the license endorsement for teachers who hold a valid license and who demonstrate sufficient content knowledge in computer science, as determined by PED. The PED then promulgated rule, [6.64.20 NMAC, Competencies for Secondary Computer Science Teachers](#), at the end of 2021, which included the same six endorsement requirements listed in Section 1(F) of HB89, except that in current rule, a licensee may satisfy the second listed requirement by either passing the department-approved teacher licensure examination or a comparable licensure test from another state. The bill, however, does not provide for satisfaction of the examination requirement by demonstrating passage of passage of another state’s examination. The rule included pathways based on professional development and prior computer science teaching experience that expired in January 2025.

HB89 would align with ongoing statewide efforts to expand computer science education in K-12 settings. New Mexico adopted K-12 computer science standards derived from the [Computer Science Teachers Association K-12 Computer Science Standards](#), establishing grade banded expectations for student learning. These standards are considered optional and only required for schools that are implementing a computer science program or course. In 2021, PED published the [New Mexico Computer Science Strategic Plan](#), which outlines a statewide approach to expanding access to computer science through educator endorsement pathways, professional learning, and standards-aligned instructional models. In its [2024 Annual Report](#), The New Mexico Math and Science Advisory Council identified computer science as a continued area of growth and reported that 11 school districts participated in computer science professional learning programs during the 2023-24 school year. The report also identified critical issues for computer science education and recommended implementing pathways for educators to earn a K-6 computer science licensure endorsement, as well as continuing to support and fund K-12 teacher professional learning opportunities in computer science and related ecosystems.

According to the [2023 State of Computer Science Education](#) report from Code.org, access to foundational computer science courses in New Mexico varies by school size and geography. In the 2022-23 school year, approximately 50 percent of New Mexico public high schools offered a foundational computer science course, placing the state below the national average. The report shows smaller high schools are less likely to offer computer science coursework. Following the 2024 amendments to [New Mexico’s graduation requirements](#), which require all high schools to offer a computer science course, educator capacity, including certification pathways and access to professional learning, remains a factor in how consistently this requirement can be implemented across the state. In this context, the licensure changes proposed in HB89 may increase the availability of qualified educators to support expanded computer science offerings across schools and regions.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

With the enactment of provisions from the bill, students would be more likely to receive computer science education from an endorsed teacher, which may better prepare them for the demands of the modern workforce and higher education opportunities in technology-related fields.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED would need to amend [6.64.20 NMAC, Competencies for Secondary Computer Science Teachers](#), or promulgate additional rules to align with the provisions of the bill and create a

computer science endorsement for teachers of primary grades.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

The list of potential minimum requirements in the bill does not agree grammatically. Section 1-F (3), (4), and (6) start with nouns, while the others start with verbs. The sponsor may wish to consider adding the word “completed” to provisions 1-F (3), (4), and (6).

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

None.

AMENDMENTS

See, “Technical Issues,” above.