



LFC Requester: Chilton

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

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

Check all that apply:

Original  Amendment   
Correction  Substitute

Date Prepared: February 5 2026

Bill No: HB330

Committee Referrals: Not Printed

**Agency Name and Code:** PED - 924

Sponsor: Serrato/Gonzales

**PED Lead Analyst:** Jacqueline Sánchez

**Phone:** (505) 372-8810 **Email:** jacqueline.sanchez@ped.nm.gov

Short Title: AI ETHICS AS SCHOOL  
SCIENCE ELECTIVE

**PED Policy Senior Manager:** denise terrazas

**Phone:** (505) 470-5303 **Email:** denise.terrazas@ped.nm.gov

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY27	FY28		
None	None	N/A	NFA

**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
<b>Total</b>	None	None	None	None	N/A	NFA

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None as of 2/9/26.

## **SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

### **BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: House Bill 330 (HB330) would amend the [graduation requirements](#) section of the Public School Code to require school districts and charter schools to offer the ethics of artificial intelligence (AI) as a computer science elective. This requirement would apply to students entering the ninth grade in the 2026-27 school year.

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**

HB330 does not contain an appropriation.

While high schools are required to offer at least one computer science course under [current law](#), some school districts and charter schools may incur costs to expand existing computer science offerings to include an ethics of AI elective. Potential costs may include instructional materials and professional development to support educators delivering the course. Schools may also face additional expenses related to course scheduling.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The use of AI in K-12 education has expanded rapidly in recent years. [Education Week](#) reported that in the 2024-25 school year, 86 percent of students used AI nationally. As AI becomes further integrated into instructional and administrative practices, questions related to data privacy and ethics have increased. However, according to a 2024 [School Pulse Panel](#) survey from the U.S. Department of Education, only 14 percent of public school leaders reported that students are taught about ethical or appropriate uses of AI.

HB330 may address this gap by supporting student exposure to the ethical implications of AI through coursework. The bill aligns with statewide efforts to expand computer science education, which serves as a primary pathway for technology focused instruction. New Mexico has adopted K-12 computer science standards derived from the [Computer Science Teachers Association K-12 Computer Science Standards](#) that establish grade banded expectations for student learning. These standards apply to schools offering a computer science program or course. An ethics of AI course would align with the standards' expectations related to the ethical and societal impacts of computing technologies.

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 (MSAC) 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 MSAC also recommended continuing support and funding for K-12 teacher professional learning opportunities in computer science and related ecosystems.

## PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

HB330 would increase student exposure to instruction focused on the ethical implications of artificial intelligence. Providing structured learning opportunities related to responsible AI use and data privacy may support students' digital literacy and ability to critically engage with AI technologies.

Because the course would be offered as an elective, student participation may vary across schools. As a result, the extent to which the bill would influence student outcomes may differ by district based on course availability and scheduling.

As a new course, content would need to be determined and teachers would need to be upskilled in order to teach the content. This course would create undue burden especially in our rural schools where teachers are in short supply and are already teaching multiple courses. Course catalogs are typically printed in the spring for courses in the fall, so courses for this content would be a year out.

## ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HB330 would require school districts and charter schools to offer an ethics of AI course as a high school computer science elective. Administrative implications for school districts and charter schools may include course design and master scheduling to accommodate an additional elective option. Schools may also need to reassign existing staff or hire additional personnel to support the new elective.

The PED would provide technical assistance to support course alignment with existing computer science standards.

## CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to:

- [House Bill 22](#), Distribution of Sensitive and Deep Fake Images, which would amend the Criminal Code to provide for crimes related to the distribution and threatened distribution of deep fake images. The bill would also amend Chapter 41 NMSA 1978, Torts, to create a potential civil action for libel, slander, and invasion of privacy based upon the distribution of deep fake images.
- [House Bill 28](#), Artificial Intelligence Transparency Act, which would require notice to consumers of the use of artificial intelligence to make consequential decisions regarding the consumer and require an avenue of appeal for against an adverse consequential decision made by artificial intelligence, to be reviewed by a human being.
- [House Bill 141](#), the Artificial Intelligence Accountability Act, which would require disclosure and identification of synthetic content, prohibit the dissemination of deceptive synthetic content, and provide for civil and criminal enforcement.
- [Senate Bill 68](#), Artificial Intelligence Government Use Act, which would require public bodies to establish policies and training programs for the use and implementation of artificial intelligence, automated decision tools, and technology resources.

## **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

According to [AI for Education](#), an advocacy group that provides AI literacy training for educators, 33 states and Puerto Rico have official guidance or policy on the use of AI in K12 schools. In 2025, the PED published [AI guidance](#) for schools and school districts, outlining principles for the responsible use of AI in instructional and administrative contexts. The guidance emphasizes the importance of human decision-making, protection of student and educator data, ethical AI use, and local policy development. This is in alignment with national guidance and modeling of best practice. New Mexico school districts have taken different approaches regarding the formal adoption of artificial intelligence policies based on the PED guidance document. According to [KOB](#), Albuquerque Public Schools (APS), Santa Fe Public Schools, and Belen Public Schools have adopted districtwide artificial intelligence policies or guidelines.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

None.

## **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

None.

## **AMENDMENTS**

None.