

## **Senate Bill 210 FIR: NMHU Athletics Facilities Upgrades FY27 Request**

- NMHU's total student-athlete headcount is 421, which is roughly the equivalent of New Mexico's two Division I universities, UNM and NMSU. There are 162 student-athletes from New Mexico high schools competing for NMHU, more than any other New Mexico higher education institution.
- The average GPA for NMHU athletes is 3.3.
- For years, the women's soccer program has been forced to host its games off campus at a local Las Vegas middle school.
  - This is a serious Title IX issue, as the women's soccer players and coaches have to drive off campus to both practice and host NCAA Division II games at a location with inadequate facilities that do not meet NCAA Division II standards. This includes no locker rooms for either team. Both teams have access only to portable restroom facilities.
  - The renovation of NMHU's stadium allows for women's soccer to return to campus to both practice and host its games on site with access to proper facilities.
- The stadium renovation provides a modern facility that meets NCAA Division II standards for three sports—women's soccer, women's track and field, and football—and allows all three programs to compete on campus. It allows NMHU to host track and field meets for the first time in years.
- The renovation will also allow NMHU to add sports, starting with men's track and field, providing more opportunities for New Mexico's high school athletes to compete and complete their education in the state.
- Modern athletic facilities directly contribute to the competitive success of student athletes and their programs.
- Both UNM and NMSU have received funding for stadium renovations in the past five years. NMHU has not received funding for facilities renovations since 2012, when it installed artificial turf for the football program—turf that is still in use today.
- With 420 student-athletes currently enrolled at NMHU, including over 160 from New Mexico high schools, these much-needed improvements will positively impact a substantial portion of the NMHU student body, representing all corners of New Mexico, boosting retention, persistence, and recruiting efforts for our students.

## **New Mexico Highlands University Student Athletes from New Mexico:**

Albuquerque: 45	Tohatchi: 2	Lamy: 1
Rio Rancho: 16	Peralta: 2	Los Alamos: 1
Las Vegas: 12	Anthony: 1	Los Ranchos: 1
Las Cruces: 12	Anton Chico: 1	Pecos: 1
Los Lunas: 6	Aztec: 1	Peñasco: 1
Santa Fe: 5	Berino: 1	Portales: 1
Roswell: 4	Bernalillo: 1	Salem: 1
Alamogordo: 3	Bloomfield: 1	San Rafael: 1
Artesia: 3	Chimayo: 1	Sant Teresa: 1
Shiprock: 3	Churchrock: 1	Silver City: 1
Raton: 3	Continental Divide: 1	Taos: 1
Easpañola: 2	Corrales: 1	Tucumcari: 1
Dulce: 2	Gamercio: 1	Tularosa: 1
Deming: 2	Grants: 1	Vegueta: 1
Hobbs: 2	Hatch: 1	
Kirtland: 2	La Joya: 1	

### **Priority Athletics Facility Needs**

#### **Phase I – Football Stadium Renewal (\$17–20 M)**

- Structural and safety improvements to partially demo the existing stadium (east side) and accommodate a new track while constructing a modern, ADA-compliant home grandstand.
- Realignment of the field and track to allow **women’s soccer and women’s track** to compete and train on campus.
- Can technically be done closer to **\$17 M** with some cuts; **\$20 M** allows for full compliance and long-term durability.

#### **Phase II – Outdoor Facilities Upgrades (\$8.8 M)**

- Shared concessions, restrooms, visiting grandstand, and entrance improvements.
- Creates a unified and sorely-needed improved spectator experience while replacing the outdated infrastructure of the demolished east sideline.

## **Baseball / Softball Complex (\$12.5 M)**

- Replace turf already at the end of life, rebuild seating and dugouts to **NCAA Division II standards**, and upgrade lighting and drainage.
- Locker rooms, clubhouse, and other improvements that modernize and improve the student-athlete experience.

## **Subtotal (Phases I + II + Baseball/Softball): ≈ \$36 M**

This package would complete all outdoor competition venues, resolve the most urgent safety and equity issues, and restore Highlands' ability to host regional events on campus.

## **Stretch Goals / Future Phases (for context)**

- **Indoor offices, sports medicine, and additional locker-room facilities:** \$22.9 M
- **Natorium renovation + indoor practice facility:** \$19.7 M
- **Total “all-in” vision:** ≈ \$85 M

## **Framing**

- **Community impact:** Highlands remains the largest employer and anchor institution in Las Vegas after fires and floods. Investment here is a direct economic recovery and morale investment.
- **Equity:** Women's track and soccer cannot currently train or play on campus—this fixes that.
- **Precedent:** Mayfield High School's planned \$200 M renovation includes \$86 M in state participation (≈ 43%). Applying the same ratio here would suggest a **state share of about \$36 M**—squarely in the middle range above. Also, NMHU is seeking funding similar to last year's \$40 M appropriation to the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute, the second-largest employer in Las Vegas. Such funding further demonstrates the Legislature's commitment to the people of Las Vegas, San Miguel County, and Northern New Mexico.