

HOUSE BILL 119

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2026**

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE; ESTABLISHING PROGRAM UNITS  
FOR LICENSED SCHOOL EMPLOYEES WITH A BILINGUAL ENDORSEMENT;  
PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT VERIFICATION; MAKING  
CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 22-8-18 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1974,  
Chapter 8, Section 8, as amended by Laws 2025, Chapter 89,  
Section 3 and by Laws 2025, Chapter 150, Section 1) is amended  
to read:

"22-8-18. PROGRAM COST CALCULATION--LOCAL  
RESPONSIBILITY.--

A. The total program units for the purpose of  
computing the program cost shall be calculated by multiplying  
the sum of the program units itemized as Paragraphs (1) and (2)  
.232846.1

1 in this subsection by the staffing cost multiplier and adding  
2 the program units itemized as Paragraphs (3) through [~~(16)~~]  
3 (18) in this subsection. The itemized program units are as  
4 follows:

- 5 (1) early childhood education;
- 6 (2) basic education;
- 7 (3) special education, adjusted by subtracting  
8 the units derived from membership in class D special education  
9 programs in private, nonsectarian, nonprofit training centers;
- 10 (4) bilingual multicultural education;
- 11 (5) fine arts education;
- 12 (6) elementary physical education;
- 13 (7) size adjustment;
- 14 (8) at-risk;
- 15 (9) enrollment growth or new district  
16 adjustment;
- 17 (10) special education units derived from  
18 membership in class D special education programs in private,  
19 nonsectarian, nonprofit training centers;
- 20 (11) national board for professional teaching  
21 standards certification;
- 22 (12) home school student;
- 23 (13) home school student activities;
- 24 (14) charter school student activities;
- 25 (15) K-12 plus; [~~and~~]

1 (16) national board for certification of  
2 school nurses certification;

3 [~~(16)~~] (17) English learners; and  
4 (18) bilingual license endorsement.

5 B. The total program cost calculated as prescribed  
6 in Subsection A of this section includes the cost of early  
7 childhood, special, bilingual multicultural, fine arts and  
8 vocational education and other remedial or enrichment programs.  
9 It is the responsibility of the local school board or governing  
10 body of a charter school to determine its priorities in terms  
11 of the needs of the community served by that board. Except as  
12 otherwise provided in this section, funds generated [~~under~~]  
13 pursuant to the Public School Finance Act are discretionary to  
14 local school boards and governing bodies of charter schools;  
15 provided that the special program needs as enumerated in this  
16 section are met; and provided further that the department shall  
17 ensure that the local school board or governing body of a  
18 charter school is prioritizing resources for the public school  
19 toward proven programs and methods linked to improved student  
20 achievement."

21 SECTION 2. A new Section 22-8-23.17 NMSA 1978 is enacted  
22 to read:

23 "22-8-23.17. [NEW MATERIAL] BILINGUAL LICENSE  
24 ENDORSMENT--PROGRAM UNITS.--The number of program units for  
25 licensed school employees with a bilingual endorsement is the  
26 .232846.1

1 number of licensed school employees with a bilingual  
2 endorsement that are employed by a school district or charter  
3 school in a department-approved bilingual multicultural  
4 education program on or before the first reporting date of the  
5 school year and verified by the department. Department  
6 approval of these units shall be contingent on verification by  
7 the school district or charter school that these licensed  
8 school employees hold a bilingual endorsement, are employed in  
9 a department-approved bilingual multicultural education program  
10 and are receiving a one-time salary differential equal to or  
11 greater than the amount generated by the units multiplied by  
12 the program unit value during the fiscal year in which the  
13 school district or charter school will receive these units."

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