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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** Sariñana/Akhil/ **ORIGINAL DATE** 2/4/19  
Candelaria **LAST UPDATED** 2/7/19 **HB** 341/aHEC

**SHORT TITLE** Computer Science Development Grant Program **SB** \_\_\_\_\_

**ANALYST** Lobaugh

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
\$500.0		Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

University of New Mexico (UNM)

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

#### Responses not Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Regional Education Cooperatives (REC)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of HEC Amendment

The House Education Committee (HEC) Amendment to House Bill 341 removes a reference to “a school district or state-chartered charter school” and replaces this language with the term “eligible entity”. The HEC Amendment #2 removes a reference to “school districts or state-chartered charter schools” and replaces this language with the term “eligible entities”. These amendments ensure that the requirements of House Bill 341 apply to all eligible entities rather than only school districts and state-chartered charter schools.

#### Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 341 appropriates \$500 thousand from the general fund to the Public Education Department (PED) in FY20 for the purpose of providing grants to eligible entities to develop and implement teacher professional development programs for computer science courses and content. HB341 creates a “computer science program fund” in the state treasury, consisting of

money appropriated by the Legislature, to be administered by PED.

Any unexpended balances in the computer science program fund at the end of FY20 or subsequent fiscal years would not revert to the general fund. School districts, state-chartered charter schools, higher education institutions, and regional education cooperatives are eligible to apply for grants from the computer science program fund.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

The appropriation of \$500 thousand contained in HB341 is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balances remaining in the computer science program fund at the end of FY20 or any other fiscal year would not revert to the general fund.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

State statute allows for computer science courses to count toward the state's science or mathematics requirements for high school graduation (Section 22-13.1.1 NMSA 1978).

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

Eligible entities would need to submit applications to PED for grant funding from the computer science program fund. PED staff would need to administer the application process and the computer science professional development grant program. HB341 specifies that an application for this funding must address how the entity would use the money from the fund to:

- 1.) Educate teachers with minimal computer science background;
- 2.) Use research or evidence-based practices for high-quality professional development;
- 3.) Focus the professional learning on the conceptual foundations of computer science;
- 4.) Reach and support historically underrepresented students in computer science;
- 5.) Provide teachers with concrete experience with hands-on, inquiry-based practices;
- 6.) Accommodate the particular teachers' and students' needs in each district and school; and
- 7.) Ensure that participating districts shall begin offering the courses or content within the same or next school year after the teacher receives the computer science professional learning.

HB341 directs PED to give priority to grant applications where:

- 1.) School districts or state-chartered charter schools are working with providers of high-quality professional development for K-12 computer science;
- 2.) Strategies are included to enroll females, underrepresented minorities, students eligible for free or reduced-fee lunch, special education, and English learners in computer science courses; or
- 3.) Proposals are included to serve areas with a low concentration of K-12 computer science offerings.

HB341 also requires grant award recipients to annually report information about their computer science teacher professional development programs to the PED.

**TECHNICAL ISSUES**

HB 341 specifies that school districts, state-chartered charter schools, higher education institutions, and regional education cooperatives would be eligible for grant funds from the computer science program fund for computer science professional development. However, language in Subsections D and E of Section 3 only refers to the grant applications of a “school district or state-chartered charter school”.

CSL/sb