

2025 Post-Legislative Session Report

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and Community Relations

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Office of Government and Community
Relations

The logo for New Mexico State University, featuring the letters "NM" stacked above "STATE" in a white serif font, enclosed within a white square that is itself centered within a larger maroon square.

NM
STATE

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New Mexico State University

Glossary of Terms

Instruction and General(I&G) –

Base funding or operation and management funding

Non-Instruction and General(Non-I&G) –

university-based entities and operations that are not instructional in nature

Research and Public Service Projects (RPSPs) –

Entities and projects funded on a recurring basis within the university system

Special Appropriations –

Non-recurring appropriations earmarked for a specific purpose

Government Results and Opportunity Funding(GRO) –

Non-recurring appropriations that are generally for expenditure over three fiscal years and earmarked for a specific purpose

Capital Outlay –

Non-recurring appropriations earmarked for a specific building or piece of equipment. Funding comes from a statewide request process for larger items and through individual legislator/governor support for specific items



FY 26 Recurring Revenue Highlights



\$214.8 million to the university system for I&G, a \$7 million*, or 3.4% increase



\$1.9 million in additional funding to the university's agricultural entities, the Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Experiment Station, and Cooperative Extension Service



An additional \$1 million to the New Mexico Produced Water Consortium and \$400 thousand in new, recurring funding for NMSU-Alamogordo's nursing program

***Of the \$7 million:**

\$231.3 thousand is earmarked for graduate student support at Main Campus

\$548.9 thousand is earmarked for student wrap-around services at Main Campus

\$31.8 thousand is earmarked for student wrap-around services at NMSU-Alamogordo

\$107.3 thousand is earmarked for student wrap-around services at DACC

\$15.7 thousand is earmarked for student wrap-around services at NMSU-Grants



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Compensation

- House Bill 2 contains sufficient funding to pay all costs attributable to the general fund for providing a salary increase of four percent to employees in budgeted positions who have completed their probationary period subject to satisfactory job performance
- Additionally, the budget appropriates \$3.857 million to the Higher Education Department for distribution to two-year and four-year public postsecondary educational institutions for the employer share of medical insurance rate increases in fiscal year 2026



New Mexico State University System Recurring I&G and Non-I&G

Institution/Program	FY25 Final Operating Budget	FY26 Approved Operating Budget	\$ Change	% Change
Instruction and General				
Instruction and General – Main	\$164,341.5	\$170,475.1	\$6,133.6	3.7%
Alamogordo Branch Campus	\$8,922.9	\$9,003.6	\$80.7	0.9%
Dona Ana Branch Campus	\$30,138.2	\$30,838.8	\$700.6	2.3%
Grants Branch Campus	\$4,409.0	\$4,476.0	\$67.0	1.5%
Total Instruction and General	\$207,811.6	\$214,793.5	\$6,981.9	3.4%
Non-Instruction and General				
Athletics	\$7,816.2	\$7,816.2	-	-
Educational TV and Public Radio	\$1,478.1	\$1,478.1	-	-
New Mexico Tribal Education - Main	\$300.0	\$300.0	-	-
New Mexico Teacher Pipeline - Main	\$250.0	\$250.0	-	-
New Mexico Tribal Grants Branch	\$100.0	\$100.0	-	-
Department of Agriculture	\$17,433.2	\$18,043.4	\$610.2	3.5%
Agricultural Experimental Station	\$20,735.1	\$21,460.8	\$725.7	3.5%
Cooperative Extension Service	\$17,489.0	\$18,064.0	\$575.0	3.3%
Total Non-Instruction and General	\$65,601.6	\$67,512.5	\$1,910.9	2.9%
Total Instruction and Non-Instruction	\$273,413.2	\$282,306.0	\$8,892.8	3.3%



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New Mexico State University System Recurring RPSPs

Research & Public Service Initiatives	Allocation
Nurse Expansion	\$2,081.2.2
Autism Diagnostic Center	\$1,140.7.7
Sunspot Solar Observatory Consortium	\$402.0.0
STEM Alliance for Minority Participation	\$382.0.0
Mental Health Nurse Practitioner	\$1,315.0.0
Water Resource Research Institute	\$1,256.8.8
Indian Resources Development	\$284.3.3
Manufacturing Sector Development Program	\$687.2.2
Arrowhead Center for Business Development	\$397.1.1
Alliance for Teaching & Learning Advancement	\$221.9.9
College Assistance Migrant Program	\$307.9.9
Dona Ana Branch – Dental Hygiene	\$557.5.5
Dona Ana Branch – Nurse Expansion	\$928.9.9
Center of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture	\$513.7.7
Anna Age Eight Institute	\$2,133.9.9
Produced Water Consortium	\$2,242.8.8
Nurse Anesthesiology	\$500.0.0
Alamogordo Branch – Nurse Expansion	\$400.0.0
Total Research & Public Service Initiatives	\$15,752.9



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New Mexico State University System Recurring Revenue Snapshot

New Mexico State University	
Instruction and General – Main Campus	\$170,475.1.1
Instruction and General – Branch Campuses	\$44,318.4.5
Non-Instruction and General – Other Initiatives	\$67,512.5.9
Research & Public Service Initiatives	\$15,752.9.5
Total FY26 Recurring Budget Initiatives	\$298,058.9



FY 26 Higher Education Department Special Appropriations

- \$3 million for Practicums for Behavior Health or Addiction for Student Counseling
- \$40 million for building renewal and replacement, with up to \$10 million for facility demolition
- \$3 million for equipment renewal and replacement
- \$5 million for the teacher loan repayment program
- \$10 million for adult education programs
- \$1.25 million for high school equivalency tests
- \$2.7 million for equipment purchases for noncredit workforce training programs
- \$10 million for the technology enhancement fund
- \$1.55 million for the veterinarian loan repayment fund
- \$2 million for the expansion of the workforce training economic support pilot program



FY 26 NMSU Special Appropriations

- \$2 million for an institute of artificial intelligence and machine learning
- \$4.015 million to purchase equipment, instrumentation, laboratory facility improvements and other supplies for water treatment
- \$4 million for innovation, research, monitoring, support and development of technology associated with potential projects for a strategic water supply program grant or contract
- \$450 thousand to the department of range and animal sciences to support veterinary scholarships, externships and residency programs
- An extension through fiscal year 2028 to expend the \$10 million dollars for the New Mexico reforestation center
- \$1.5 million for athletics with instruction that the department shall implement a plan to eliminate debt in the department



FY 26 NMDA Special Appropriations

- \$1.2 million for the acequia and community ditch fund
- \$300 thousand for agricultural youth leadership programs statewide
- \$430 thousand for the approved supplier program
- \$100 thousand to assist state animal health officials in eradicating trichomoniasis
- \$3.3 million for grants to assist state meat processors
- \$9 million for soil and water conservation districts
- \$5 million for grants to implement projects that improve farmers' and ranchers' ability to manage, save and efficiently apply limited water resources for agricultural production



FY 26 Other Agency Special Appropriations

- \$40 million to the Economic Development Department for a research, development and deployment fund
- \$300,000 to the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department to contract with the department of agriculture on archaeological field school education
- \$20 million to the Public Education Department for the Grow Your Own Teacher Program
- \$3 million to the Public Education Department for a science, technology, engineering, and math network
- \$24 million for site characterization and predevelopment assessment, for expenditure over three years, for assessing potential economic development sites
- Up to \$7.5 million to the Department of Information Technology for cybersecurity initiatives. The appropriation is directed to the consortium of higher education for institutions statewide



GRO Funding

- House Bill 2 contains \$333 thousand in fiscal year 26, \$333 thousand in fiscal year 27, and \$333 thousand in fiscal year 28 for the College Assistance Migrant Program
- The bill also contains \$12 million to coordinate, plan, design, implement, operate, promote and establish a statewide online education program in partnership and coordination with other state education institutions. Any unexpended balances remaining at the end of fiscal year 2026 shall not revert and may be expended through fiscal year 2028



FY 26 NMSU System Capital Outlay

Main Campus	Appropriation
*Biomedical Research Building Construction	\$4,500,000
Campus Safety Improvements (ASNMSU initiative)	\$1,525,000
Atkinson Hall Lighting Replacement	\$550,000
Kinesiology Anatomage Purchase	\$220,000
O'Donnell Hall and Health & Social Services Building	\$50,000
*O'Donnell Hall Renovate	\$1,500,000
Pan American Center Handrails Purchase	\$50,000
Pan American Center Repair	\$50,000
*Cole Village Demolition	\$10,000,000
STEM Outreach Center Purchase	\$50,000
Golf Course Improvements	\$50,000
*Water System Infrastructure Improvements	\$7,000,000
Total Main Campus	\$25,445,000
Branch Campuses	
Grants – Fidel Hall HVAC Install	\$25,000
*Dona Ana Espina Campus Steam Infrastructure Replacement	\$1,475,000
Alamogordo Water and Sewer System Improvements	\$150,000
Total Branch Campuses	\$1,475,000
Total Main and Branch Campuses	\$26,920,000

Items with a strikethrough reflect vetoes by the Governor.



FY 26 Agricultural Science Center Capital Outlay

- Clovis Ag Science Center Equipment Purchases: \$411,000
- Mora Ag Science Center Equipment: \$50,000
- Tucumcari Ag Science Center Equipment Purchase: \$470,000
- Farmington Ag Science Center Equipment Purchase: \$85,000



FY 26 Athletics Capital Outlay

Athletics Projects	Appropriation
Aggie Memorial Stadium Parking Lot Upgrades	\$50,000
Baseball/Softball Turf Replacement	\$2,000,000
Baseball Facility Upgrades	\$50,000
Coca Cola Weight Training Facility Upgrade	\$225,000
Golf Team Practice Facility Construction	\$50,000
Women's Athletics Facility Improvements	\$150,000
Women's Soccer Facility Upgrades	\$145,000
Women's Softball/Soccer Facility Construction	\$450,000
Women's Volleyball Facility Upgrade	\$300,000
Total for Athletics	\$3,320,000

Items with a strikethrough reflect vetoes by the Governor.



Key Legislation Outcomes for NMSU

Below is a summary of key legislation that advanced, as well as notable proposals that did not make it through this year's session including the bill sponsor and the status of the legislation. For a comprehensive list, please see our full Post-Legislative Session FY26 Report.

Passed Legislation with Significant Impact or Importance to the NMSU System:

- **HB 449 – Higher Education Major Projects Fund (Lente, Campos)**
Creates the Higher Education Major Projects Fund to support large capital projects at public colleges and universities. Four-year institutions can apply for projects costing \$50 million or more related to instruction, research, and general purposes, while four-year, two-year, and tribal colleges are eligible for funding for student housing and student life projects, with waivers allowed and design standards enforced by the Higher Education Department. **(Vetoed by the Governor)**
- **HB 20 – Technology and Innovation Division (Dixon, Small)**
Creates a new division and advisory board focused on research and development across strategic sectors, including aerospace, biosciences, clean energy, water, and advanced computing (e.g., AI, quantum computing, cybersecurity). HB2 includes a \$40 million non-recurring appropriation to the Economic Development Department for the Research, Development, and Deployment Fund that was contingent upon the passage of HB 20. This fund will allow Higher Education research institutions to apply for matching funds as required with certain federal grants. **(Signed by the Governor)**



Key Legislation Outcomes for NMSU

- **HB 137 – Strategic Water Supply Act (Herrera, Munoz)**
Calls for an appropriation of \$75 million for projects related to deep brackish water, with \$4 million specifically designated for NMSU to support related research. HB 2 includes a fund transfer of \$40 million from the General Fund to the Strategic Water Supply Fund to support the strategic water supply program, and a special appropriation of \$4 million to NMSU. **(Signed by the Governor)**
- **HB 181 – State Trust Program Accountability Plan (Small)**
Requires agencies receiving GRO funding to submit accountability and evaluation plans to the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) and Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) by July 1 of the appropriation year. There are two GRO items that are specific to NMSU that will likely require reporting, which are the three-year tranche to the College Assistance Migrant Program and the one-year appropriation for NMSU to implement a statewide online education program. **(Vetoed by the Governor)**
- **HB 156 – Increase Educational Salaries (Garratt, Stewart)**
Raises the minimum salaries for teachers, school counselors, and administrators by \$5,000. With the failure of SB 242 (Advancing the Science of Reading Act) to pass, HB 156 was amended to require public postsecondary teacher preparation programs to include instruction in the *science of reading* and *structured literacy*, including at least 100 hours of supervised field experience for elementary teacher candidates. **(Signed by the Governor)**
- **SB 8 – Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program (Woods, Lujan, Vincent)**
Creates the Veterinary Medical Loan Repayment Program to help address shortages of food-animal veterinarians in underserved areas of New Mexico. HED, in coordination with a selection committee, may award up to \$80,000 per recipient over four years to repay veterinary school loans for eligible veterinarians working in designated areas. Appropriates \$1,550,000 to HED to administer the program and \$450,000 to New Mexico State University to support the state extension veterinarian's role in program oversight and selection. The appropriation to NMSU is directed to the Department of Range and Animal Sciences. **(Signed by the Governor)**



Key Legislation Outcomes for NMSU

- **SB 19 – Regent Training Requirements (Steinborn, Ramos)**
Requires all members of the boards of regents and governing boards of New Mexico’s public postsecondary institutions to complete ten hours of training within the first six months of their terms. The Higher Education Department will develop, provide, and monitor the training, which includes topics such as governance, budgeting, ethics, and student success. **(Signed by the Governor)**

Passed Legislation that is Relevant or was Tracked:

- **HB 143 – Lobbying Activity Reports (Steinborn, Silva)**
Requires lobbyists, or employers of lobbyists, to file an activity report on legislation that the filer either lobbies in support of or in opposition to. Specifically, HB 143 requires reporting to the Secretary of State within 48 hours of lobbying activity and before the end of the legislative session. **(Vetoed by the Governor)**
- **HB 65 – Instructional Days in School Year (Armstrong, Dow)**
Allows for local school boards to determine the total number of instructional days per year and number of instructional days per week that students will be in school programs. The Governor's veto was overridden by the House with the Senate unable to take action before Sine Die; this effectively means the Governor’s veto stands and the bill does not become law. **(Vetoed by the Governor)**
- **HB 89 Graduate Scholarships Act Changes (Hochman-Vigil, Roybal Caballero)**
Amends the Graduate Scholarship Act by requiring recipients to be NM residents, removes requirement to be U.S. citizen, requires bachelor’s degree with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA, enrolled at least six credit hours, removes unpaid internship requirement, allows scholarship to be awarded until completion of degree, and removes a cap of \$7,200 per year. **(Signed by the Governor)**
- **HJR 2 - Eliminate Pocket Vetoes, CA (McQueen, Cervantes, Montoya, Woods, Szczepanski)**
Proposed constitutional amendment that would require the Governor to provide a written explanation for any full or partial veto. It would also ensure that any bill not acted on by the governor becomes law, including those passed in the final days of the legislative session. **(Ballot measure at next General Election or any Special Election prior to that date)**
- **SB 169 – Strategic Economic Development Site Readiness (Padilla, Dixon, Hernandez, Brandt, Garratt)**
Creates the Strategic Economic Development Site Readiness Act and a \$75 million fund to support site studies and pre-development projects that prepare New Mexico locations for economic growth. The program is managed by the Economic Development Department with input from a multi-agency advisory committee. **(Signed by the Governor)**



Key Legislation Outcomes for NMSU

Stalled Legislation

- **HB 11 – Paid Family & Medical Leave Act (Stewart, Chandler, Martinez)**
Proposed the "Welcome Child and Family Wellness Leave Act", which would have created a state-run paid leave program for eligible workers. Although HB 11 passed the House, the bill failed to advance in the Senate Finance Committee. The bill underwent multiple amendments before stalling.
- **HB 60 – Artificial Intelligence Act (Chandler)**
Proposed a regulatory framework for AI systems.
- **SB 148 / SB 10 – Anti-Hazing Acts (Maestas, Pope)**
Both bills sought to criminalize hazing and create consequences for failure to report. Versions differed slightly in penalties and structure.
- **SJR 7 – Regent Nominating Committees (Constitutional Amendment) (Steinborn)**
Proposed requiring the Governor to appoint university regents from a list provided by a nominating committee.
- **SB 107 – STEM Center of Excellence at NMSU (Pope, Garratt)**
Creates a Center of Excellence at NMSU for STEM innovation and establishes a statewide STEM Innovation Network with regional and tribal hubs. NMSU will serve as the principal hub, coordinating education and career pathways in STEM. A steering committee of state, tribal, and education leaders will guide the network. Though the bill stalled in Senate Finance, HB2 includes \$3 million appropriation to the Public Education Department for the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Network.
- **SB 266 – Higher Ed. Agreement Approval & Review (Munoz, Hamblen)**
Sought to mandate that certain employment contracts by boards of regents be reviewed and approved by the State Board of Finance.
- **SB 242 – Advancing the Science of Reading Act (Stewart, Sarinana)**
Creates the Science of Reading Act, requiring teacher licensing candidates to demonstrate competency in structured literacy and the science of reading.



Next Steps and Interim Planning

- Work group to plan responsibilities, assignments and reporting for appropriations
- Track agency appropriations for requests for proposals
- Capital outlay request deadlines (late-May Board of Regents approval)
- Research and Public Service Project deadlines (September Board of Regents approval)
- Special Appropriations requests deadline (now September 1)
- FY 26 Federal appropriations requests are in process

