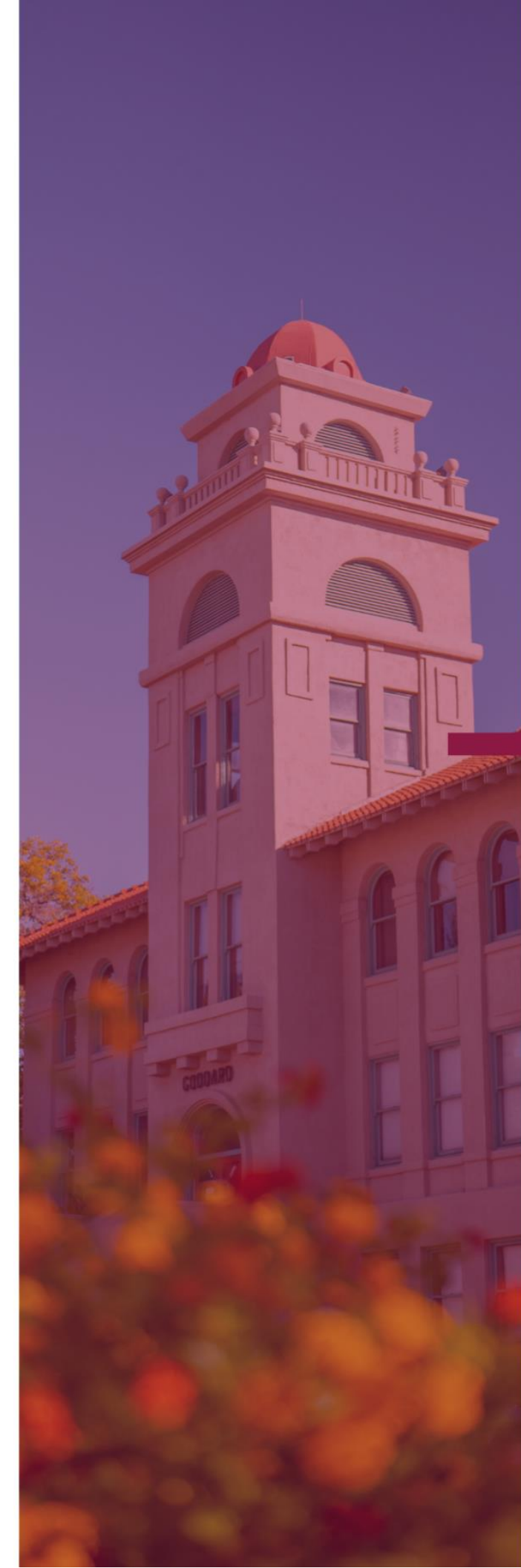


A vertical photograph of a university building's tower, featuring a red dome and arched windows, with a blurred foreground of orange flowers. The image is tinted with a purple-to-pink gradient.

# **NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**

## **LEGISLATIVE SESSION SUMMARY HIGHLIGHTS FY27**

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**MARCH 2026**

**PREPARED BY**  
THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT  
& COMMUNITY RELATIONS

## **Executive Overview**

The 2026 Legislative Session will likely go on record as being one of the most fruitful ever for the New Mexico State University System. The system will receive \$114 million in capital investment for major projects across the system, \$13.8 million in increased recurring funding to Main Campus, the branches, and the Experiment Station and Extension Service, and a small boost in compensation for all employees. Also, thanks to the support of individual legislators, an additional \$6.2 million in one-time appropriations will flow to athletics and academics projects, to the agricultural science centers, and to campus safety improvements.

Outside of the university system, large investments in the Public Education, Higher Education and Economic Development Departments will result in additional funding flowing to the university for deferred maintenance, cybersecurity, research, and targeted loan repayment programs. Additionally, with the passage of House Bill 8, Higher Education Major Projects Fund, \$300 million has been set aside<sup>1</sup> for student housing and student life, athletics, and major academic facilities for Fiscal Year 28 and beyond. This investment increases the capacity for investment in higher education facilities and expands eligibility to include projects that are not covered by General Obligation Bond appropriations. Lastly, through the Health Care Authority and Department of Finance and Administration, funding will flow to NMSU's Snap-Ed and public radio and television stations to offset federal cuts experienced in Fiscal Year 26.

Looking beyond higher education, the 2026 Session was notable for passage of a bevy of compact bills and a medical malpractice fix aimed at addressing medical provider shortages. Additionally, legislators invested heavily in free childcare for all New Mexicans, banned the use of Immigrations and Customs Enforcement detention facilities in the state, and passed an enormous bond package for roads (\$1.5 billion). There were some very notable failures in the session also, including a gun control bill, a piece of legislation seeking to cap greenhouse gas emissions, and the non-action on all artificial intelligence regulation efforts. We provide details on some of these items below to the extent that there was a connection or impact to the university system.

## **Notes on Funding Sources**

The university system receives funding through several sources: the annual budget bill, the biennial General Obligation bond bill (available in even-numbered years), and the annual capital outlay projects bill. There are nuances to each bill. The budget bill is a mix of recurring funding for base operations and specific projects at higher education institutions and other state agencies. Besides recurring funding, the budget contains one-time special appropriations for new initiatives, pilot projects and some capital outlay, plus one-time Government Results and Opportunity funding that is aimed at major statewide pilot projects while also funding individual earmarks selected by legislators.

The General Obligation Bond bill funds higher education facilities, public libraries and senior centers exclusively and has been historically focused (for higher ed institutions) on serving the most critical or major needs of institutions. Statewide property tax revenue determines the GO Bond capacity and collection of that tax revenue repays the bond debt. The capital outlay projects bill has historically been paid for using severance tax (a tax on extraction of oil and gas) revenues and the bill has covered all capital projects big and small from local governments to public schools, to acequias, and higher

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<sup>1</sup> \$185 million is transferred to the fund in HB2 and \$115 million is authorized via Severance Tax Bond sale to then be transferred to the fund.

education institutions. The bill also includes a portion of earmarks for legislators to support capital projects in their districts through earmarking. In recent years, with state revenues at record heights, legislators have used general fund dollars rather than severance tax bonds to pay for projects in the capital outlay projects bill.

### **New Mexico State University System Highlights**

- In House Bill 2, an Instruction and general (base funding) increase of an average of 4% at Main Campus and the three branches. For main campus, this increase comes to about a \$10 million boost.
- A 1% compensation package for employees in the state tax package (across the board).

In House Bill 248, General Obligation Bonds, \$81 million is provided for the following NMSU projects:

- \$55 million for the multidisciplinary academic facility
- \$20 million for critical infrastructure modernization
- \$4 million for the DACC Sunland Park Expansion and Upgrades
- \$1 million for NMSU-Alamogordo Campus Electronic Access Control
- \$1 million for NMSU-Grants Campus Electronic Access Control
- *The bill also includes \$17.6 million to NMSU for Phase 2 of the New Mexico Reforestation Center at Mora (NMSU is fiscal agent and a partner on the project)*

In House Bill 2, Special Appropriations (non-recurring funding) are directed to the following system priorities:

- \$16 million for the Physical Science Lab
- \$17 million for Executive Suites and a Press Box at Aggie Memorial Stadium
- \$9 million to be spent over 3 years for athletics operations

*Although not directly appropriated to NMSU, the funding below is partially for distribution to NMSU's public radio and television stations and to the Cooperative Extension Service's SNAP-Ed program respectively. This funding aims to offset the termination of federal grants for these programs.*

- \$2.75 million to the Department of Administration and Finance for educational television and public radio.
- \$2.5 million to the Health Care Authority for the supplemental nutrition assistance education program, in consultation with the higher education department for distribution to higher education institutions.

In capital projects supported directly by legislators there is funding of:

- \$1.6 million for the ASNMSU Campus Safety Project
- \$1.225 million for the Aggie Memorial Stadium Press box (combined with the special appropriation above, there is a total of \$18.225 million)
- \$330 thousand towards the ongoing multipurpose field project and band tower
- Approximately \$1.1 million for equipment and projects at Ag Science Centers

- \$500 thousand for Myrna's Children's Village Improvements
- \$250 thousand for the NMSU Golf Course to make improvements

In Government Results and Opportunity appropriations, there is funding for:

- \$150,000 for a windmill technician certification program in the College of ACES
- \$180,000 for the College Assistance Migrant Program
- \$180,000 for student fellowships and scholarship programs
- \$200,000 for the Aggies Without Limits program to serve colonias statewide
- \$150,000 for a statewide agricultural beef marketing program
- \$180,000 for the advanced technologies division at Dona Ana Community College

In House Bill 2, there are also appropriations to NMSU for the following projects:

- \$10 million for grants to implement projects that improve farmers' and ranchers' ability to manage, save and efficiently apply limited water resources for agricultural production.
- ~~\$200 thousand for a state child welfare blueprint.~~ (line-item vetoed by the Governor)
- \$1 million for chile marketing and promotion.
- \$8 million for costs related to a film studio.
- ~~\$750 thousand for a Medicaid review system.~~ (line-item vetoed by the Governor)

*And for the New Mexico Department of Agriculture:*

- \$1 million for the double up food bucks program for community health and agriculture resilience.
- \$3 million to implement the existing livestock Mexican wolf compensation program.
- \$430 thousand for the New Mexico grown approved supplier program.
- \$2 million to administer the regional farm to food bank program.
- \$1 million for soil and water conservation training and education.
- \$3 million for waste material equipment and technology at meat processing facilities.
- \$1.5 million to support the implementation of Chapter 53 Laws 2025 in encouraging retention and recruitment of large animal veterinarian services in underserved areas of New Mexico.
- \$5.1 million to eradicate the bovine reproductive disease trichinosis, including for treatment and quarantine.

### **Other Major Funding Highlights**

- \$20 million to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) for the New Mexico Match Fund
- \$21 million to the Department of Information Technology for cybersecurity initiatives
- \$49 million to the Economic Development Department (EDD) to provide match funds for projects within the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

- \$10 million to the Economic Development Department for distribution to higher education institutions for endowed faculty positions and postdoctoral researchers
- \$15 million to the Economic Development Department for innovation hubs
- \$110 million to the Economic Development Department for the research, development and deployment fund
- \$10 million to the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department for the geothermal projects development fund to advance geothermal projects in New Mexico
- \$20 million to the Public Education Department (PED) for the recruitment and retention of educator fellows and grow your own teacher programs
- \$3 million to the Public Education Department for a science, technology, engineering and mathematics network
- \$20 million to the Higher Education Department (HED) for building renewal and replacement and facility demolition
- \$3 million to the Higher Education Department for equipment renewal and replacement
- \$25 million to the Higher Education Department for the health professional loan repayment program
- \$1.5 million to the Higher Education Department for the retention and recruitment of large animal veterinarian services in underserved areas
- ~~\$2 million to the Legislative Finance Committee to contract for a higher education performance-based funding formula.~~ (line-item vetoed by the Governor)

## Recurring Funding Overview

The university system receives recurring funding in what can be viewed as three different areas, (1) instruction and general (I & G) or base funding for Main and the three branch campuses, (2) non-instruction and general funding which covers major functions outside of academics and two legislatively-created initiatives (tribal education and teacher pipeline), and (3) research and public service projects (RPSPs) funding for a variety of university initiatives. Together, total FY 27 recurring funding for the university amounts to just over \$324 million, of which \$227 million is for instruction and general purposes at the system's respective campuses. Instruction and general funding statewide received a 4 percent increase via a funding formula that rewards outcomes such as end-of-course student credit hours, awards, and research expenditures. Changes to the formula this year put greater emphasis on end-of-course student credit hours (increased by 10%) and lessened the value of research (reduced by 4%), with the latter potentially justified by significant investments in research in other parts of the state budget. As a result, Main Campus received a 5.9% increase in Instruction and General funding.

The university's non-instruction and general agricultural entities also received 4 percent increases to their recurring budgets (with the Department of Agriculture later receiving an additional small bump), while our public radio and television and athletics programs did not. The latter two did receive non-recurring funding injections, however, as the state worked to offset federal grant terminations and tested a 3-year funding approach for university athletics.

On the research and public service project front, the state continues to incorporate more of these items into campuses' base budgets using a roll-up approach. Under this approach, the RPSP line-item is eliminated, with the funding first added to the I & G line

for the respective campus. As a result of this year's legislative action, nursing expansion programs at Main, Dona Ana Community College, and Alamogordo were eliminated as line-items, although it is important to emphasize that the funding WAS NOT eliminated. All other RPSP funding remains flat for FY 27 and all signals suggest that the state will continue to seek ways to roll more projects into base budgets.

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

| Institution/Program                         | FY26<br>Final<br>Operating<br>Budget | FY27<br>Approved<br>Operating<br>Budget | \$ Change         | % Change    |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
| <b>Instruction and General</b>              |                                      |                                         |                   |             |
| Instruction and General- Main               | \$180,089.9                          | \$190,699.6                             | \$10,609.7        | 5.9%        |
| Alamogordo Branch Campus                    | \$9,689.4                            | \$9,828.4                               | \$139.0           | 1.4%        |
| Dona Ana Branch Campus                      | \$33,066.9                           | \$34,371.5                              | \$1,304.6         | 3.9%        |
| Grants Branch Campus                        | \$4,613.2                            | \$4,746.0                               | \$132.8           | 2.9%        |
| <b>Total Instruction and General</b>        | <b>\$227,459.4</b>                   | <b>\$239,645.5</b>                      | <b>\$12,186.1</b> | <b>5.4%</b> |
| <b>Non-Instruction and General</b>          |                                      |                                         |                   |             |
| Athletics                                   | \$8,022.9                            | \$8,022.9                               | -                 | -           |
| Educational TV and Public Radio             | \$1,524.6                            | \$1,524.6                               | -                 | -           |
| 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                   | \$18,440.7                           | \$19,228.3                              | \$787.6           | 4.3%        |
| Agricultural Experimental Station           | \$22,609.2                           | \$23,513.6                              | \$904.4           | 4.0%        |
| Cooperative Extension Service               | \$18,875.0                           | \$19,630.0                              | \$755.0           | 4.0%        |
| <b>Total Non-Instruction and General</b>    | <b>\$70,122.4</b>                    | <b>\$72,569.4</b>                       | <b>\$2,447.0</b>  | <b>3.5%</b> |
| <b>Total Instruction and NonInstruction</b> | <b>\$297,581.8</b>                   | <b>\$312,214.9</b>                      | <b>\$14,633.1</b> | <b>4.9%</b> |

### New Mexico State University System Recurring RPSPs

| Research & Public Service Projects                  | Allocation        |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| *Nurse Expansion                                    | \$0.0             |
| Autism Diagnostic Center                            | \$1,184.4         |
| Sunspot Solar Observatory Consortium                | \$418.4           |
| STEM Alliance for Minority Participation            | \$398.3           |
| Mental Health Nurse Practitioner                    | \$1,315.0         |
| Water Resource Research Institute                   | \$1,300.2         |
| Indian Resources Development                        | \$291.4           |
| Manufacturing Sector Development Program            | \$706.8           |
| Arrowhead Center for Business Development           | \$418.3           |
| Alliance for Teaching & Learning Advancement        | \$228.5           |
| College Assistance Migrant Program                  | \$311.4           |
| Dona Ana Branch – Dental Hygiene                    | \$557.5           |
| *Dona Ana Branch – Nurse Expansion                  | \$0.0             |
| Center of Excellence in Sustainable Agriculture     | \$527.3           |
| Anna Age Eight Institute                            | \$2160.4          |
| Produced Water Consortium                           | \$2,259.6         |
| Nurse Anesthesiology                                | \$500.0.0         |
| *Alamogordo Branch – Nurse Expansion                | \$0.0             |
| <b>Total Research &amp; Public Service Projects</b> | <b>\$12,577.5</b> |

\*Nursing programs are reflected in the base budget beginning in FY27.

For Fiscal Year 27, the total recurring budget for the university system is \$324.8 million, a 4.7 % or \$14.6 million increase (summarized below):

| New Mexico State University System Recurring Revenue Snapshot |                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Instruction and General – Main Campus                         | \$190,699.6        |
| Instruction and General – Branch Campuses                     | \$48,945.5         |
| Non-Instruction and General Entities                          | \$72,569.4         |
| Research & Public Service Projects                            | \$12,577.5         |
| <b>Total FY27 Recurring System Budget</b>                     | <b>\$324,792.0</b> |

### Capital Outlay Appropriations

Factoring in the two major capital projects funded through the budget bill, the university system will receive nearly \$120 million in non-recurring funding for facility and equipment investment. The statewide General Obligation Bond package that will go to voters in November contains more than half the \$100 million in funding needed to construct the multidisciplinary academic facility as envisioned by President Ferme. With \$16 million in funding, the Physical Science Laboratory can apply modernizations and upgrades and enhance its competitiveness in the aerospace and defense realms. The athletics department will receive \$18.225 million, a blend of general fund and legislatively supported capital outlay dollars, to construct new executive suites and a press box at Aggie Memorial Stadium. Capital outlay dollars will also flow to system locations across the state from DACC-Sunland Park (\$4 million) to Grants (\$1 million) to Alamogordo (\$1 million) to seven of the agricultural science centers (\$1.18 million). Lastly, the Associated Students of New Mexico State University secured over \$1.6 million dollars for campus safety improvements.

### FY 27 NMSU Statewide Capital Outlay

| General Obligation Bond Projects            | Proposed Amount     |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Multi Disciplinary Academic Facility        | \$55,000,000        |
| Critical Infrastructure Improvement         | \$20,000,000        |
| DACC Sunland Park Renovation & Expansion    | \$4,000,000         |
| Alamogordo Electronic Access Control        | \$1,000,000         |
| Grants Campuswide Electronic Access Control | \$1,000,000         |
| Mora Reforestation Center Phase 2           | \$17,650,000        |
| <b>Total Request</b>                        | <b>\$98,650,000</b> |

## FY 27 NMSU System Individual Capital Outlay

The university system will receive an additional \$5.3 million in non-recurring Capital Outlay dollars thanks to legislators from all corners of the state.

Of this funding, ASNMSU was successful in securing over \$1.9 million from legislators for campus safety improvements and completion of the multi-purpose field and band tower project.

| Projects                                      | Appropriation      |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Athletics                                     |                    |
| Aggie Memorial Stadium Press Box Construction | \$1,225,000        |
| Pan American Center Safety Upgrades           | \$100,000          |
| Golf Course Improvements                      | \$250,000          |
| Agricultural Science Centers                  |                    |
| Clayton Livestock Research Center             | \$190,000          |
| Clovis Ag Science Center                      | \$205,000          |
| Mora Ag Science Center                        | \$50,000           |
| Alcalde Ag Science Center                     | \$50,000           |
| Los Lunas Ag Science Center                   | \$350,000          |
| Artesia Ag Science Center                     | \$170,000          |
| Tucumcari Ag Science Center                   | \$165,000          |
| ASNMSU                                        |                    |
| Multi-purpose Band & Intramural Construction  | \$330,000          |
| ASNMSU Campus Safety Improvements             | \$925,000          |
| Other Main Campus Projects                    |                    |
| Children's Center Myrna's Village             | \$500,000          |
| Campus Safety Improvements                    | \$700,000          |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>\$5,310,000</b> |

NMSU through NMDA also serves as the fiscal agent for Soil and Water Conservation District projects around the state.

| Projects                                             | Appropriation      |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Soil & Water Conservation Districts                  |                    |
| Central Curry SWCD Match Funds                       | \$1,000,000        |
| McKinley SWCD Heavy Equipment Purchase               | \$50,000           |
| Quay SWCD Building Construct                         | \$300,000          |
| East Rio Arriba SWCD Facility Renovation             | \$100,000          |
| Upper Chama SWCD Building Improvements               | \$50,000           |
| Roosevelt SWCD Shade Ball Storage Facility Construct | \$409,000          |
| Coronado SWCD Access Route Repair                    | \$250,000          |
| Central Tri-County SWCD Admin. Building Construct    | \$30,000           |
| Central Tri-County SWCD Roof Building Construct      | \$80,000           |
| East Torrence SWCD Equipment Purchase                | \$100,000          |
| Valencia SWCD Whitfield Conservation Area Access I.  | \$185,000          |
| Valencia SWCD Whitfield Conservation Area Elec. Ve.  | \$25,000           |
| Valencia SWCD Whitfield Conservation Area Infra. Im. | \$245,000          |
| <b>Total</b>                                         | <b>\$2,824,000</b> |

### **Key Legislation Outcomes for Higher Education and 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.

- **HB2 – General Appropriations Act (Small, Dixon)**

Allocates \$324.8 million in recurring general revenue for the NMSU System, along with an average 4% increase in instruction and general (base) funding for New Mexico universities, resulting in roughly a \$10 million increase for NMSU's main campus. The legislation also supports major investments impacting NMSU, including \$81 million in General Obligation Bond funding for capital projects, \$16 million for the Physical Science Laboratory, \$17 million for Aggie Memorial Stadium executive suites and press box, \$9 million for athletics operations over three years, and additional legislatively supported capital projects across the NMSU system.

Status: Passed. **Signed by the Governor on March 11, 2026, with some line-item vetoes.**

- **HB8 – Higher Ed. Major Projects Fund (Gonzales, Hochman-Vigil, Small, Campos)**

Related to Senate Bill 124, which did not receive a germane ruling or message from the Governor.

Creates the Higher Education Major Projects Fund as a non-reverting fund in the state treasury to support large capital projects at public colleges and universities, administered by the Higher Education Department and subject to legislative appropriation.

Eligible projects include:

- At four-year institutions, instructional, research, and general-purpose projects costing \$50 million or more, and student housing and student life projects.
- At two-year institutions and tribal colleges, student housing and student life projects.

The bill establishes matching requirements for both design and construction phases, including:

- 25% design match and 10% construction match for major instructional/research projects at four-year institutions.
- 50% design match for student housing/student life projects.
- 20% construction match for student housing/student life projects at four-year institutions.
- 50% construction match for two-year institutions and tribal colleges.

Waivers may be granted by HED with legislative approval, and construction funding may not be appropriated until at least 50% of the design phase is complete.

Status: Passed. **Signed by the Governor on March 9, 2026. \$185 million is transferred to the fund in HB2 and \$115 million is authorized via Severance Tax Bond sale to then be transferred to the fund.**

- **Group: Interstate Licensure Compacts**

**HB11 – Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Interstate Compact (Thomson, Armstrong, Jones, Gonzales, Abeyta)**

Status: Stalled in Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee

**HB14 – Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact (Thomson, Hernandez, Jones, Cates, Little)**

Status: Stalled in Senate Judiciary Committee

**HB31 – EMS Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact (Matthews, Vincent, Silva, Jones, Dow)**

Status: Stalled in Senate Judiciary Committee

**HB32 – Counseling Compact (Matthews, Jones, Chavez, Sena Cortez, Cullen)**

Status: Stalled in Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee

**HB33 – Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (Matthews, Jones, Chavez, Sena Cortez, Cullen)**

Status: Stalled in Senate Judiciary Committee

**HB44 – Dental and Dental Hygienist Compact (Armstrong, Chavez, Cortez, Cullen, Jones)**

Status: Stalled in House Health & Human Services Committee

**HB50 – Social Work Licensure Interstate Compact (Herndon, Sedillo Lopez, Trujillo, Roybal Cabellero, Silva)**

Status: Passed. **Signed by the Governor on February 9, 2026.**

These bills establish interstate licensure compacts that allow qualified professionals licensed in one participating state to practice in other member states without obtaining separate licenses, improving workforce mobility and expanding access to services while maintaining state regulatory authority.

- **HB28 – Artificial Intelligence Transparency Act (Chandler)**

Enacts the Artificial Intelligence Transparency Act, requiring notice when AI is used to make consequential decisions affecting consumers, including in education, employment, housing, lending, health care, insurance, and legal services. The bill requires explanations for adverse decisions, an opportunity to correct data and appeal with human review, and clear disclosure when users interact with AI companion products. Violations are enforceable by the Department of Justice as unfair or deceptive trade practices.

Status: Did not receive a germane ruling or message from the Governor.

- **HB30 – Teacher Residency Act Changes (Sariñana, Stewart, Garratt, Figueroa, Baca)**

Amends the Teacher Residency Act to adjust stipends for teaching residents based on a percentage of the statutory minimum salary for level one teachers and allows residents to work at any public school after completing the residency rather than only in the sponsoring district. The bill also clarifies that partner school districts or charter schools are expected to offer employment to residents based on staffing needs and the residents' performance.

Status: Passed. **Signed by the Governor on March 9, 2026.**

- **HB66 – Health Care Professional Loan Fund Changes (Chandler, Figueroa, Chávez)**  
Revises the Health Professional Loan Repayment Program to expand eligible health professionals, update award criteria, and require recipients to practice in New Mexico or relocate to the state to receive awards. The bill establishes award amounts and service requirements, prioritizes physicians, and modifies repayment and contract provisions. The appropriation associated with this program was included in HB2, which provides funding to the Higher Education Department (HED) to administer awards through the Health Professional Loan Repayment Fund.

Status: Passed. **Signed by the Governor on March 6, 2026.**

- **HB100 – Stem Innovation Network Funding (Gonzales, Sariñana, Garratt)**  
Appropriates \$3 million from the general fund to the Public Education Department in FY27 to support the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Innovation Network. **The appropriation associated with this program was included in HB2.**

Status: Stalled in House Appropriations and Finance Committee

- **HB141 – Artificial Intelligence Accountability Act (Serrato)**  
Enacts the Artificial Intelligence Accountability Act, requiring disclosure and detection tools for synthetic content generated by artificial intelligence. The bill requires AI providers and large online platforms to identify and track AI-generated content and allows individuals to seek removal of deceptive synthetic content. The Attorney General may enforce violations with civil penalties, and the bill establishes civil liability and potential criminal sentence enhancements for certain harms involving AI-generated content.

Status: Did not receive a germane ruling or message from the Governor.

- **HB207 – Water Quality Commission Produced Water Rules (Brown, Mason, Murphy, Henry, Sena Cortez)**  
Requires the Water Quality Control Commission to adopt rules allowing specified uses of treated produced water for activities unrelated to oil and gas operations, including pilot projects, industrial uses, construction, irrigation of industrial crops, hydrogen production, geothermal projects, and certain land and roadway applications.

Status: Stalled in House Agriculture, Acequias, and Water Resources

- **HB 247 – Capital Outlay Changes (Lente)**  
Establishes new limitations on capital outlay reauthorizations and appropriations, including limiting projects to one reauthorization for no more than two years and requiring at least 10% of the original appropriation to be encumbered before reauthorization. The bill also requires unexpended general fund capital outlay appropriations from prior years to revert to the Capital Development and Reserve Fund, or the Tribal Infrastructure Project Fund for tribal projects, and directs the Department of Finance and Administration to report annually on frozen capital outlay accounts.

Status: Passed. **Signed by the Governor on March 9, 2026.**

- **HB 248 – General Obligation Bonds (Lente)**

Authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds, subject to voter approval at the 2026 general election, to fund statewide capital projects including \$230 million for higher education.

Status: Passed. **On November 2026 ballot to be decided by New Mexico voters.**

- **HM4 – Study Higher Ed Health Insurance Costs (Roybal Caballero, Torres-Velásquez)**

Requests the Legislative Finance Committee, in collaboration with the Higher Education Department and other state agencies, to study options for expanding access to health insurance for educators and graduate student employees at New Mexico public higher education institutions and report findings and recommendations by October 1, 2026.

Status: Passed the House of Representatives, the Legislative Finance Committee and the Higher Education Department will likely convene a work group per the memorial.

- **HM16 – NMSU Physical Science Lab, In Recognition (Small)**

Recognizes and honors the Physical Science Laboratory at New Mexico State University for eighty years of research and contributions to national security, aerospace innovation, workforce development and economic growth, highlighting its role as a leading university-based applied research laboratory and its partnerships with federal agencies, industry and academia.

Status: Passed the House of Representatives

- **HJR1 – Boards Of Regents Nominating Committees, CA (Chandler, Steinborn)**

Proposes a constitutional amendment, subject to voter approval, to establish nominating committees that would provide the governor with lists of candidates for appointment of nonstudent members to boards of regents at state educational institutions. The resolution also requires student regent nominees to be selected from a list provided by the institution's elected student governing body and restricts regent and nominating committee members from changing political party registration within twelve months prior to appointment.

Status: Passed. **On November 2026 ballot to be decided by New Mexico voters.**

- **SB18 – Clear Horizons & Emissions Codification (Stewart, Ortez, Charlye, Romero, Nava)**

Establishes statewide greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of 45% below 2005 levels by 2030, 75% by 2040 and net-zero by 2050, and requires emissions monitoring and reporting. The bill expands the authority of the Environmental Improvement Board to adopt rules and plans to meet these limits and requires annual statewide greenhouse gas emissions reporting and progress assessments.

Status: Failed to pass in the Senate.

- **SB29 – Math Requirements For Teaching License (Soules, Sariñana, Cullen)**

Increases mathematics coursework requirements for teacher licensure and establishes a statewide framework to improve mathematics instruction in public schools. The bill requires mathematics professional learning plans, K–3 mathematics screening assessments, student support plans and multilevel intervention strategies to help identify and address mathematics learning difficulties.

Status: Passed. **Signed by the Governor on March 9, 2026.**

- **SB37 – High Quality Literacy Instruction Act (Stewart, Garratt, Cullen)**

Enacts the High-Quality Literacy Instruction Act, requiring public schools to implement literacy instruction aligned with the science of reading and structured literacy. The bill establishes standards for instructional materials, requires literacy assessments for students in kindergarten through third grade with interventions for students identified with reading difficulties, and directs the Public Education Department to assign literacy instructional coaches to certain schools.

Status: Passed. **Signed by the Governor on March 9, 2026.**

- **SB68 – Artificial Intelligence Government Use Act (Berghmans)**

Enacts the Artificial Intelligence Government Use Act, requiring public bodies to establish policies governing the use of artificial intelligence, automated decision tools and technology resources by employees. The bill requires human review for consequential decisions, mandates cybersecurity and AI use policies, and requires employee training on appropriate AI use and data security.

Status: Stalled in Senate Committees Committee.

- **SB143 – Update on Certain Agricultural Fees (Woods, Boone, Wilson, Muñoz)**

Updates and adjusts several regulatory fees administered by the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, including fees related to egg inspection, pesticide licensing, plant protection, fertilizer registration and inspection, and commercial feed inspection. The bill also allows certain fees to be indexed for inflation through July 1, 2031.

Status: Passed. **Signed by the Governor on March 3, 2026.**

- **SB151 – Corporate Income Tax Changes (Wirth, Parajón, Berghmans, Figueroa)**

Makes several changes to New Mexico tax policy, including decoupling certain state corporate income tax provisions from federal law, creating new tax credits to support local journalism and newspaper printing jobs, establishing a tax credit for physicians practicing in New Mexico, and providing tax deductions to support affordable housing development and certain health care practitioner equipment and medication purchases.

Status: Passed. **Signed by the Governor on March 11, 2026.**

- **SB177 – General Fund Transfers To Other Funds (Muñoz, Dixon)**  
Makes transfers and appropriations from the general fund to support economic development initiatives in strategic sectors including artificial intelligence, quantum technology, advanced energy, aerospace and defense, and bioscience. The bill provides funding for innovation hubs, research infrastructure, workforce training, start-up development and federal grant matching, including significant investments at New Mexico research institutions such as New Mexico State University and the University of New Mexico to support research capacity, technology commercialization and industry partnerships. **Some appropriations established in this bill were included in HB2.**

Status: Stalled in Senate Finance Committee.

- **SB204 – Funding for Terminated Research Projects (Soules)**  
Appropriates \$100 million to the Higher Education Department to supplement reduced or terminated federal funding for existing research projects at the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University and the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology that can be completed but for the loss of federal support.

Status: Stalled in Senate Finance Committee.

- **SB240 – Capital Outlay Projects (Shendo, Campos)**  
Appropriates \$1.255 billion in Capital Projects statewide using a combination of general fund and severance tax bond revenues. Contains \$5.3 million for the NMSU system.

Status: Passed. **Signed by the Governor on March 11, 2026, with line-item vetoes.**

- **SB243 – NMSU Student Activities (Maestas, Muñoz)**  
Appropriates \$5 million from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for FY27 to support student athletes, including travel, nutrition and other student-athlete needs.

Status: Stalled in Senate Finance Committee.

- **SB309 – Lottery Deposits Into Tuition Fund (Gonzales)**  
Requires monthly net receipts from the sale of lottery games to be deposited into the Lottery Tuition Fund and establishes minimum annual deposit thresholds. If annual deposits fall below the required levels, the lottery authority must revert to depositing 30% of gross monthly revenue into the fund.

Status: Stalled on Senate Calendar

## **Looking Forward**

Our attention is already shifting to think about the 2027 Legislative Session and there are already processes underway to determine our major capital outlay requests for the system's campuses. We also must be thinking about how to prioritize and build out the university's Artificial Intelligence Institute and Cooperative Education Office as the two items did not receive direct appropriations from the state. The College Assistance Migrant Program, Public Radio and Television and Snap-Ed are operating with reduced funding and long-term uncertainty and thus we must collectively be considering a long-term plan. There is also uncertainty with Sunspot and Apache Point Observatories and the Carlsbad Environmental Monitoring and Research Center and potential federal decisions that may affect their status and long-term sustainability. The university will need to decide if and how to pursue funding for these entities. Of course, the system will also need to evaluate and consider new priorities for the 2027 legislative session, and it would behoove us to review existing but unfunded requests that have been submitted to the state legislature or to our congressional delegation.

The Office of Government and Community Relations will be working with state legislators and the various interim committees to plan meetings and visits to the system's campuses. These visits and meetings provide the opportunity to showcase our research, our students, our facilities, and begin making the case for our 2027 legislative priorities. Our office will also continue to engage with elected officials through events on campus such as athletics, seminars, chats, etc. Meanwhile, we will be working to secure top priority requests from the congressional delegation, support the President's tribal visits, and guide budget management (particularly monitoring current and previous fiscal year appropriations) and planning.