

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	<b>Helms</b>
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**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
BILL ANALYSIS  
2023 REGULAR SESSION**

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

Check all that apply:

Original  Amendment   
Correction  Substitute

Date Prepared: 02/20/23  
Bill No: HB335

Sponsor: Sariñana  
Short SCHOOL COMPUTER  
Title: SCIENCE CLASSES

Agency Name and Code  
Number: PED - 924  
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**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
0	\$1,100.	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24	FY25		
None	None	None	N/A	NFA

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	FY23	FY24	FY25	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>	None	None	None	None	N/A	NFA

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: None.

**SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

**BILL SUMMARY**

Synopsis: House Bill 335 (HB335) amends [Section 22-13-1 NMSA 1978](#), Courses of Instruction and School Programs, to require public schools to offer computer science by having elementary and middle schools embed computer science in other subjects and having high schools offer

computer science as a stand-alone course.

HB335 has an effective date of July 1, 2023.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

HB335 creates a new fund, the Computer Science Program Fund.

HB335 appropriates \$1.1 million from the General Fund to the Computer Science Program Fund for expenditure in FY24 and subsequent fiscal years to carry out the purposes of the fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year would not revert to the General Fund.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

If HB335 is enacted, and high schools would be required to offer computer science as a stand-alone course, this course would be a viable option as an elective credit for high school students.

High schools without teachers certified in computer science would either need to hire new teachers certified in computer science, or currently employed teachers would need additional certification. With the current teacher shortage, it might be difficult for especially smaller schools to find the requisite teachers.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

HB335 requires the PED to administer the Computer Science Program Fund. The PED will request and evaluate applications for funding based on the framework established in HB335. This work can be accomplished with current agency staff and resources.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

Relates to HB126, School Graduation Requirements.

### **TECHNICAL ISSUES**

None.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

PED offers an endorsement in Computer Science, so it is not an endorsement or licensure area that would have to be created. Additionally, PED has adopted the [New Mexico Computer Science Strategic Plan](#) to focus on adopting New Mexico Computer Science Standards. The five-year strategic plan includes actions for policy development, district implementation and supporting educators related to academic standards, teacher certification, course pathways, student access to programs and educator professional learning. According to the strategic plan, PED will develop, conduct and analyze data from a comprehensive needs assessment to determine a path forward, to ensure stakeholder voice and meet state needs.

According to the [Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development](#) (ASCD), computer science instruction teaches students how to be innovative and to solve problems. Because of students' fascination with technology, computer science has the potential to reach many students who are not successfully engaged by the rest of the academic core. In today's world, having a

beyond-basic knowledge of computers connects a student to a host of opportunities. Being introduced to engaging computer science in high school can propel students who otherwise would never have realized they enjoyed high-level computing into the field.

According to [Depauw University](#), the most important aspect of computer science is problem solving, an essential life skill. Computer science students study the design, development and analysis of software and hardware used to solve problems in a variety of business, scientific and social contexts. Because computers solve problems to serve people, there is a significant human side to computer science as well.

#### **ALTERNATIVES**

None.

#### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

None.

#### **AMENDMENTS**

None.