

LFC Requester:	Helms
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2023 REGULAR SESSION**

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date Prepared: 02/10/23
Bill No: HB52/aHEC

Sponsor: Allison
Short INTERNATIONAL
Title: BACCALAUREATE

Agency Name
and Code
Number: PED - 924
Person Writing Gregory Frostad
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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
None	\$100.0	Nonrecurring	GF

(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
Total	None	\$76.0	Undetermined	Undetermined	Nonrecurring	NFA

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act: N/A

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of HEC Amendment: The House Education Committee amendment to House Bill 52 (HB52/aHEC) would appropriate \$100,000 from the general fund to the Public Education Department (PED) in FY24 to distribute to public schools and secondary schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) offering International Baccalaureate (IB) programs to pay IB

exam fees. The amended bill would expand eligibility for funding to include Navajo Preparatory School, a BIE-funded IB secondary school.

Synopsis: House Bill 52 (HB52) would appropriate \$100,000 from the general fund to the Public Education Department (PED) in FY24 to distribute to public schools offering International Baccalaureate (IB) programs to pay IB exam fees.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

International Baccalaureate, a non-profit organization, currently charges a candidate subject fee of \$119 for assessments in most subjects, \$91 for assessment of Extended Essay components, \$46 for Theory of Knowledge components, and \$10 for Creativity Activity and Service components. Though students enroll in grades 11 and 12 in the two-year courses that prepare them to take IB exams, only those in grade 12 are eligible to take the Diploma Programme (DP) exams. The DP is a two-year educational program, primarily aimed at 16- to 19-year-olds that aims to develop students physically, intellectually, emotionally, and ethically, and culminates in the award of a worldwide recognized diploma that is recognized by many universities worldwide. If half of those in IB courses in SY22 in New Mexico public schools were in grade 12, 422 would have been eligible to take the exams. Based on course enrollment data for 2022, the total cost of all New Mexico seniors' exam fees that year would have been \$53,000.

The percentage of students enrolled in any course who also have taken the exams at the end of the course, however, has been less than 100 percent. At Mandela International Magnet School in Santa Fe, for example, 81 percent of the 2022 graduating class took all the exams needed for the DP, and the remaining 19 percent took at least one exam. It is possible that the rate of exam-taking might increase with enactment of HB52/aHEC with the additional incentive of fees paid through distributed funds.

With the inclusion in the amended bill of Navajo Preparatory School, the only BIE-funded IB school in New Mexico, in FY24 20 additional students would be projected to take all six DP exams and 60 more exams would be taken in single subjects by 40 other students, generating total exam fee expenses of \$23,000. These projections have been provided by the principal of the school.

If FY24 numbers remained as projected based on the information currently available, the total distribution would not exceed \$76,000.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Studies have demonstrated that students in an IB DP curriculum experience challenging content, critical thinking, complex problem-solving, effective communication and collaboration, and self-direction. A 2020 study by [Hopfenbeck, Double, El Masri, and McGrane](#) of the University of Oxford found that the IB Diploma Programme “places a strong focus on teaching critical thinking to all students. This emphasis on explicitly teaching critical thinking skills was evident at both a general and a subject-specific level.”

Colleges and universities in New Mexico and other states have policies for accepting IB course exams as portable college credit, as they do for Advanced Placement (AP) exams. Despite the AP registered trademark owned by the College Board, ESSA Title IV Part A includes IB among programs defined as advanced placement. HB52/aHEC would expand state support for students to access advanced placement instruction and earn college credit in high school through IB exams.

Rule [5.55.8 NMAC](#) establishes the statewide post-secondary education policy of the Higher Education Department (HED) regarding advanced placement exams which is not interpreted currently as including IB exams. The PED also has a New Mexico Fee Reduction Program for reducing the cost of taking advanced placement exams with a net \$93 fee reduction (97 percent reduced) for economically disadvantaged students. The August 31, 2021 New Mexico Fee Reduction Program Memorandum stated, “The PED will again cover a large portion of the exam fee for students who are eligible for free or reduced price lunch, resulting in a total cost to students of \$3 per exam.” This memo also states that the PED “believes that all students should have equal access to the full benefit of Advanced Placement® (AP) coursework.” According to the PED College and Career Readiness Bureau (CCRB), the state began paying for AP exam fees in May, 2017, before which the U.S. Department of Education had an Advanced Placement Test Fee (APTF) program within which the CCRB applied for funds.

Individual AP courses culminate in exams with test fees. Students take IB DP exams only, however, in 12th grade at the conclusion of two-year courses. Students working toward the DP must take exams in all six, two-year DP courses and pay fees for interdisciplinary core assessments. Typically, AP courses and the associated exam fees are distributed across two or more high school years and there are no required courses or required number of courses. The concentration of exam fees for students working toward the DP presents distinct financial challenges to students and their families, with a total cost for the DP assessments of \$871 per student due in their senior year of high school.

Unlike current policy for advanced placement test fee coverage, HB52/aHEC does not include language that would require fee reduction funds be distributed only to economically disadvantaged students. SY22 enrollment demographics show that, of the 844 students in IB courses in New Mexico public schools, only 58 students (7%) were economically disadvantaged. HB52/aHEC would distribute funds to all students who would take IB exams without regard to financial need and may serve to increase the number of economically disadvantaged students who have access to and choose IB pathways. Rather than limiting the availability of funding for any testing to those who are economically disadvantaged, this bill pilots an alternate approach to help public school students excel by removing conditional eligibility.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Only a small percentage of New Mexico high school seniors are enrolled in IB courses. HB52/aHEC has the potential to increase New Mexico student participation in IB. According to summary data from New Mexico Voices for Children, as of July 2022, 25 percent of New Mexico students are in poverty. Increasing equitable access to complex curricula through diverse advanced placement opportunities aligns with the PED [2022 Strategic Plan](#).

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The CCRB currently administers the NM Fee Reduction Program. HB52/aHEC would require that the PED create and maintain administrative procedures for distributing funds to schools to cover IB exam fees, which the CCRB estimates at 5 hours per week.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB52/aHEC relates to House Memorial 81 (HM81) (2014) which prompted an LESC study of IB programs in New Mexico.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

None.

AMENDMENTS

None.