



LFC Requester: Liu

**PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
BILL ANALYSIS
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:

Original Amendment
Correction Substitute

Date Prepared: 01/21 /25

Bill No: HB58

Agency Name and Code: PED - 924

Sponsor: Herndon

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Short Title: MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS
IN SCHOOL FUDNING

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SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27		
2,050.00	None	Nonrecurring	GF

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY26	FY27	FY28		
None	None	None	N/A	NFA

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY26	FY27	FY28	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	None	None	None	None	N/A	NFA

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the [General Appropriation Act](#): None.

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: House Bill 58 (HB58) would appropriate \$2.05 million to the Public Education Department (PED) to support mental health training and wellness programs in schools across the state.

This bill does not provide an effective date. Laws go into effect 90 days after the adjournment of the Legislature enacting them, unless a later date is specified. If enacted, this bill would become effective June 20, 2025.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This bill appropriates from the General Fund to the PED:

- \$300,000 to partner with an organization that provides trauma-informed and culture-centered suicide prevention training to school staff, students, and community members.
- \$1.75 million to support the operation of 14 mental health rooms in schools across the state.

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2026 would revert to the general fund.

The Executive budget recommendation includes \$18 million from the Government Results and Opportunity Expendable Trust Fund for attendance improvement interventions, which includes addressing barriers to school attendance, such as mental health.

The Legislative Education Study Committee budget recommendation includes \$5 million for behavioral health supports.

Schools may need additional FTE to staff the mental health rooms.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to [Mental Health America's 2023 youth data](#), New Mexico ranks 34 out of 50 states and the District of Columbia for prevalence of mental health issues and access to mental health services among children. States with greater access to mental health services rank higher on the list. Approximately 16 percent of children ages 12 to 17 nationwide reported suffering from at least one major depressive episode in the past year, compared with 19 percent of children in the same age group in New Mexico. From 2018 to 2021, 99 children ages five to 17 died from suicide in New Mexico. New Mexico's youth suicide rate of 6.9 deaths per 100,000 residents was more than double the U.S.'s youth suicide rate of 3.2 deaths per 100,000 residents.

Mental health wellness rooms in New Mexico provide students spaces to relax, recharge, and regulate. Compared with the national average in 2021, NM youth were more likely to experience frequent mental distress and get less than 8 hours of sleep. Mental health rooms integrate Social-Emotional Learning programs into the school, allowing students to take a break when feeling overwhelmed and offer emotional support and coping strategies with peers. In 2022, House Memorial 43 requested the Legislative Education Study Committee and the PED develop a plan

for providing mental wellness spaces in public schools and gather information that evaluates its efficacy in public schools. The task force concluded that wellness rooms help students regulate their emotions, help identify mental health issues, support attendance and achievement, and are best developed with student voice and leadership. Additionally, the Social Emotional Learning Alliance of New Mexico conducted a qualitative study in 2023 on the impact of wellness spaces in New Mexico. From 21 wellness spaces in Farmington, Cuba, Taos, Pojoaque, Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Alamogordo, and Las Cruces, the study found spaces dedicated to mental wellness increased social-emotional capacity, had positive effects on climate and culture, and led to a reduction in behaviors that can be disruptive to student academic success.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Increased funding allocated through HB58 would have the potential to improve student achievement by providing increased access to behavioral health supports and safe spaces for students to decompress during the school day and improve their focus on academics.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

None for PED.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Relates to:

- House Bill 70, which proposes the Behavioral Health Medicaid Waiver Act; and
- Senate Bill 149, which proposes to create the crime of cyberbullying, which is defined to address actions directed at public and private school students.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

None.

AMENDMENTS

None.