

SB140 – OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP ACT

SPONSORED BY SEN. LIZ STEFANICS & REP. JOY GARRATT



NEW MEXICO
HIGHER EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT

Fostering Student Success from Cradle to Career

GOAL: ENSURE COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY FOR ALL NEW MEXICANS

The Opportunity Scholarship Act will establish an all-encompassing, comprehensive, free college package combining all college affordability scholarships for New Mexicans looking to enroll in training and education programs.



COVERING TUITION & FEES FOR ALL NEW MEXICANS TO REACH HIGHER

Every New Mexican deserves the opportunity to reach higher and pursue education or career training leading to a brighter future for New Mexico. Tens of thousands of New Mexicans have already benefited from free college under the New Mexico Opportunity and Lottery scholarships, and we are working as a state to break down any financial barrier to accessing higher education.

Introducing the **New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship Act** – a comprehensive free college package that will set a national model and example. The goal is simple: whether you are a recent high school graduate, a veteran, someone who lost the Lottery Scholarship, or a New Mexican looking to advance your education while working part time or full time, you can go to college tuition free.

This package will allow **up to 35,000 New Mexicans** to benefit from a comprehensive free college financial aid package covering tuition and fees starting in Fall 2022. The total appropriation of **\$85.5 million is 1% of the state budget** for New Mexico.

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MORE INFORMATION
www.FreeCollegeNM.org



ISABEL SAENZ, NURSING STUDENT Western New Mexico University

"I'm a single mother, so it's hard. The hardest thing has also been balancing work and school, but I'm always trying to be an example for my kids, so that's the reason I'm back in school. The scholarship really helped me to be able to go back to school."



FACTS: BENEFITS OF FREE COLLEGE

- The average age of a college student in New Mexico is 26, and most students attend part-time due to work and other responsibilities.
- Median earnings for associate degree holders working full time are 24% higher, and for bachelor's degree holders are 61% higher than individuals with only a high school diploma.
- Unemployment rates are 2.8% for associate degree holders, 2.1% for bachelor's degree holders, and 4.1% for those with a high school diploma.

WHAT IS FREE COLLEGE?

- It means that full tuition and fees are covered at New Mexico public colleges and universities.
- It includes part-time and full-time students.
- It is for credit-bearing certificates, associate degrees, and bachelor's degrees.
- It is available to New Mexico residents.

7,315
STUDENTS
RECEIVED THE
OPPORTUNITY
SCHOLARSHIP
FALL 2021

10,300
STUDENTS
RECEIVED THE
LOTTERY
SCHOLARSHIP
FALL 2021

OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP ACT

A FREE COLLEGE PACKAGE FOR NEW MEXICANS



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COST ESTIMATE BREAKDOWN

Two-Year College Part-Time & Full-Time Tuition & Fees	Four-Year College Part-Time & Full-Time Tuition & Fees	TOTAL
\$27,454,177	\$110,082,298	\$137,536,475
Revenue Offset: Lottery Transfer & Other State Aid		-\$52,000,000
TOTAL COST		\$85,536,475

Note: The New Mexico Higher Education Department used 2020–2021 academic year enrollment figures and considered a 2.5% enrollment increase to determine the cost estimate for the Opportunity Scholarship Act.



NM PROPOSES MOST ACCESSIBLE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IN THE NATION

COMPARISON OF PROPOSALS

SB140 – OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP ACT

SB140 – Opportunity Scholarship Act consolidates programs into one scholarship; allows for a minimum of six credit hours per semester; covers tuition and fees; authorizes rule promulgation; and requires a cumulative 2.5 GPA.

LEGISLATIVE FINANCE COMMITTEE

This proposal preserves the existing financial aid structure and statuses; requires full-time enrollment; restricts differential tuition and course fees; does not allow rulemaking authority (language in HB2); and requires a cumulative 2.5 GPA.

LEGISLATIVE ENDOWMENT FY22: \$105K COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY FY22: \$3M LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP FY22: \$15.5M OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FY22: \$18M



OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

\$85.5 MILLION

RECURRING GENERAL FUND



\$12 MILLION
RECURRING GENERAL FUND

OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

\$47 MILLION
NON-RECURRING GENERAL FUND
\$8M GENERAL FUND AND \$39M FEDERAL FUNDING

OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

\$150 MILLION
NON-RECURRING FEDERAL FUNDING

LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP



EMPOWERING ADULT LEARNERS

MANY PATHWAYS, ONE BRIGHT FUTURE

ADULT
EDUCATION



NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Adult Education provides New Mexicans with flexible learning options, greater technology skills, and is helping our communities and economy meet New Mexico's workforce needs.

WHO WE ARE

New Mexico adult education helps thousands of New Mexico adults to reskill or upskill and enter family-sustaining careers. Adult education uplifts New Mexico families across generations by increasing parent education, which is linked to a child's success in school and into adulthood.

New Mexico Higher Education Department's Adult Education Division funds 26 programs in small rural and large urban communities across the state. These programs empower adult learners to enter or advance in the workforce or continue into higher education.

Our adult education programs help New Mexicans to:

- Strengthen core literacy, numeracy, digital literacy, and workplace readiness skills
- Earn a High School Equivalency (HSE) credential
- Learn English as a second language (ESL) and civics
- Become college ready and enter a career pathway
- Enhance parent and caregiver ability to support children's learning needs

Adult learners were among those most vulnerable to the pandemic in 2020-2021. Funds helped students to reskill and enter postsecondary education, support learners with technology, train teachers in digital skills, and convert classrooms into online and hybrid learning environments.

ADULT EDUCATION BY THE NUMBERS



\$9,620 additional earnings with a high school credential, on average



53% increase in income over ten years for adults with a high school credential



14% number of New Mexicans over age 25 without a high school credential



1,368 number of students at the basic literacy level served in 2020-2021 (grade equivalent 0-3.9)



1,436 number of English language learners served in 2020-2021



2,255 number of students at the basic education level (grade equivalent 9-12) served in 2020-2021



2% taxpayer cost to provide adult education versus the cost of incarceration for one year in New Mexico (\$655 vs. \$42,250)



5,303 number of students served in statewide 2020-2021



\$9 million
FY23 budget request

CONTACT US

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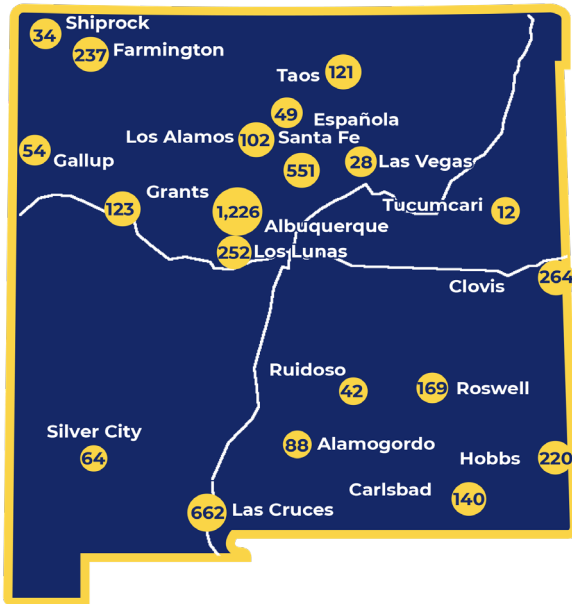
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NEW MEXICO PROGRAMS & STUDENTS

MANY PATHWAYS, ONE BRIGHT FUTURE

**ADULT
EDUCATION**

NEW MEXICO HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



NORTHERN WORKFORCE REGION

Diné College: 34
Luna Community College: 28
New Mexico State University - Grants : 123
Northern New Mexico College: 49
San Juan College: 237
Santa Fe Community College: 551
University of New Mexico - Gallup: 54
University of New Mexico-Los Alamos: 102
University of New Mexico - Taos: 121

CENTRAL WORKFORCE REGION

Albuquerque Adult Learning Center: 135
Catholic Charities: 135
Central New Mexico Community College : 710
Gordon Bernell Charter School: Added in FY22
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute: 246
University of New Mexico - Valencia: 252
Youth Development, Inc. (YDI): Added in FY22

EASTERN WORKFORCE REGION

Clovis Community College: 254
Eastern New Mexico University - Roswell: 169
Eastern New Mexico University - Ruidoso: 42
Mesalands Community College: 12
New Mexico Junior College: 220
New Mexico State University - Alamogordo: 88
New Mexico State University - Carlsbad: 140

SOUTHWESTERN WORKFORCE REGION

New Mexico State University - Doña Ana: 662
Western New Mexico University: 64

NEW MEXICO CORRECTIONS STUDENTS

Educating 905 justice-involved New Mexicans and young adults in partnership with the New Mexico Corrections Department.

INTEGRATED EDUCATION & CAREER TRAINING PROGRAMS

Integrated Education and Training (IET) Programs enable New Mexicans to participate in adult education while gaining industry-recognized credentials. The following IET programs exist in New Mexico:

ALAMOGORDO

Pathways and Career Education - PACE
New Mexico State University - Alamogordo
Certified Nursing Assistant Program

ALBUQUERQUE

Albuquerque Adult Learning Center
Associated Builders & Contractors Pre-Apprenticeship

Catholic Charities Center for Educational Opportunity
NCCER Specialized Heavy Equipment Operation Roofing

Central New Mexico Community College
*Applied Technologies
Early Childhood Multicultural Education
Nursing Assistant
Business and Information Technologies*

HOBBS

New Mexico Junior College
StartUp Generation Entrepreneurial Program

LOS LUNAS

University of New Mexico - Valencia
*Nursing Assistant
Phlebotomy Technician*

RUIDOSO

Eastern New Mexico University - Ruidoso
*Hospitality & Tourism
Culinary Arts
Certified Nursing Assistant
Construction Trades
Cyber Security*

SANTA FE

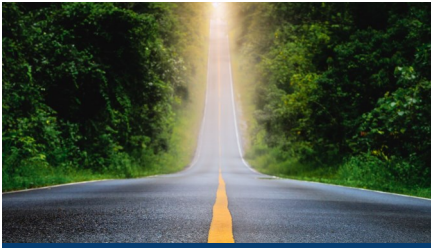
Adult Education iBEST Programs
Santa Fe Community College
*Entry Level Automotive Technician – Certificate in Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair
Community Health Worker
Early Childhood Development
Nursing Assistant
Phlebotomy*

SILVER CITY

Western New Mexico University
Digital Literacy

TAOS

Taos Education and Career Center
*Early Childhood Education
Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
Solar Technology*



Adult Education: A Road to NM's Recovery

FACT SHEET

FY23 Executive Budget Recommendations	FY23 LFC Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$9M for adult education programs \$750,000 for an adult literacy program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$6.5M for adult education programs \$680,400 for an adult literacy program

LFC Justification	Adult Education Response
<p>"The department requested a 19 percent increase to ... increase adult basic education program funding by \$2.5 million, requested as a program expansion for four new positions for the longitudinal data system currently under development."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult education is NOT requesting additional positions for the longitudinal data system. Adult Education is requesting two positions funded by a combination of federal and state funds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Constituent Services Specialist to interface with the public & connect adult learners and their families to needed programs & services. Professional Development Coordinator to support efforts to retain high quality teachers & promote continuous program improvement.
<p>"LFC recommends the current level of funding for the adult basic education program. In FY20, the Legislature substantially increased the investment into ABE programs with an additional \$3 million appropriation, which the department has never fully expended within a fiscal year."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The allocation was highly restricted in HB2 and could not be dispersed to programs for general use. The allocation was known to be temporary, so using the funding for service expansion was not prudent. The pandemic shutdown resulted in a serious decline in enrollment and reduced services Despite the pandemic, the vast majority of the additional allocation was actually spent in those two years, even if it was not fully expended. Failure to spend the entire allocation does not imply that current funding levels are adequate.

The Need for Additional Funding

- ◆ 231,868 New Mexicans 18+ need a high school diploma. (2019 US Census Data)
- ◆ Only 2.2% of that need being met yearly. (5,303 served in FY 21)

Plan For Additional Funding

- ◆ Expansion of programming, including:
 - *Digital literacy
 - *Workplace readiness
 - *Family literacy
- ◆ Addition of above reference state level positions
- ◆ Return of instructional materials allocations (AE stopped receiving instructional materials allocations from PED in FY20)
- ◆ Professional Development Plan, including:
 - *Certification/Credentialing
 - *Consistent Training/Support
 - * Both synchronous & asynchronous online offerings
 - * Paid professional development