

HB 5 Insufficient to Meet the Needs of New Mexico's Students

Updated 2/14/19

K-5 Plus -- Half (approximately \$60 million) of the \$120 million for K-5 Plus Will Not be Spent

- Many districts will not apply for K-5 Plus due to requirements in the bill that make applying for the program impractical or impossible. It is already difficult for districts to recruit teachers to teach K-5 Plus in the summer. HB 5's requirement that students stay with the same teacher severely limits districts' ability to provide K-5 Plus.
- Most small school districts cannot offer the program because LFC recommends funding per student, and small districts cannot generate enough funding to pay for program staff.
- The PED predicts that even if the program had a large increase in enrollment and doubles from last year, districts would only spend approximately \$60 million in total, leaving half of the total appropriation on the table.

Multicultural and Multilingual Education Are Not Addressed in HB 5

- HB 5 and the LFC Recommendation do not move the state towards compliance with the Indian Education Act or the Bilingual Multicultural Act or create an accountability structure to ensure compliance with the Acts.
- **Multicultural, Multilingual Framework Legislation:** The bill does not include the multicultural education framework and related legislation to increase ELL and bilingual education that unanimously passed by House Education (HB 111, 120, and 159; HB 516 is scheduled to be heard in House Education and HAFC). All of these bills directly address critical needs of New Mexico's students and the Court's ruling. (see separate handout)
- **Bilingual Funds:** HB 5 does not provide any additional funding to increase bilingual programming (the Executive proposal to increase the unit by .5 to .6 is not sufficient for districts to provide these programs).

Other Critical Funding Needs Not Addressed in HB 5 or in Budget Recommendations

- **Small Districts:** The Executive and LFC's budget proposals do not consider the needs of small school districts, which make up one-third of the districts in the state. Small school districts need a fund of at least \$10 million to ensure they can provide basic programming when per pupil funding distribution does not cover the cost of programming such as K-5 Plus, PreK, and bilingual education.
- **Rural Schools:** The LFC's proposal to put about \$6 million into the SEG for a Rural Population Unit will not help many rural districts since it relies on a federal census definition of "rural" which does not include districts with large urban areas like Gallup. A different factor -- the Rural Isolation factor should be funded.
- **Instructional Materials and Transportation** are under-funded in the Executive and LFC budget proposals.

Teacher Salaries Are Not Competitive and HB 5 Does Not Ensure Professional Development

- Teacher salaries would be competitive at \$45,000, \$55,000 and \$65,000 for entry into Level I, II and III tiers. Commensurate salary increases are also needed of about 20% to all other teachers to avoid salary compaction.
- HB 5 does not mandate professional development for teachers. Only schools that opt into K-5 Plus or the extended learning program will receive professional development funds. This will result in a very small number of teachers that have access to professional development.

The At-Risk Index Proposal Is Not Sufficient

- The Executive and LFC's proposed appropriation for the at-risk index is \$113 million; however, the Court in the *Yazzie/Martinez* case found that the at-risk index should provide approximately 25–50% **more** funding per at-risk student (.366 instead of .25), and should be extended to cover all children eligible for federal free and reduced lunch programs. This would require approximately \$400 million.