SB 107: Creating a STEM Innovation Network for New Mexico

LANL FOUNDATION
Investing in Learning & Human Potential

Creating a **STEM Innovation Network** drives New Mexico's **Economic Development Plan** forward by pulling together cross-sector leaders in **education, out-of-school programs, business,** and **local communities** to build the systems and opportunities learners need to be prepared for the vital, high-demand STEM careers of the future.

Why SB 107?

Senate Bill 107 creates the STEM Innovation Network New Mexico to meet NM's STEM Education, Workforce and Economic needs.
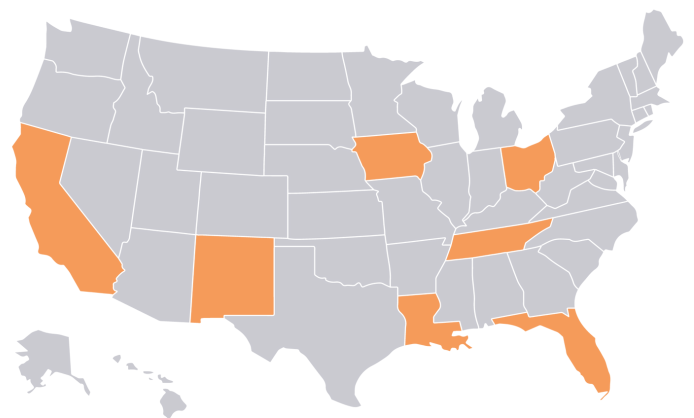
- New Mexico has a **booming tech sector**, including two national laboratories, Intel Corporation, Meta, Spaceport America, and other tech companies choosing to establish headquarters in New Mexico.

- New Mexico colleges and universities produce about **2,600 STEM graduates** per year. However, at any given time, the state has approximately **4,600 open STEM positions**, highlighting a workforce gap.

- The average pay rate for STEM jobs in New Mexico is **$108,000**, which is competitive with the national average.

- In comparison, the average wage for non-STEM jobs in New Mexico is **$53,000**.

- STEM jobs are available at **all levels of education**, from undergraduate certificates to advanced degrees.
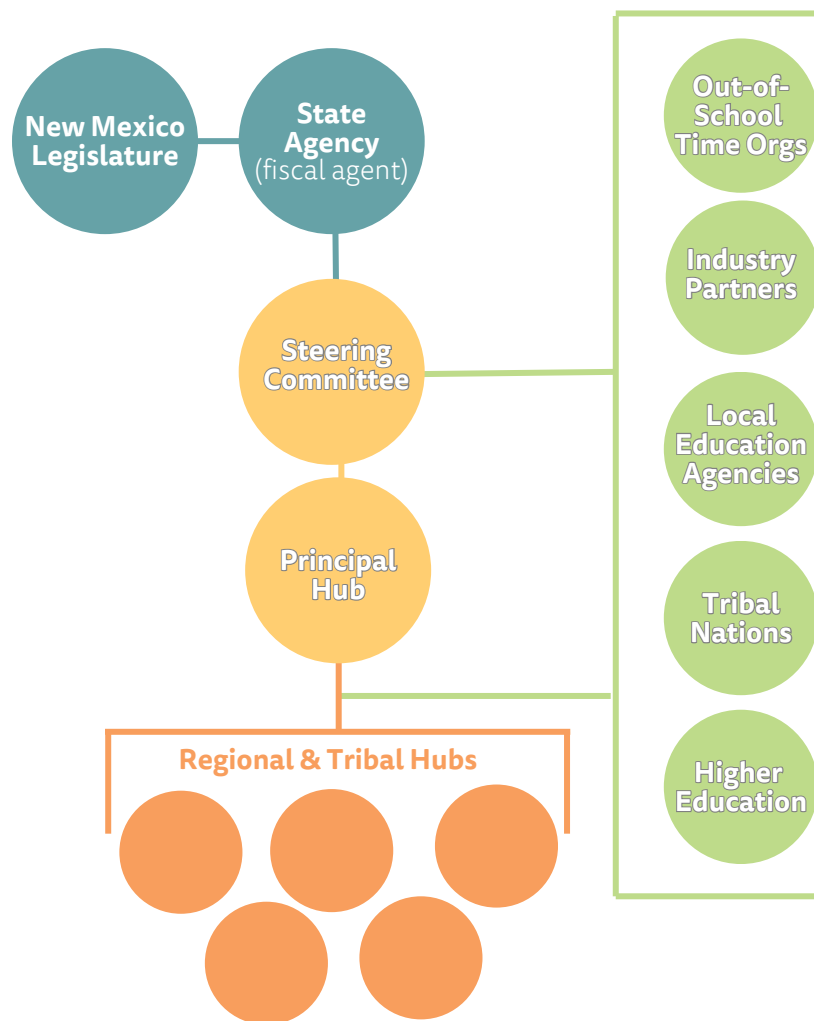
Provisions of the Bill

- Creates a **principal hub** at a Center of Excellence at New Mexico State University (NMSU).
- Creates a cross-sector **steering committee**.
- Creates **Regional** and **Tribal Hubs**.
- Requests **$6 million** over three years.

STEM Education → **STEM Workforce Development** → **Economic Development**

*New Mexico's STEM Innovation Network will build the **connective tissue** between **pre-K-12 education**, **out-of-school programs**, and **workforce development** to meet our state's 21st Century economic needs*

*SB 107 will help New Mexico join a cadre of other states with established STEM Innovation Networks, including **California, Florida, Iowa, Louisiana, Ohio,** and **Tennessee,***

How it Works

- STEM Networks connect state resources to foster innovation in schools, including **CTE programs**, **out-of-school programs**, and **higher education** to meet regional economic needs.

- STEM Networks support schools, out of school programs, higher education, industry, government and communities to coordinate and **create innovative programs** that **align with regional and state industry needs**.

- STEM Networks build **community awareness** and drive **education and industry partnerships**.

- A STEM Network in New Mexico will help ensure students have access to **inquiry learning** every day, regular access to **out-of-school STEM learning**, as well as access to **STEM career pathways exploration** and **mentorships** so learners are prepared for STEM careers and being STEM-savvy citizens.

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