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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 21, 2025

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Broadband for Education bill heads to governor's desk
Legislation transfers Statewide Education Network to Broadband Office

SANTA FE – New Mexico's House passed [SB 401](#), the Broadband for Education bill today, sending the bipartisan broadband legislation to the governor.

The Broadband for Education bill transfers the Statewide Education Network (SEN) from the Public School Facilities Authority (PSFA) to the Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE). The legislation would move all SEN staff, funds, projects and operations to the state's broadband office.

SB 401 will make SEN run more efficiently, and such a transfer will allow for better broadband resiliency.

"We are pleased that the Legislature has approved this important bill, ensuring that all our students have high quality broadband and schools receive support to go after federal funds," said **Drew Lovelace**, acting director of OBAE. "This legislation will also help leverage more school-related broadband programs, and communities will benefit with improved connectivity in rural parts of the state. We look forward to SB 401 becoming law."

SEN is currently run by OBAE, so the transfer will be seamless, and the move also provides OBAE with autonomy. PSFA has supported the legislation.

SEN launched its broadband infrastructure program last July, connecting dozens of schools through a school-centric broadband network. The network will allow students and teachers to share classes, resources and educational and social services.

SEN plans to connect all New Mexico schools through this bold, high-tech program by 2027.

SB 401 will allow for more middle mile broadband for SEN, something that will benefit broadband providers, schools and students. SEN middle mile could also be used in communications emergencies statewide.

The sponsors of SB 401 are Sen. Michael Padilla, Majority Whip, Sen. Nicole Tobiassen, Reps. Debra Sarinana, Tara Lujan and Joy Garratt.

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The Office of Broadband Access and Expansion is dedicated to serving New Mexico with a commitment to make high-speed broadband accessible to all New Mexicans. OBAE's mission is to expand and improve high-speed internet service with passionate leadership that drives bold, equitable, affordable and inclusive broadband solutions. OBAE seeks results that honor the state's rich heritage and elevate quality of life for all.