

New Mexico New Media,

Each year the New Mexico School Boards Association (NMSBA) issues a call for resolutions enabling local school boards to express opinions on educational issues requiring attention by the New Mexico Legislature. After a comprehensive analysis of the resolutions by the NMSBA Resolutions and Legislative Committee which has statewide representation, the resolutions are presented to our full membership at our Annual Convention in December for discussion, debate and adoption.

On behalf of our State Officers and Board of Directors I am pleased to share our 2021 NMSBA Legislative Program and Top Priorities which represent the collective voice of New Mexico's 89 school boards and our 450 elected school board members. The 2021 Legislative Session will be a challenging 60 day session with many important financial and policy issues to address. We are confident our Legislative Program effectively highlights our priorities which are being shared with New Mexico's Legislative, Executive and State Education Leaders.

We ask that you share this information with your audience as a public service and please be advised we are readily available to present this information formally if allowed the opportunity.
Thank you for your consideration!

Joe Guillen
Executive Director
New Mexico School Boards Association
(505) 983-5041 office
(505) 470-3967 cell
iquillen@nmsba.org



450 Strong!

NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



NMSBA's top priorities are focused on keeping our students and staff safe, providing the best education possible for students, increasing achievement and implementing quality learning programs based on best practices.

Local Decision Making

1. **School Re-Entry Flexibility** – NMSBA recognizes that school re-entry planning decisions should not be a “one size fits all” proposition and supports legislation and flexibility to allow local school boards to make decisions about re-entry and small group instruction based upon relevant scientific evidence.
2. **Sharing of Data** – NMSBA believes all pandemic related scientific evidence and data should be shared with school districts to strengthen local decision making which will: maximize distance/blended learning; assess student achievement; ensure supports for social and emotional learning; emphasize authentic, culturally responsive learning; and, leverage more adequate and equitable school funding.
3. **Graduation and ADC** – NMSBA supports temporary flexibility for Alternative Demonstration of Competency (ADC) needed for graduation and extended time to meet course requirements particularly for graduating seniors.

Adequate Funding

4. **Core Education Mission** - NMSBA supports sufficient, stable and recurring funding, resources and the flexibility required to open the doors, meet any new mandates and fully staff the constitutionally mandated core education program to meet the unique needs of all districts - large, medium and small including transportation expenses.
5. **Hold Harmless for Declining Enrollment** – NMSBA supports legislation that holds school districts harmless from the prior year enrollment provisions of the State Equalization Funding Formula for the duration of the public health emergency.

6. **School District Operating Reserves** - NMSBA requests that school district reserves be preserved and protected without penalty as they are critical to keeping the doors open between revenue inflows, are utilized for locally established priorities and provide resources to address unfunded health and safety concerns.
7. **Student and Staff Safety** – NMSBA supports legislation to provide direct aid with the flexibility necessary for school districts to meet the unpredictable and ever-changing pandemic needs including PPE, technology and HVAC, social-emotional supports, training, food and other basics.
8. **Educator Recruitment, Retention and Preparation** - NMSBA supports legislative action that keeps all school personnel employed; partners with schools in covering any increases to the employer and employee cost of equitable health care for school personnel; and invests as we can, in increased salaries for all school personnel with the long-term goal of becoming regionally competitive.
9. **Digital Divide/Broadband Access** - NMSBA supports funding to ensure all districts and students are provided with Internet access, dedicated laptops, tablets or other devices coupled with education programming to enable and maximize online learning opportunities. NMSBA also supports the convening of a statewide committee to establish broadband access for all residents with representation from school boards and superintendents.
10. **Extended Learning Programs** – NMSBA supports legislation to continue extended learning programs along with flexibility in the K-5 Plus Program by removing the 80% cohort requirement to help increase student participation and adjust to family schedules; allow flexibility for a 15-day program to be continued; increase funding by changing the factor; and provide funding to update all curriculum materials.
11. **Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Curriculum** – NMSBA supports legislation that will continue to fund culturally and linguistically responsive training, curriculum/materials; and develop methods of reporting and accountability to assure NM students are provided these opportunities and engage in the work necessary to create change in our schools to address educational disparities.
12. **Impact Aid Distribution** - NMSBA supports a hold harmless provision from any reductions to district operating budgets as a result of the U.S. Department of Education's recent ruling on federal impact aid distributions.



NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

"Serving New Mexico's School Boards for over 63 years"

2021 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

I. Introduction

The mission of the New Mexico School Boards Association (NMSBA), as an advocate for public education, is to provide leadership and services that enable local boards of education to govern effectively. Through NMSBA, local boards of education are involved in the

legislative process to achieve needed school and program reforms. Each of these efforts is focused on the belief that every student is entitled to a free and quality public education.

Every year NMSBA issues a call for resolutions enabling local school boards to express their opinions on educational issues requiring attention by the State Legislature. After a comprehensive analysis of the resolutions by the NMSBA Resolutions and Legislative Committee, they are presented to the full membership at the Annual Delegate Assembly for discussion, debate and adoption. Our 2021 Legislative Program represents the collective voice of New Mexico's 89

school boards comprised of over 450 elected school board members.

The 2021 Legislative Session will be a challenging 60 day session with many important financial and policy issues to address. We trust our Legislative Program effectively highlights our priorities to share with New Mexico's Legislative, Executive and State Education Leaders.

NMSBA utilizes three guiding principles to develop our Legislative Program. The principles are also utilized to evaluate legislation introduced during the session that was not anticipated and did not go through our legislative review process. The guiding principles follow.



II. Guiding Principles

NMSBA's three guiding principles utilized to evaluate legislation affecting public education are:

Unfunded Mandates

NMSBA opposes legislation that mandates school districts to implement new programs or activities without providing necessary financial resources. NMSBA will also continue to advocate for resources to carry out unfunded mandates previously imposed on districts.

Local Control

One of the important components of a successful public education system is local control and decision-making. NMSBA believes that local control must be preserved and, when possible, expanded. NMSBA opposes any legislation that attempts to diminish or take away local decision-making and supports legislation that maintains or expands local control and decision-making authority.

Adequate Funding

NMSBA believes funding for public schools, should be appropriated at a level that assures every student receives a quality education based on individualized student needs. Funds should be stable and appropriated in a recurring manner that preserves the ability of school boards to utilize funds within their districts to meet local priorities and the diverse needs of their students and communities.

New Mexico School Boards Association

300 Galisteo, Suite 204
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 983-5041 phone
(505) 983-2450 fax
www.nmsba.org

Association Officers

Olivia Calabaza (Bernalillo)
President
Marvyn Jaramillo (Mesa Vista)
President-Elect
Dymorie Maker (Lovington)
Vice-President
Christine Ludi (West Las Vegas)
Secretary-Treasurer
Pauline Jaramillo (Socorro)
Immediate Past President

Association Staff

Joe Guillen
Executive Director
jguillen@nmsba.org
Carolyn Mole
Finance Director
Lorraine Vigil
Program Director
Lilliemae Ortiz
Legislative Liaison
lilliemaeortiz@yahoo.com

Inside

Appropriations & Operations	2-3
Capital Outlay	4
Accountability & Governance	4

450 Strong!

III. Appropriations & Operations

★ SEG Funding/Above the Line

NMSBA supports funding to the SEG "above the line". It is our belief that "below the line" appropriations disequalizes funding to local districts.

NMSBA Also Supports

Sufficient funding for administrators and support staff; instructional materials; community schools programs; intervention programs; special education programs; transportation/bus air conditioning; and increases to the unit value as called for in the State Constitution.

★ Operating Budget Hold Harmless

NMSBA supports legislation that holds public schools harmless from reductions to operating budgets due to declining enrollment during the pandemic which guarantees schools receive no fewer SEG revenues than prior year pre-pandemic levels.

★ Operating Reserves

NMSBA supports legislation that preserves and protects operating reserves (cash balances) without penalty at the local level.

At-Risk Funding

NMSBA supports increased funding in the SEG for at-risk students with hold harmless provisions ensuring additional funding for all districts.

Small School Districts

NMSBA supports SEG adjustments to enable small districts to operate at a base level without reliance on supplemental emergency funds. NMSBA opposes mandatory consolidation of small districts for budgetary reasons.



Anti-Underage Student Vaping

NMSBA supports funding for school and community education to address the vaping epidemic in schools.

★ Broadband Access

NMSBA supports legislation to convene a statewide committee with school board, superintendent and NMPED representation to establish broadband access for all residents

Bullying Prevention

NMSBA supports funding to support the costs associated with development of bullying prevention programs curriculum and professional development.

Career and Technical Pathways

NMSBA supports funding and legislation to establish career and technical pathways, financial assistance, job opportunities and internship programs for high school students.

★ Cigarettes & Tobacco Regulation

NMSBA supports legislation to repeal the preempting of stricter city and county regulations on the sale of tobacco products and smoking devices.

Compulsory Attendance/Truancy

NMSBA supports funding for state agencies responsible for the enforcement of Compulsory Attendance Laws.

★ COVID-19 Pandemic Relief

NMSBA supports the following COVID related legislative priorities: Transparency in the sharing of health data, Flexibility needed to develop school reentry plans; Direct aid to meet the PPE, technology, social emotional supports, food and other basic needs; establishment of bulk purchasing programs at the state level to fill gaps in relief response; and temporary flexibility for alternative demonstration of competency and in meeting graduation requirements

★ Cultural Curriculum/Materials

NMSBA supports legislation to fund culturally and linguistically responsive curriculum and materials; accountability reporting and training to engage in the work necessary to address educational disparities among racial groups.

Dual Credit Programs

NMSBA supports increased funding for and equitable access to dual credit programs and opposes action to restrict or limit student enrollment.

Early Childhood/ Pre-K Funding

NMSBA supports full funding for all day pre-school, half-day pre-school for 3 year-olds and K-5 Plus initiatives including flexibility, and operational, facility and transportation costs.

Ethnic Studies

NMSBA supports allowing districts to develop ethnic studies curriculum which would satisfy social studies credit requirements.



★ Extended Learning Programs

NMSBA supports greater local school board decision making and flexibility in the implementation of student centered extended learning program including the K-5 Plus Program and recommends removing the 80% cohort requirement; and increasing funding and updating all curriculum materials.

High School ADOC Authority

NMSBA opposes efforts to remove school board authority to make educational policy decisions regarding alternative demonstration of competencies for graduating seniors and supports funding for the High School Reform Initiative.

★ Impact Aid

NMSBA supports a hold harmless provision from any reductions to district operating budgets as a result of the U.S. Department of Education's ruling on federal impact aid distributions.



LGBTQ Success & Safety

NMSBA supports the success and safety of LGBTQ students by recognizing their unique challenges and developing strategies for improvement of educational outcomes.

Moratorium-New & Virtual Charters

NMSBA supports a moratorium on new and virtual charters until existing schools are funded adequately and funding inequities/abuses by profit companies are addressed.

National Board Certification

NMSBA supports establishment of a fund to reimburse teachers who obtain National Board Certification.

Paperwork Reduction

NMSBA supports creation of a task force to remove all unfunded, unnecessary, duplicative laws, regulations and reporting requirements.

Public Education Strategic Plan

NMSBA supports preparation of a 10-year strategic plan to guide early childhood, public and higher education.

Public Records Act Exemption

NMSBA supports an exemption from the Public Records Act to allow boards to release only the final three candidates for superintendent positions.

Public School Code Amendments

NMSBA believes all PED proposals to amend the Public School Code be adopted only after rigorous collaboration with all stakeholders.

REC Funding

NMSBA supports additional funding to ensure REC services are available on a statewide basis as needed.

★ Return to Work

NMSBA supports legislation to eliminate or reduce ERB contributions for short and long term substitute teachers and retired PERA security personnel.

School Based Health Services

NMSBA supports efforts to increase the number of school based health centers and school nurses statewide.

School Grades

NMSBA supports replacement of the School Grading Program with a system that ensures grades are valid, defensible, replicable and can be used as a tool to improve district academic programs.

School Grades Council

NMSBA supports creation of a School Grades Council with school district representation to oversee the implementation and administration of the School Grading System.

School Police Departments

NMSBA supports allowing school boards the option to create independent police departments to provide school security on campus.

★ School Safety & Security

NMSBA supports funding for school safety and security personnel including capital improvements, training, behavioral, emotional and mental health services, counseling, student and staff well-being and guidance in utilizing armed school security guards and in restorative justice.

Separation of Children/Families

NMSBA calls for the immediate end to the separation of children from their families by the federal government.

Short Cycle Assessments

NMSBA supports development of a method for counting short cycle assessment data in school report cards and teacher evaluations.

Special Education Programs

NMSBA encourages the Legislature to fully fund the costs of educating children with special needs including accessibility and transportation.

Substance Abuse

NMSBA supports creation of an inter-agency task force to examine the causes and suggest possible measures to address teenage substance abuse.

Teacher Internship Program

NMSBA supports funding that pays full-time teacher Level 1 salary and benefits to student teacher interns as they complete their student teacher internship requirements.

Teachers/Police Officers

NMSBA supports legislation allowing retiring teachers, police officers and other professionals to return to work immediately without penalty in order to address shortages and student safety.

Teacher/Principal Evaluation

NMSBA supports replacement/fixing all problems associated with the current teacher/principal evaluation system.

★ Teacher/Principal Salaries

NMSBA supports retention of teachers and funding to increase minimum salaries for three-tiered licensure system for teachers to \$50, \$60 and \$70 thousand respectively and \$80, \$90 and \$100 thousand for Elementary, Mid School and High School Principals.



Technology Plan/Training

NMSBA supports the development and implementation of a statewide technology plan and funding for professional development for all technology staff.

Testing Reduction/Study

NMSBA opposes testing requirements beyond current law which take time away from student instruction.

Three-Tiered System—Professionals

NMSBA supports the creation of a three tiered licensure system for all certified professional staff not currently in the existing structure.

Transportation

NMSBA supports necessary funding to support costs as required and submitted by districts to transport students' in safe and healthy ways including bus air conditioning.

Capital Outlay

NMSBA supports continued funding through the Public School Capital Outlay Fund to address standards based construction and safety needs.

NMSBA supports the creation of a temporary allowance to remove local matching requirements for school security upgrades.

NMSBA supports the removal of offset penalties on Public School Capital Outlay projects imposed when districts obtain legislative funding for capital projects.

NMSBA supports exemption of schools from paying gross receipts taxes and impact fees from governmental agencies on construction projects thus maximizing improvements.



IV. Accountability & Governance

Academic Achievement

NMSBA ranks student achievement and quality learning as the number one priority of local school boards.

Accountability

NMSBA believes the accountability for meeting state standards is the responsibility of local school boards, staff members, parents, students and the community at large.

Campaign Finance Reporting

NMSBA opposes legislation requiring non-large district school board candidates to file campaign finance reports.

Chartering Authority Clarification

NMSBA supports clarification of charter school statutes pertaining to authority, capital outlay, property, audits, virtual schools, employees, governing boards and suspension.

Charter School Advocacy

NMSBA opposes actions by NMPED officials to promote, create and prioritize charter schools at the expense of traditional public schools.

Charter School Budget Approval

NMSBA supports legislation requiring school board approval of local charter school budgets prior to submission to NMPED as well as school board authority to require corrective action on local charter school audit findings.

Health Insurance Continuation

NMSBA supports the option of allowing school board members to continue NMP-SIA insurance coverage at their own expense after leaving office.

Improved Collaboration

NMSBA encourages formal collaboration between PED, the Legislature and local school boards in the development of new programs and reform initiatives.

Nepotism Waivers

NMSBA supports legislation that allows waivers to hire school board member relatives for hard to fill vacancies.

Per Diem Payments

NMSBA supports the continuation of per diem for school board members to attend school board meetings.

State Governance System

NMSBA supports the review and analysis of NM Public Education Department governance to determine effectiveness, results and stakeholder satisfaction.

School Board/Bond Elections

NMSBA supports needed changes to the Local Election Act to include the option of conducting in person special elections.

School Board Training

NMSBA supports additional training for school board members in the areas of financial, budget and audit oversight.

NMSBA supports repeal of the bonding requirement for sub-contractors on school projects where the general contractor has bonded the entire project.

NMSBA supports continued funding for the systems, broadband and school safety programs administered via the Public School Capital Outlay Council.

2021 NMSBA Resolutions & Legislative Committee

Chairperson

Marvyn Jaramillo - Mesa Visa

Members

Barbara Petersen - Albuquerque

Olivia Calabaza - Bernalillo

Ron Singleton - Carlsbad

Donald Valdez - Chama

Terry Martin - Clovis

Frank Cordova - Cobre

Ralph "Toy" Sepulveda - Cobre

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