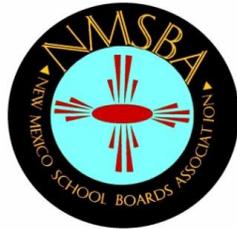


NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Presented to
LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

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About NMSBA...

Vision

The New Mexico School Boards Association aspires to be recognized as the premier source of development and support for local boards of education in New Mexico. The NMSBA will be known as the leading advocate for local boards in their role of insuring that all students will graduate from New Mexico high schools prepared for a quality life and committed to improving society.

Mission

The New Mexico School Boards Association is the member organization for all of New Mexico's school boards to support their efforts in providing a quality education for all students of New Mexico. The NMSBA serves its members through:

- *Commitment to local decision making
- *Advocacy at the state and federal level for commonly held needs
- *Leadership development services and training for local school boards
- *Collaboration with community, elected officials and other educational organizations



**NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTIONS & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
2016-2017**

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NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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 goal that every student is entitled to a free and quality public education.

Every year, NMSBA initiates a legislative process that enables local school boards to express their opinions on current educational issues. These opinions are collected through a resolutions development process. Following a comprehensive analysis of all resolutions, the NMSBA Resolutions and Legislative Committee recommends legislative priorities to the membership for adoption. At the recent NMSBA Annual Convention the 2017 Legislative Priorities were adopted and now represent the collective voice of New Mexico's 89 school boards and over 450 school board members.

The 2017 New Mexico Legislative Session will be a challenging 60 days with many important issues to deal with and a severely limited level of revenues. We trust our Legislative Priorities will be carefully considered by New Mexico's Legislative and Executive Leaders.

II. GUIDING PRINCIPALS

In analyzing legislative proposals in the interim and during the legislative session NMSBA uses three guiding principles:

- **Unfunded Mandates**
NMSBA opposes legislation that mandates public schools to implement new programs or initiatives without providing the necessary financial resources. NMSBA will continue to advocate for funding for unfunded mandates that currently exist.
- **Local Control**
One of the important components of a successful public education system is local decision-making. NMSBA believes that decision making at the district level must be preserved and expanded and opposes any legislation that attempts to diminish or take away this authority.
- **Adequate Funding**
NMSBA believes funding for public schools, which is the primary responsibility of the state, should be increased to a level that assures every student will receive an adequate education based on their needs. Funds should be appropriated in a manner that preserves the ability of school boards to allocate funds within their districts based on the diverse needs of their students and communities.

III. 2016-2017 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

ESSA IMPLEMENTATION

1. Requests that the Public Education Department and Legislature elect to submit the New Mexico ESSA plan in July, invite local school boards to participate in meaningful stakeholder consultation and seriously consider priorities and recommendations expressed by NMSBA and its members ***(Albuquerque)***

LOCAL CONTROL/FLEXIBILITY

2. Requests the Legislature and Public Education Department allow local school boards to exercise their statutorily granted authority to make policy decisions and to work collaboratively with struggling schools, assessments that go beyond what is required in state statute, to use their professional judgment to administer assessments and adequately fund the local school board. ***(Albuquerque)***

FUNDING/FINANCIAL

3. Requests that the Legislature hold public schools harmless from further reductions to already lean operating budgets. ***(Santa Fe)***
4. Requests that school districts cash balances be preserved for the benefit of the students of our state and be protected from any effort by the legislature and/or the governor of the State of New Mexico to raid such cash balances. ***(Logan & Capitan)***
5. Requests that the Legislature increase current levels of public school funding to ensure sufficient and adequate funding for public schools above the line in the State Equalization Formula as suggested by the New Mexico Funding Formula Task Force in 2007 and as required by Article XII of the New Mexico Constitution. ***(Las Cruces, Los Alamos, Albuquerque)***
6. Requests that the Legislature pass joint a resolution allowing voters to restore funding distribution from the New Mexico Land Grant and Severance Tax Permanent Fund to 5.8%. ***(Las Cruces)***
7. Requests that the Legislature provide the necessary funding to increase the current base salary level for teachers to \$40,000, \$50,000 and \$60,000 respectively and for the interim legislative committee explore options to increase base teacher salaries in each tier in future years. ***(Las Cruces)***
8. Requests that the Legislature fund a pilot program to design and implement a program similar to the K-3+ program that targets 3 and 4 year old children and to provide enrollment and accountability data on the effectiveness of the pilot program. ***(Las Cruces)***
9. Requests that the Legislature provide the necessary funding to support the costs associated with the development of bullying prevention programs, curriculum and accompanying professional development for teachers, parents and students. ***(Las Cruces)***
10. Requests that the Legislature provide the necessary funding to support the costs associated with transporting students. ***(Las Cruces)***

TEACHER EVALUATION/RETENTION

11. Urges the Legislature and Public Education Department use standardized testing no greater than twenty-five per cent as a factor in teacher evaluations. ***(Loving, Las Cruces)***

12. Requests the PED suspend the use of student assessment data for teacher evaluations for one year until the system can accurately align teachers and students enrolled in their classrooms and courses for calculating Improved student achievement and that districts implement the Classroom Observations, Planning, Preparation and Professionalism and Surveys and Attendance components of the teacher evaluation system to meet state and federal requirements during the period of suspension. **(Pojoaque)**
13. Requests that the Secretary of Education and Legislature consider removing the attendance portion from the current teacher evaluation system and that the Secretary establish a statewide task force comprised of superintendents, school board members, principals and teachers to review and refine the current teacher evaluation system and determine the impact of removing the attendance requirement from the evaluation system. **(Las Cruces)**
14. Requests that the Legislature establish provisions that would allow a local education agency the opportunity to secure the professional services of a retired teacher with less than the currently required 12-month wait out period to fill critical vacancies in high need areas without compromising the retired member to compromise their return to work status. **(Las Cruces)**

TESTING

15. Requests the Legislature to study and take action on the effects of high stakes testing on the education of the whole child. **(Las Cruces)**
16. Supports the Public Education Department decision to provide clear criteria for graduation; that the criteria not change during the students tenth or eleventh grade year; and the timeframe for changing the PARCC proficiency score required for graduation from 3, 4 or 5 to 4 or 5 be implemented no sooner than for the Class (or Cohort) of 2020. **(Gadsden)**

OTHER PRIORITIES

17. Urges districts across New Mexico to adopt policies for elementary grades that advocate for a minimum of two 15 minute periods of recess; one recess time in the morning and one recess time in the afternoon, not including lunch. **(Santa Fe)**
18. Urges the Legislature to pass legislation that requires the preparation of a 10-year Comprehensive Strategic Plan for Education, from early childhood to higher education in order to build on the gains in education achievement, ensure an education system that is both successful and sustainable and contribute to building a professional and technical workforce that will attract and preserve a diverse mix of employment opportunities and economic growth in the state. **(Hatch)**
19. Requests that the Legislature change the Nepotism law to allow a waiver to be processed through PED giving districts the ability to hire relatives of School Board Members into positions vacant within their districts. **(Socorro)**
20. Prefers that school board elections be standalone elections as currently conducted on the first Tuesday in February of odd numbered years run by the county clerk. **(Resolutions Committee)**
21. Calls on the Legislature to support dual credit enrollment for high school students and prohibit the Higher Education and Public Education Departments from imposing stricter enrollment requirements and limits on the number of dual credit courses taken by high school students. **(Las Cruces)**