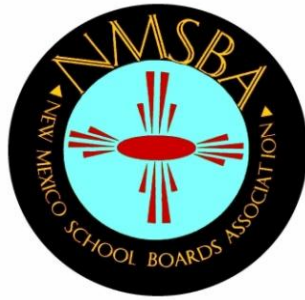


NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION 2018 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS



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**300 GALISTEO STREET, SUITE 204
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501**

2018 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

LOCAL CONTROL

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1

Submitted by: Ruidoso Municipal Schools

Title: Opposes Efforts by PED to Remove or Reduce Powers of Elected Local School Boards by Abolishing Local Alternative Demonstration of Competency Graduation Policies

- *Whereas*, the Vision of RMSD is to grow a collaborative learning community where relationships, rigor and relevance develop fulfilled and purposeful adults; and
- *Whereas*, the Ruidoso Municipal School District is where excellence is expected; and
- *Whereas*, this school board was elected by the parents of the students for whom we educate; and
- *Whereas*, we believe that standardized test scores do NOT define our children; and
- *Whereas*, this school board supports the efforts of other districts and entities in challenging the New Mexico Public Education Department's usurp of the authority of duly elected local school districts in ultimately determining what is best for students; and
- *Whereas*, we believe that an unqualified acceptance letter from a fully-accredited college does indeed define "college-ready"; and
- *Whereas*, that in the class of 2016, 35 of our high school students were able to graduate as a result of this District's alternative demonstration of competency graduation policy by having an acceptance letter for a fully-accredited college; and
- *Whereas*, that in the Class of 2017, 17 high school students were able to graduate under the same conditions; and
- *Whereas*, that in the Class of 2018, 13 high school students were able to graduate; and
- *Whereas*, we believe that local school boards and educators have a greater understanding of local needs; and
- *Whereas*, we believe that local autonomy of the local duly elected school board has been denied voice and representation, now therefore, be it

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ruidoso Municipal School District opposes efforts by the New Mexico Public Education Department to remove or reduce powers of duly elected local school boards by abolishing local alternative demonstration of competency graduation policies; and be it further

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the removal of these local policies will result in the failure of many of our students to graduate from our school system; and be it further

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that lack of a high school diploma will cause irreparable harm for these students' futures.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2

Submitted by: Las Cruces Public Schools

Title: Supports Greater Local School Board Decision Making and Elimination of Current Teacher Evaluation System

- *Whereas*, school boards are elected by their community to represent the community's beliefs and values and represent the public's voice in public education, providing citizen governance for what the public schools need and what the community wants; and
- *Whereas*, the concept of local control is grounded in a philosophy of government premised on the belief that individuals closest to students and most knowledgeable about a school – and most invested in the welfare and success of its educators, students, and communities – are best suited to make important decisions about its operation, leadership, staffing, academics, teaching and overall improvement and accountability; and
- *Whereas*, local boards of education respect the authority of the legislature and executive to establish a framework in which local schools are required to operate, establish minimum standards and performance goals which schools must meet, but believe specific decisions about operations, programs, and how to meet goals, should be left to local school boards; and
- *Whereas*, school boards should be in a position to set the standard for achievement in districts and work with the Superintendent to establish a valid process for measuring student success, and when necessary, shift resources to ensure that the district's goals are achieved; and
- *Whereas*, local school boards, in collaboration with their superintendent, ought to have the freedom to make decisions related to curriculum programs and the accountability system to monitor the success of the curriculum and student performance; and
- *Whereas*, The Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education supports an assessment and accountability system, including the use of standardized tests, whose purpose is to measure student growth and achievement. The main purpose of these assessment initiatives is to identify students who need remediation and to improve instruction. Standardized tests should not be used to evaluate teachers or schools; and
- *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education believes achievement of our vision can best be met through increased local control over district operations, accountability, teacher evaluation, and student testing; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests that the New Mexico School Boards Association support **legislation giving greater control to locally-elected school boards** across the state of New Mexico; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests that the New Mexico School Boards Association adopt a legislative platform that calls for the **elimination of the New Mexico teacher evaluation system and the school grading system** until a more appropriate system of accountability can be determined by a group of state-wide education and community stakeholders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the New Mexico School Boards Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Chair of the Senate Education Committee and the Chair of the House Education Committee in the New Mexico Legislature, and the Director of the New Mexico Legislative Education Study Committee.

ADEQUATE FUNDING

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #3

Submitted by: Las Cruces Public Schools

Title: Prioritizes Increased and Sufficient Funding for Public Education as Called for in the State Constitution and Calls for Eight (8) Other Related Actions by the Legislature

- *Whereas*, Article XII of the New Mexico Constitution requires “A uniform system of free public schools sufficient for the education of, and open to, all the children of school age in New Mexico shall be established and maintained”; and
- *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education cites the recent court ruling in *Yazzie v. State of New Mexico* and *Martinez v. State of New Mexico* in which the plaintiffs sued the State of New Mexico for violating the rights of at-risk students by failing to provide adequate support for public schools; and
- *Whereas*, in her ruling, First Judicial District Court Judge Sarah Singleton affirmed the plaintiffs’ claims, stating:

“Therefore, the Defendants will be given until April 15, 2019 to take immediate steps to ensure that New Mexico schools have the resources necessary to give at-risk students the opportunity to obtain a uniform and sufficient education that prepares them for college and career. Reforms to the current system of financing public education and managing schools should address the shortcoming of the current system by ensuring, as part of that process, that every public school in New Mexico would have the resources necessary for providing the opportunity for a sufficient education for all at-risk students.”
- *Whereas*, public school districts are having to use large amounts of funding to create safer learning environments for students and staff.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests that the New Mexico School Boards Association support legislation that **prioritizes**

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increased and sufficient funding for public education as required by Article XII of the New Mexico Constitution and as mandated by the recent court ruling; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education supports increased funding for and **legislation that calls for a state-funded organizational framework designed to create a network of community-based services** to address the mental health needs and school safety of our children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education **supports legislation that funds the expansion of high-quality Pre-K programs** statewide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education **supports legislation that retains the FY 18 participation percentages for PSCOC funding** of all new and proposed building projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education **opposes any legislation that diverts public dollars to fund non-public education** in any manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education **supports legislation which specifies that when state mandates place additional burdens on school boards and districts, funds should be allocated to compensate for expenses incurred.** Therefore, it should be the policy of the Public Education Department to adopt fiscal notes and request funding from the legislature, prior to the passage of all new and existing mandates placed on local school districts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education calls on the New Mexico School Boards Association to **adopt a platform that calls on Congress to fund federal programs (IDEA, Bilingual, and other ESEA requirements) at sufficient levels** to prevent local districts from having to shift local resources to meet the demands of federal education policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education encourages the New Mexico School Boards Association to **support legislation that ensures the continuation of federal Medicaid Service** to provide and expand health services to Medicaid-eligible students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education calls on the New Mexico School Boards Association to **support legislation that provides funding for the Technology for Education Act 22-15A-8 NMSA 1978** and restore funding to the Educational Technology Fund to allow districts to upgrade technology resources that benefit students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the New Mexico School Boards Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Chair of the Senate Education Committee and the Chair of the House Education Committee in the New Mexico Legislature, and the Director of the New Mexico Legislative Education Study Committee.

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION #4

Submitted by: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: Prioritize SEG Funding, Increase Unit Value and Ensure School Staff Compensation is Regionally Competitive

Implement a 4-year plan to increase funding through the State Equalization Guarantee to provide raises for all school employees so that New Mexico becomes regionally competitive when compared to Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, Colorado, and Utah

- *Whereas*, students and educators are New Mexico's most valuable resource and, thus, funding for education is our State's best investment; and
- *Whereas*, New Mexico and the nation have a serious teacher shortage;* and
- *Whereas*, teachers and all school staff are professionals and have demonstrated that they deserve a raise for the 2019-20 school year; and
- *Whereas*, adequate funding provides opportunities for students to become resilient and resourceful adults who are able to achieve their personal goals in an ever-changing world; and
- *Whereas*, education that prepares all students for college and careers is essential for economic growth in New Mexico.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that the Governor, New Mexico Legislature, and Public Education Department prioritize funding through the State Equalization Guarantee to significantly increase the unit value for the 2019-20 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico Legislature sufficiently fund school district budgets so that salaries are regionally competitive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, and the Legislative Finance Committee.

* According to the U.S. Department of Education, teacher shortages are affecting every state in the country

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #5

Submitted by: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: Provide Increased Funding Above the Line and Prioritize Local Decision Making in the Budget Process to Better Meet the Needs of All Schools

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- *Whereas*, “above the line” funding assures local decision making that is customized to unique community needs and most beneficial to students, parents, and teachers; and
- *Whereas*, local control and School Board decision-making is an essential component of public education and “below the line” allocations erode the integrity of the State Equalization Guarantee; and
- *Whereas*, school district cash balances are essential for prudent school budgeting and operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that funding in the General Appropriations Act includes “above the line” increases for Public Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local school boards are more knowledgeable about educational goals and budget priorities for their students and staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funding formula be modified to better meet the needs of all schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, and the Legislative Finance Committee.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #6

Submitted by: Farmington Municipal Schools

Title: Calls for Funding to Increase Teacher Starting Salaries to \$40, \$50 and \$60 Thousand and Principal Starting Salaries to \$80, \$90 and \$100 Thousand

- *Whereas*, the New Mexico State School Boards Association is committed to improving the quality of education for all State of New Mexico’s public school students; and
- *Whereas*, the New Mexico State School Boards Association understands the importance that public education of students serves as an investment in the future of its youth; and
- *Whereas*, the New Mexico State School Boards Association recognizes and highly values the importance that public school teachers and other public school employees contribute to the education of children; and
- *Whereas*, the New Mexico State School Boards Association honors teachers and school staff as professionals deserving of salary and benefits commensurate with the importance of role they play in the education of children; and
- *Whereas*, the State of New Mexico continues to experience a persistent shortage of highly qualified teachers and leaders; and

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- *Whereas*, the State of New Mexico has failed to attract high quality post-secondary students as our State's future teachers and leaders; and

- *Whereas*, the New Mexico State School Boards Association understands that in order to attract high quality teachers and leaders to public school employment, the State of New Mexico must honor public school staff as professionals by significantly raising salaries and benefits;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the New Mexico State School Boards Association calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to implement a First Four Corners State to Pay Forty Thousand Dollars as the starting pay with benefits for beginning teachers with commensurate starting salary of Fifty Thousand for Level II and Sixty Thousand starting salary for Level III; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the New Mexico State School Boards Association calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to implement a First Four Corners State to pay school leaders as the starting pay with benefits of Eighty Thousand dollars for Elementary Principals, Ninety Thousand for Middle School, and One Hundred Thousand for High School Principals.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #7

Submitted by: Mora Public Schools

Title: Calls for Immediate Steps to Provide Additional Funding of \$5 Million for Regional Education Cooperatives

- *Whereas*, rural school districts located in New Mexico experience a persistent and unwarranted dilemma regarding inadequate funding for students who need access to vital educational resources such as ancillary staff, technological accessibility, STEM outreach.

- *Whereas*, rural district analysis has posited students who live in a rural area are less likely to have access to aforementioned resources; and

- *Whereas*, Seventy percent of New Mexico students cannot read or write at grade level; eighty percent cannot do math at grade level, and New Mexico public school students' graduation rates are among the lowest in the nation.; and

- *Whereas*, New Mexico is violating the constitutional rights of at-risk students by failing to provide them with a sufficient education; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mora Board of Education and New Mexico School Boards Association Call on the State Legislature to provide additional funding of no less than five million dollars to provide support for Regional Educational Cooperatives in all areas of the state, specifically to provide and expand their services to underpopulated and impoverished school districts; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the (Mora Board of Education) or (NMSBA) calls upon Governor (TBD), State Senator (TBD), State Representative (TBD), to institute immediate steps to grant this request to increase funding immediately.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #8

Submitted by: Farmington Municipal Schools

Title: Calls on the Legislature to Fully Fund All-Day Pre-School for 4-Year Olds and Half-Day Pre-School for 3-Year Olds

- *Whereas*, the State of New Mexico ranks at the bottom or near bottom in public education when compared to other states; and
- *Whereas*, the New Mexico School Boards Association recognizes that early childhood education programs serve as a vital and needed learning experience to prepare students for future success; and
- *Whereas*, the New Mexico School Boards Association believes an early childhood learning experience serves as a high-quality prekindergarten investment which leads to improved quality of life, greater readiness to learn in K-12, and an increased likelihood to graduate;
- *Whereas*, the State of New Mexico provides limited access to affordable public pre-school opportunities; and
- *Whereas*, the State of New Mexico must continue to improve the quality of its early childhood education program by investing more money in early childhood initiatives: and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the **New Mexico School Boards Association** calls upon the **New Mexico State Legislature** to fully fund all day public education pre-school for four-year olds and half day public education pre-school for three-year olds.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #9

Submitted by: Gadsden Independent School District

Title: Calls on PED to Develop and Implement a Statewide Technology Plan, Recognize the Importance of Careers in Technology and Computer Science, and the Legislature to Provide Adequate Funding and Training for Computer Science Instructors

- *Whereas*, the economic potential of the United States depends upon a high-quality public education system that equips all students with the technological skills needed to succeed in their postsecondary education and in their careers; and,
- *Whereas*, the state of New Mexico has recognized computing as a fundamental skill needed to succeed in our increasingly globalized economy; and,

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- *Whereas*, the United States is currently experiencing a shortage of postsecondary students pursuing a degree in Computer Science, as only 49,000 students graduate each year with a degree in Computer Science, as compared to the approximately 500,000 related job openings in the United States; and,
- *Whereas*, female students who enroll in an AP Computer Science course are approximately ten times more likely to study Computer Science in college, while Hispanic students who enroll in an AP Computer Science course are approximately seven times more likely to study Computer Science in college; and,
- *Whereas*, the New Mexico Public Education Department has prioritized the utilization of computer-based standardized testing, while failing to adequately fund certified Computer Science Teachers at the Elementary level; and,
- *Whereas*, the State of New Mexico has prioritized the integration of broadband technology in all public schools, while failing to adequately fund professional development that is essential to maintain adequate familiarity with rapidly evolving technological resources;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gadsden Independent School District Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico Public Education Department to develop and implement a statewide educational technology plan at all levels of public education.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gadsden Independent School District Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico Public Education Department to recognize the importance of supporting students from historically underrepresented groups in entering postsecondary programs of study, and ultimately careers, in Computer Science.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gadsden Independent School District Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to couple its goal of utilizing computer-based standardized testing with adequate funding for certified Computer Science Teachers at the Elementary Level and relevant professional development for all staff.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #10

Submitted by: Rio Rancho Public Schools

Title: Supports Funding and Regulatory and Statutory Adjustments for High School Career and Technical Pathways in New Mexico

- *Whereas*, in recent years New Mexico has faced a depressed economy and job market, with a resulting lack of opportunity for students leaving high school and college; and
- *Whereas*, this lack of good, well-paying jobs has led to an exodus of some of our best and brightest young people who choose to leave the state in pursuit of opportunities elsewhere, contributing to a decline in the state's population; and,

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- *Whereas*, developing and expanding the New Mexico workforce and economy and providing opportunities for our high school and college graduates requires a rethinking of the current educational structure; and,
- *Whereas*, in addition to providing a quality education for the college-bound student, a quality education should also be provided to include a structure with pathways leading to internships, apprenticeships, and entry into career-technical programs that, upon satisfactory completion of the training, will lead directly into the workforce for students; and,
- *Whereas*, such programs could require creation of dual-enrollment pathways for students wanting to graduate from high school and enter into career/technical programs in cooperation with institutions such as Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) and the University of New Mexico (UNM); and
- *Whereas*, such programs would also require training and development for staff at the secondary and post-secondary level qualified to teach classes leading to career/technical certifications, as well as support for educational employees who wish to enter the teaching profession; and
- *Whereas*, strong institutional and financial support will be required to develop and sustain college and career readiness pathways to better prepare our students to take advantage of job opportunities and to prevent the loss of intellectual assets in New Mexico.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE RIO RANCHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to provide strong support, including any needed adjustments to state statute and regulation and provision of adequate and ongoing funding, to support career/technical pathways in New Mexico.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that emphasis should be placed on programs and student financial assistance that support current and future job-market needs such as IT or cyber-security, or support trades and professions where current shortages exist such as HVAC certification, construction trades, and teaching.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state should develop programs providing financial assistance and schooling opportunities that would enable educational assistants and other qualified school staff to earn a college degree and become teachers and other professional positions.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #11

Submitted by: Albuquerque Public Schools

Title: Research to Determine Sufficient Funding Levels for Instructional Materials, Prioritization of Funding for Instructional Materials and Funding for PED to Provide Distribution Oversight

- *Whereas*, Albuquerque Public Schools continues to face constraints on operational budgets due to necessity of funding instructional materials; and

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- *Whereas*, New Mexico enacted an “Instructional Material Law” (Sections 22-15-1 through 22-15-31, NMSA, 1978); and
- *Whereas*, New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) is authorized under Sections 22-15-1 through 22-15-31, NMSA, 1978 Compilation, to adopt a multiple list of instructional materials and distribute funds directly to local school districts, charter districts, charter schools, and state supported schools; and
- *Whereas*, New Mexico has dedicated funding, existing structure and procedures with recent updates to allow for the acquisition of digital instructional materials; and
- *Whereas*, the administration of this fund by PED should be used for the purpose of administering the Instructional Material Law; and
- *Whereas*, APS and other districts incurred significant declines in instructional material funding from PED in the last three consecutive school years; and
- *Whereas*, the state-approved adoption process managed by PED no longer funds full implementation causing APS to get further behind in funding cycles and is no longer able to purchase approved textbooks for all students; and
- *Whereas*, the demand for instructional materials does not decline nor the cost of those materials decrease; and
- *Whereas*, schools continue to need to fund and provide instructional materials increasingly out of operational funds, thereby taking money away from school operations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that research be implemented to determine the sufficiency levels needed to equitably fund instructional materials, as per the Instructional Material Law, in order to provide adequate instructional materials to students in all schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education formally requests that the legislature and Public Education Department prioritize funding of the instructional material fund, rather than depending on schools and the district to meet the demand for instructional materials out of operational funding; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Mexico State Legislature allocate funding to PED and provide oversight of the distribution of this funding by PED to ensure all students receive instructional materials up to the level of expectation in the New Mexico Instructional Materials Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, the Legislative Finance Committee and the New Mexico School Boards Association.

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION #12

Submitted by: Albuquerque Public Schools

Title: Calls for Additional Funding for Schools Wishing to Implement Community Schools Programs and Recommending an Implementation Guide

- *Whereas*, Albuquerque Public Schools believes that the Community Schools model (22-32-1 to 22-32-4 NMSA 1978) provides a significantly greater benefit to students, integrates communication between the school and community and provides strategic focus for decision making; and
- *Whereas*, No two community schools look the same, requiring authentic, community conversations to determine local needs; and
- *Whereas*, Community Schools interventions meet the requirements of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) as an evidence-based intervention that positively impacts students and leads to increased student achievement across the school; and
- *Whereas*, community schools look to improve student learning while also providing health and social support and developing family and community engagement; and
- *Whereas*, the community school framework pillars and theory of action include integrated student support, expanded learning time and opportunities, family and community engagement and collaborative leadership and practices, thereby focusing school resources and design around supporting the whole child; and
- *Whereas*, local school boards and superintendents take their mission seriously – to provide the very best education possible to each child who walks through the public school doors; and
- *Whereas*, New Mexico children deserve to be invested in because they define the future success of the state; and
- *Whereas*, students face obstacles to learning and improved achievement that require attention to the whole child; and
- *Whereas*, community schools focus on a strategy for organizing resources, rather than creating new programs; and
- *Whereas*, community school models exist in our state and prove valuable to communities and student achievement and can serve as models for design; and
- *Whereas*, community schools include extended time for learning that integrate community partnerships; and
- *Whereas*, community schools that fund a coordinator position to coordinate resources will most effectively address the needs of local communities and strategically align resources; and

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education formally requests that the legislature provide funding for all schools who may wish to implement a community schools framework model, including a position for a community school coordinator; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Mexico State Statute 22-32-1 to 22-32-4 NMSA 1978 should be used as a guide for this resolution and community school implementation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, the Legislative Finance Committee and the New Mexico School Boards Association.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #13

Submitted by: Farmington Municipal Schools

Title: Calls on the Legislature to Increase Funding for Capital Improvements, Renovation, Technology Infrastructure and School Safety and Security through PSCOC

- *Whereas*, the State of New Mexico recognizes and values the importance of high quality public education school facilities as centers of learning; and
- *Whereas*, the State of New Mexico understands and stands committed to ensuring public school safety and security for students and staff in the school setting; and
- *Whereas*, the New Mexico State School Boards Association is committed to improving the quality of school facilities to improve the quality of learning and safety within; and
- *Whereas*, the State of New Mexico envisions a future where all public education facilities are fully supported with the technological infrastructure that enables high quality learning as well as sufficient capacity and support for safety and security systems such as, but not limited to, surveillance cameras, remotely managed and electronically secured entrances, and visitor management systems for schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico State School Boards Association calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to provide increased capital improvement funding for school systems improvement and renovation, technological infrastructure, and school safety and security systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico State School Boards Association calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to enact measures that said funding for capital improvements to schools, infrastructure and school safety and security systems be administered through the Public Schools Capital Outlay Council.

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SCHOOL SAFETY

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #14

Submitted by: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: Prioritize Funding for School Safety, Pass Legislation that Protects Students and Staff and Provide Training Assistance via PED

- *Whereas*, the most effective prevention strategy for creating safe school environments requires a comprehensive, coordinated plan that includes schoolwide, districtwide and communitywide strategies and training where all institutions, organizations and individuals accept responsibility for their critical roles and collaborate to establish a positive environment for teaching and learning;
- *Whereas*, providing a safe school environment ensures both the physical and emotional safety of students and staff and creates the conditions necessary to foster student and staff well-being and academic achievement;
- *Whereas*, a vibrant, enriching and respectful school culture where all students feel a sense of belonging and connection is essential to school safety;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that funding be prioritized for collaborative threat assessment, crisis planning, scenario training and implementation of school safety plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico Legislature prioritize the protection of students and school employees by passing legislation that:

- Provides extra support for youth and school staff experiencing mental health issues;**
- Provides funds, above those needed for basic building maintenance and improvement, for capital improvements shown to improve access control and overall safety and security;**
- Funds public health research on issues related to school safety;**
- Provides funds to support evidence-based strategies and anti-bias and bystander intervention training to reduce social isolation;**
- Modifies requirements for drills to align with today's needs for emergency preparation in schools;**
- Incentivizes students and staff to follow "if you see something, say something;" and**
- Creates safe, inclusive environments.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Education Department provide assistance for school safety training; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, and the Legislative Finance Committee.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #15

Submitted by: Albuquerque Public Schools

Title: Join in Finding a Solution for Acts of Violence; Require and Strengthen Universal Background Checks; and Calling on the Legislature to Prioritize School Safety to include Increased Funding for Counselors, Mental Health Staff, Psychologists and Social Workers.

- *Whereas*, there is a need for the nation's major school systems to express their positions on school safety matters that affect its students and the children residing in its cities; and
- *Whereas*, students have publicly expressed concern for their safety and well-being and have indicated that policymakers should act immediately to protect them in school; and
- *Whereas*, the leaders of the school systems respect the concerns of their students, and support the growing civic and social participation of high school students; and
- *Whereas*, the safety of our children in school needs proactive attention; and
- *Whereas*, comprehensive school safety plans address facilities, personnel, coordination of services with public agencies, as well as preventative mental health educational programs; and
- *Whereas*, students should be safe in school; and
- *Whereas*, school boards should explore all options to secure our students' safety in schools; and
- *Whereas*, schools should plan for the possibility of such acts of violence, coordinate with law enforcement, and secure their buildings from intruders; and
- *Whereas*, many schools lack the mental health counselors, psychologists and social workers they need to identify and work with students showing warning signs for depression, suicide and violence; and
- *Whereas*, the multiple school shootings that the nation has witnessed over the years have complex causes requiring multiple solutions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Albuquerque Public Schools join with other districts to find a solution to all acts of violence while respecting the rights of US citizens guaranteed by the Second Amendment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Albuquerque Public Schools calls on federal, state and local governments to require and strengthen universal background checks related to the purchase, but not the temporary transfer or loan of firearms; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Mexico State Legislature prioritize school safety within its budget and budget planning, including increased funding for counselors, mental health staff, psychologists and social workers in our schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, the Legislative Finance Committee and the New Mexico School Boards Association.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #16

Submitted by: Gadsden Independent School District

Title: Imbed Mental Health Support in Public Schools and Provide Adequate Funding to Support Healthy Mental, Social, and Emotional Health in New Mexico's Public Schools

- *Whereas*, the state of New Mexico has consistently scored last or near last in academic proficiency in national polls; and,
- *Whereas*, negative emotional and social health are barriers to learning; and,
- *Whereas*, many of our students are consistently exposed to violence at home or within their communities; and,
- *Whereas*, in some school districts along the New México/México border, many students experience and witness violence related to the drug cartels in Mexico and have family members who have been victims of violence by the cartels; and,
- *Whereas*, many of our students experience post-traumatic anxiety and stress caused by the abovementioned factors; and,
- *Whereas*, many of New Mexico's school districts are located in large rural areas where our students do not have access to the necessary facilities to address their unique social and emotional challenges;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Gadsden Independent School District Board of Education demands it is time for the New Mexico Public Education Department to embed mental health in public schools into an active, unified, comprehensive and equitable system of learning support.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gadsden Independent School District Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to provide adequate funding to increase classroom and community programs, providers, and interventions that can promote and support healthy social and emotional development in students at all levels of public education.

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION #17

Submitted by: Rio Rancho Public Schools

Title: Provide Adequate, Ongoing Funding for the Provision of Behavioral and Mental Health Services In and Supporting Public Schools

- *Whereas*, nationally up to one in five students shows signs or symptoms of a mental health disorder in a given year, and the needs are growing exponentially; and,
- *Whereas*, nationally nearly 80 percent of students who need mental health services do not receive them; and,
- *Whereas*, whether treated or not, children with mental health issues attend school and in some cases can be disruptive to students, classroom settings, and the educational process; and,
- *Whereas*, schools and school districts have a legal obligation to provide services to students with identified behavioral and mental health issues; and
- *Whereas*, schools and school districts lack sufficient numbers of highly trained staff to identify and diagnose students with severe behavioral issues in a timely manner, as well as appropriately-trained and certified teachers to meet the demand for specialized programs and classroom instruction for severely behaviorally-disruptive students; and
- *Whereas*, in many instances of school violence and violence in the community at large, including mass shootings, the protagonist has exhibited symptoms of mental and social-emotional illness; and
- *Whereas*, it is therefore in the best interest of school safety and student academic performance that students with mental health issues be promptly identified and effectively supported and treated; and
- *Whereas*, school personnel are in a key position to identify the early warning signs of an emerging mental health condition, and to direct families to appropriate mental health resources; and,
- *Whereas*, schools and the mental health system in New Mexico are not sufficiently funded to provide timely diagnostic and support services for behaviorally-challenged students, adequate staff training in the recognition of mental health symptoms, and short-term counseling, and services to which students and families facing mental health crises may be referred.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE RIO RANCHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to provide adequate, ongoing funding for the provision of behavioral and mental health services in and supporting the public schools, including:

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- **Full funding for behavioral programs and classrooms sufficient to permit school districts and schools to meet their legal, moral, and ethical obligation to provide services to all students with identified behavioral disorders.**
- **Exploration of intermediate units (district-wide and/or through regional centers) to provide intensive, short-term interventions to students with behavioral and mental issues,**
- **Resources and staff training for timely identification of students with mental health issues,**
- **Adequate numbers of counselors, nurses, psychologists/psychiatrists, social workers, and other professionals to provide ongoing support and referrals for students and families facing mental health issues that require long-term and highly specialized care,**
- **An adequate community safety-net system for referrals to hospitals and counseling, recognizing the limitations schools, as educational institutions, have in providing comprehensive mental health services.**

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #18

Submitted by: Farmington Municipal Schools

Title: Allowing Retired Police Officers to Return to Work as School Resource Officers at the Pay Equal to the SRO Position Pay Scale

- *Whereas, the New Mexico State School Boards Association believes that a respectful school environment is conducive to learning and the well-being of our school community; and*
 - *Whereas, the New Mexico State School Boards Association is committed to improving the school safety for all New Mexico's public school students and staff; and*
 - *Whereas, the New Mexico State School Boards Association is concerned that a current shortage of police officers in New Mexico does not allow School Resource Officer positions to be fully staffed; and*
 - *Whereas, current State of New Mexico police retirement rules prevent retired police officers from returning to work without placing their retirement at risk; and*
 - *Whereas, retired police officers returning to work as School Resource Officers would be employed by the local community's police department and designated as School Resource Officers to the local community's school system; and*
 - *Whereas, it is the belief of the New Mexico State School Boards Association that a sufficient workforce of retired police officers would return to work as School Resource Officers if rules were changed to the retirement system;*
- NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the New Mexico State School Boards Association calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to pass legislation that allows retired police officers to be employed and return to work as School Resource Officers at the pay equal**

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to the SRO position pay scale, or if no such pay scale currently exists, than that of a patrol officer without penalty or negative impact to retirement pension or benefits.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #19

Submitted by: Rio Rancho Public Schools

Title: Requests PED Guidance in Utilizing Armed School Security Guards

Whereas, concerns about increasing levels of violence in communities and schools have led schools and school districts to consider various proposals and options for improving school security; and

- *Whereas*, some of these proposals suggest arming certain categories of school employees, such as security officers; and,
- *Whereas*, there is little guidance regarding policies and procedures of having an armed security force other than a certified law enforcement agency on a school campus.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE RIO RANCHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION requests the New Mexico Public Education Department to provide guidance to school districts in the utilization of appropriately-trained armed security officers.

LOCAL ELECTION ACT

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #20

Submitted by: Santa Fe Public Schools

Title: Calls on the State Legislature to Repeal Provisions of the Local Education Act Related to Public Schools; Reinstate the School Election Law; Allow Districts to Conduct In-Person Special Elections; and Eliminate Contributions to the Local Election Fund

- *Whereas*, in 2018, the New Mexico Legislature enacted House Local Government, Elections, Land Grants and Cultural Affairs Committee Substitute for House Bill 98 (“House Bill 98”); and
- *Whereas*, House Bill 98 repealed the former provisions of the School Election Law and replaced it with consolidated local election procedures (see Section 1-22-2 et seq. NMSA 1978); and
- *Whereas*, the repeal and replacement changed school districts’ regular elections from February to November in order to consolidate school districts’ elections with general elections that include other governmental bodies; and

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- *Whereas*, House Bill 98 requires each school district to pay into a pooled Local Election Fund “an annual assessment ... equal to two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) per one million dollars (\$1,000,000) or minor fraction thereof of the local government’s general fund expenditures” (see Subsection F on pages 42-43 of House Bill 98); and
- *Whereas*, by paying into the pooled Local Election Fund, the District is contributing towards the election costs of other local governments, such as special hospital districts, arroyo flood control districts, special zoning districts, soil and water conservation districts, water and sanitation districts, conservancy districts, watershed districts, and certain municipalities, whose mission is not public education or public higher education; and
- *Whereas*, the annual assessment must be taken from school districts’ operating funds, much of which is derived from Permanent School Fund distributions (see Article 12, Section 2 of the New Mexico Constitution), and other Land Grant Permanent Fund distributions, which are then calculated and allocated through the state equalization guarantee (“SEG”); and
- *Whereas*, payments to the Local Election Fund from school districts’ operating funds, which flow from the Permanent School Fund, through the SEG, to contribute to the election costs of non-public educational bodies, may violate the New Mexico Constitution and the Public School Finance Act (Article 22, Chapter 8 NMSA 1978); and
- *Whereas*, previously, school districts did not have to pay into any pooled election fund; and
- *Whereas*, while House Bill 98 allows school districts to conduct special elections at times other than general election times, such special elections must be conducted through costly mail-in ballots, with no exemption from the obligatory contribution into the Local Election Fund; and
- *Whereas*, the election consolidation diminishes local control by requiring school districts to join significantly crowded general election ballots, with only costly special elections as an alternative; and
- *Whereas*, the crowded general election ballot will require substantially higher public communication costs to educate the electorate that previously had not been interested enough in education and education funding issues to participate in the February elections; and
- *Whereas*, the obligatory payment into the Local Election Fund, the significant costs of conducting special elections by mail-in ballots, and the substantial public communication costs all diminish classroom funding; and
- *Whereas*, House Bill 98 is misaligned with the Tax Administration Act (Chapter 7, Article 1 NMSA 1978), and the misalignment creates a negatively impactful funding gap; and
- *Whereas*, under the Tax Administration Act, county treasurers and assessors send property tax bills to homeowners in November; and
- *Whereas*, the requirement in House Bill 98 that school districts conduct regular elections in November means that the property tax bill reflecting voter-approved tax levies would not be sent out until November of the following year; and

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- *Whereas*, for multiple school districts, including Santa Fe Public Schools, certain tax levies will expire in 2019; and
- *Whereas*, participating in the regular election in November 2019 means that voter-approved tax levies would not be included in property tax bills until November 2020, which creates a year-long funding gap; and
- *Whereas*, the true fiscal impact to school districts did not appear to have been analyzed prior to the passage of House Bill 98; and
- *Whereas*, the election consolidation was not supported by school districts; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Fe Public Schools Board of Education requests that the New Mexico School Boards Association and other school districts join in urging the 2019 legislature to:

- A. Repeal the sections of House Bill 98 that affect school district elections;**
- B. Restore the former provisions of the School Election Law;**
- C. Authorize school districts to conduct elections through their choice of regular elections with machine voting in February or special elections with mail-in ballots at other times; and**
- D. Eliminate obligatory contributions to the Local Election Fund.**

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #21

Submitted by: Albuquerque Public Schools

Title: Calls on the Legislature to Reimburse Districts for Special Elections and Make other Needed Changes to the Local Election Act and Related Bond and Mill Levy Statutes

- *Whereas*, Albuquerque Public Schools anticipates a large financial burden due to the implementation of House Bill 98 (2018), The Local Election Act; and
- *Whereas*, waivers and opt-in features were granted to municipalities; and
- *Whereas*, the bill was not intended to usurp local authority nor cause undue financial burden; and
- *Whereas*, House Bill 98 should be amended to avoid a gap in funding currently provided by the local tax levies; and
- *Whereas*, the May 15 deadline for tax levy election proclamations should be eliminated from NMSA § 22-25-4 and 22-26-4; and
- *Whereas*, the requirement that bond or mill levy elections be held prior to July 1 of the year in which the tax is to be imposed should be deleted from Sections 22-25-5 and 22-26-5; and

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• *Whereas*, a one-year period to get elections in cycle without having to pay fees or the cost of a mail ballot election should be created;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico Legislature provide reimbursement to school districts to cover the cost of a special election; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the May 15 deadline for tax levy election proclamations should be eliminated from NMSA § 22-25-4 and 22-26-4; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the requirement that bond or mill levy elections be held prior to July 1 of the year in which the tax is to be imposed should be deleted from Sections 22-25-5 and 22-26-5; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a one-year period to get elections in cycle without having to pay fees or the cost of a mail ballot election should be created; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, the Legislative Finance Committee and the New Mexico School Boards Association.

OTHER RESOLUTIONS

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #22

Submitted by: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: Calls for the Recognition of the Need for and Establishment of a Student and Staff Well-being Task Force and Modification of Regulations to Facilitate a Continuing Well-Rounded Education for Students

- *Whereas*, physical and emotional wellness is important to a student's ability to focus on learning and developing healthy relationships for self, others, and the larger community; and
- *Whereas*, staff well-being is essential to providing safe and nurturing learning environments and in developing and retaining quality teachers, leaders, and staff; and
- *Whereas*, a quality education is well-rounded, developmentally appropriate, and includes a variety of opportunities for demonstrating accomplishment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that the Governor and New Mexico Legislature recognize the importance of student and staff well-being by establishing a Well-Being Education Task Force charged with developing a statewide plan, specific recommendations for legislation and school districts, and presentations to the Legislative Education Study Committee and Legislative Finance Committee; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Education Department modify rules and regulations to facilitate a continuing well-rounded education for students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, and the Legislative Finance Committee.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #23

Submitted by: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: Calls on the Governor and Legislature to Establishment of a Paperwork Reduction Task Force and PED to Modify Rules and Regulations Accordingly

- *Whereas*, House Memorial 34 “Education Employee Paperwork Reduction” was passed by the New Mexico House in 2018 requesting the “Public Education Department convene a task force to study the feasibility of a reduction in paperwork required of education employees, modification to New Mexico Administrative Code to reduce the paperwork required of education employees, and a moratorium on unfunded mandated in schools.”
- *Whereas*, increased paperwork continues to result in less time with students and parents; and
- *Whereas*, “unfunded mandates” cause school districts to stretch limited staff resources and cut budgets in other important learning programs; and
- *Whereas*, a quality education includes a variety of opportunities for demonstrating accomplishment for students and education employees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that the Governor and New Mexico Legislature establish a paperwork reduction task force that reports to local School Boards and Legislature in August 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Education Department modify rules and regulations to reduce paperwork during the 2019-20 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, and the Legislative Finance Committee.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #24

Submitted by: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: Requests PED to Expand and Make Better Use of Statewide of Short-Cycle Assessments for School Report Cards, District Report Card, and Teacher Evaluations

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- *Whereas*, valid short-cycle assessments provide highly useful information for students, teachers, and parents; and
- *Whereas*, reports from short-cycle assessments provide immediate, clustered by subgroup, detailed information on student strengths and weaknesses, thus allowing teachers to immediately adapt classroom instruction to best meet student goals and help students show growth throughout the year; and
- *Whereas*, the PARCC test results are delayed by many months and do not provide statistically valid information for demonstrating student achievement growth; and
- *Whereas*, information for parents and the public would be improved if data from short-cycle assessments were used for school report cards, the district report card, and teacher evaluations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that the Public Education Department develop a method for counting short-cycle assessment data in school report cards, district report cards, and teacher evaluations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Education Department modify rules and regulations to make better use of short-cycle assessments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, and the Legislative Finance Committee.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #25

Submitted by: Las Cruces Public Schools

Title: Calls for adoption of a platform that demands the immediate end to forcible and traumatic separation of children from their families by the federal government in any community in New Mexico.

- *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education embraces the diversity of New Mexico communities and celebrates the rich cultures that are brought to our city by people of all nationalities; and
- *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education, a committed group of elected officials, believes it is our responsibility to advocate for human rights and help protect all people from injustices and misguided practices involving immigration and other unjust federal and state policies; and
- *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education further asserts that the separation of children from their families at the U.S. border, in our own community, and any other community in the State of New Mexico is contrary to the rule of law and proper administration of justice; and

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- *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools is committed to providing safe and welcoming spaces where all students can focus on their education and that the District will support their safety and emotional well-being regardless of immigration status, nation of origin, race, sexual orientation or religion; and
- *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education is concerned that federal immigration law enforcement activities at our schools, on our transportation routes, on our District property, or during our school activities has the potential to significantly disrupt the learning environment and will significantly interfere with our students' constitutional rights to be free from unreasonable search and seizure and to access a free public education; and
- *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education denounces the unjust policy of detaining and incarcerating children and their families based on their immigration status; and
- *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education asserts that the children suffering traumatic events at the border reflect the children and communities that we serve in Las Cruces and, recognizing the fears that these events create in our communities, we wish to reaffirm our commitment to not collect, maintain, or share information about our students' immigration status – a commitment that is rooted in the 1982 Supreme Court decision *Plyler v. Doe*, in which the Supreme Court ruled that all children in this country have the constitutional right to receive a K-12 education, regardless of their immigration status; and
- *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education recognizes that stresses, tensions, hardships, and barriers to health and educational engagement exist, not only for students who are themselves undocumented, but also for students, whether undocumented or not, who have family members, friends, and schoolmates at risk, creating concerns that pervasively affect students in our schools, whatever their background and status, and
- *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education recognizes the need for a longer-term solution through the reform of our nation's immigration policies and calls on Congress to act on comprehensive and humane immigration reform.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education, standing together with many school districts across the country, teachers, administrators, and other professional organizations, request that the New Mexico School Boards Association adopt a platform that demands the immediate end to forcible and traumatic separation of children from their families by the federal government in any community in New Mexico.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #26

Submitted by: Las Cruces Public Schools

Title: Supports Legislation to Define “Ethnic Studies” and Allow Districts to Develop Ethnic Studies Curriculum which Would Satisfy Social Studies Credit Requirements

- *Whereas*, on May 16, 2017, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education adopted a resolution supporting ethnic studies in the Las Cruces Public Schools; and

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- *Whereas*, at the request of the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education the Superintendent created and convened an Ethnic, Gender, and Women’s Studies Task Force during the 2017-2018 academic year and whose members were representative of the community; and
- *Whereas*, Stanford University researchers found positive effects on attendance rates, graduation rates, and overall increases in grade-point for students enrolled in an ethnic studies curriculum for struggling, at-risk students in San Francisco high schools from 2010 to 2014; and
- *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requested that the Ethnic, Gender, and Women’s Studies curriculum be designed to engage students and add relevancy for underserved and at-risk students; and
- *Whereas*, Senate Bill 219 was introduced during the First Session of the 2017 Legislative Session that defined ethnic studies and, had it been passed by both Houses, would have required ethnic studies to be taught as an elective in grades nine through twelve; and
- *Whereas*, Senate Joint Memorial 20, introduced during the Second Session of the 2018 Legislature passed the Senate but died in the House of Representatives, requested the establishment of a task force of community, academic, and professional partners to identify the next steps required to develop ethnic studies curricula in volunteer school districts, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests that the New Mexico School Boards Association support ***legislation that would define “ethnic studies” and allow volunteer districts to develop an ethnic studies curriculum and offer the course as an elective and allow the Ethnic Studies class to be used as one of the required social studies credits.***

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the New Mexico School Boards Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Chair of the Senate Education Committee and the Chair of the House Education Committee in the New Mexico Legislature, and the Director of the New Mexico Legislative Education Study Committee.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #27

Submitted by: Gadsden Independent School District

Title: Calls on PED to Guarantee Equitable Access to Dual Credit Programs by Adopting a Statement of Purpose and Mandating Equal Access by Higher Education Institutions

- *Whereas*, career-focused dual credit programs can benefit underachieving students and those underrepresented in higher education; and,
- *Whereas*, students participating in dual credit programs are more likely to meet college readiness benchmarks than students who did not participate in dual credit programs; and,

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- *Whereas*, students participating in dual credit programs are less likely to require enrollment in remedial English or math courses than students who did not participate in dual credit programs; and,
- *Whereas*, students participating in dual credit programs have higher four-year completion rates and six-year completion rates than students who did not participate in dual credit programs; and,
- *Whereas*, the State of New Mexico has recognized several of the above-mentioned academic benefits of dual-credit programs; and,
- *Whereas*, the New Mexico State Legislature sought to increase the rigor of its high schools by mandating that all students graduating after 2013 complete an honors, Advanced Placement, distance learning, or dual credit course to graduate; and,
- *Whereas*, the New Mexico administrative code (6.30.7 NMAC) requires public postsecondary institutions to waive tuition for high school students taking college courses for dual credit; and,
- *Whereas*, the growth in the number of dual credit courses delivered by public postsecondary institutions has outpaced the growth in the amount of funding for dual credit programs received by public postsecondary institutions;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gadsden Independent School District Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico Public Education Department to adopt a statement of purpose in regulation to make clear that the purpose of dual credit programs is to increase postsecondary participation and success among traditionally underserved students.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gadsden Independent School District Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico Public Education Department to adopt a regulation mandating that each higher education institution administering dual credit programs offer these resources and opportunities consistently and equitably among their participating school districts.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gadsden Independent School District Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico Public Education Department to adopt a regulation mandating that reductions in access to dual credit programs at individual higher education institutions be shared equitably among its participating school districts.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #28

Submitted by: Gadsden Independent School District

Title: Supporting the Academic Success and Safety of New Mexico's LGBTQ Youth by Recognizing the Challenges and Developing Data-Driven Strategies for these Students

- *Whereas*, LGBTQ Youth experience systemic discrimination, stigma, and denial of civil human rights; and,

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- Whereas, it is estimated that approximately one in ten New Mexico youth identify as Gay, Lesbian, or Bisexual ; and,
- Whereas, sexual minority youth are less likely to attend college, and participate in sports, clubs, and extracurricular activities; and,
- Whereas, sexual minority youth are more likely to skip school due to safety concerns; and,
- Whereas, sexual minority youth are more likely to experience bullying on school property; and,
- Whereas, sexual minority youth are more likely to engage in non-suicidal self-injury, to have seriously considered suicide within the past year, to have attempted suicide in the past year, and to have made a suicide attempt that resulted in an injury; and,
- Whereas, sexual minority youth are more likely to have a long-term physical, emotional, or learning disability;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gadsden Independent School District Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico Public Education Department to formally recognize the unique social, health, and academic challenges New Mexico LGBTQ youth currently face.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gadsden Independent School District Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature and Public Education Department to develop data-driven strategies for improving the safety and educational outcomes of LGBTQ youth in New Mexico's Public Schools.

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gadsden Independent School District Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature and Public Education Department to fund professional development related to LGBTQ cultural competency and how to create an inclusive and supportive classroom and school.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #29

Submitted by: Albuquerque Public Schools

Title: Creating an Exemption from IPRA Allowing the Release of Only the Final Three Candidates for Superintendent Positions

- *Whereas*, Albuquerque Public Schools and school districts in New Mexico are required by the Inspection of Public Records Act to disclose names of all candidates for superintendent positions; and
- *Whereas*, thirty-five states currently have some exemption in open records for top-level executives at public schools or universities; and
- *Whereas* the lawmakers of New Mexico granted an exemption to the University of New Mexico to exempt the names of candidates for chief executive of public institutions of higher education,

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provided the names of at least three finalists were made public no less than 21 days before the final selection is made by the governing body; and

- *Whereas*, open records of all applicants for positions for superintendent positions discourages qualified candidates from applying for positions in New Mexico schools; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that an exception be created in the Inspection of Public Records Act for candidates for superintendent positions in New Mexico schools until the district narrows the list to three candidates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education formally requests that the legislature and Public Education Department support this exemption in the spirit of attracting the most qualified candidates for positions in New Mexico schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Mexico State Legislature enact legislation necessary to extend the legal exemption for the Inspection of Public Records Act for New Mexico public schools, as currently available to the University of New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, the Legislative Finance Committee and the New Mexico School Boards Association.