

NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2018 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Presented to
LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

RAMON MONTAÑO, PRESIDENT
JOE GUILLEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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About NMSBA...

Vision

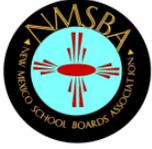
The New Mexico School Boards Association aspires to be recognized as the premier source of development and support for local boards of education in New Mexico. The NMSBA will be known as the leading advocate for local boards in their role of insuring that all students will graduate from New Mexico high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

NMSBA celebrates 60 years of service to New Mexico's School Boards in 2018



NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION 2017-2018

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2018 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 2018 Legislative Priorities were adopted and now represent the collective voice of New Mexico's 89 school boards and over 450 school board members.

The 2018 New Mexico Legislative Session will be a challenging 30 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.

II. 2018 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

1. NMSBA again requests that public schools be held harmless from further reductions to operating budgets and that school district cash balances be preserved and protected without penalty at the local level for the benefit of our students.
2. Requests the State Legislature and the Public Education Department to prioritize funding to the SEG and increase the unit value for the 2018-19 and future school years and sustain increased funding for districts to provide a cost of living adjustment and a phased in salary increase for all school employees to offset increased insurance premiums and retirement contributions. (Los Alamos)
3. Requests the State Legislature increase and fully fund minimum teacher salaries to Level 1 \$50,000, Level 2 \$60,000, and Level 3 \$70,000 and Principal Salaries to Elementary \$75,000, Middle School \$85,000 and High School \$95,000 for the 2018-2019 School Year (Farmington)
4. Calls on the State Legislature to provide the necessary funding to support costs as required and submitted associated with transporting students in safe and healthy ways. (Las Cruces)
5. Calls on the State Legislature to develop and deploy a strategy to establish a fund of up to \$250,000 beginning Fiscal Year 2019 to be utilized as a reimbursement of costs incurred for teachers who obtain National Board Certification. (Farmington)
6. Calls on the State Legislature to provide funding and support for Region Educational Cooperatives in all areas of the state. (Farmington)
7. Supports the State Legislature's 2017 Tax Study and expansion of study to include strategies to identify increased revenues for funding public education in New Mexico (Farmington)
8. Requests that the State Legislature and Governor establish a paperwork reduction task force that reports to local school boards and the Legislature in August 2019 and that PED modify rules and regulations to reduce paperwork during the 2018-19 school year. (Los Alamos)
9. Requests that the Public Education Department develop a method for counting short-cycle assessment data in school and district report cards and teacher evaluations and modify rules and regulation to make better use of short-cycle assessments. (Los Alamos)
10. Requests that any amendments to regulations proposed by the Public Education Department related to bilingual education programs, academic standards, or assessments requirements, be adopted only after rigorous collaboration with and agreement from school boards, school districts, pueblos, tribes and other education stakeholders and the legislature and the executive recognize the importance of all programs in our local schools. Further requests that the Public Education Department respect the chain of command or organizational structure of districts when contacting or working with principals, teachers and students. (Albuquerque)

The Committee received sixteen (16) additional resolutions which were duplicates of priorities adopted in previous years including: local control; funding sufficiency; local cash balances; above the line funding; funding for teacher and employee salary increases, transportation, instruction materials, dual credit courses, bullying prevention and K-3 Plus; evaluation of the school grading system; reductions in testing time.