

I. LOCAL CONTROL (1)

Proposed Resolution #1 (2016 Duplicate)

Submitted by: Albuquerque Public Schools

Title: Providing that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education enter its appearance and indicate its support of a motion to support a revitalization of and dedication to the control of the local school board to make educational policy decisions and set education priorities for its local district.

- *WHEREAS*, New Mexico State Statute respects the division of power between the legislature, the executive and the local school board which is why it grants local school boards the responsibility of establishing the local district budget, setting policy and hiring the superintendent to implement the will of the board; and
- *WHEREAS*, local school boards respect and welcome the authority of the legislature and executive to establish a framework in which local schools are required to operate, minimum standards of programs that schools must establish and performance goals schools must meet but believe specific decisions about operations, programs and how to meet goals should be left to the school board; and
- *WHEREAS*, local school boards are elected by their communities, are often the most in tune to the community and students' individual needs and how best to work within the parameters established by the State to meet those needs; 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*, 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*, funding granted to school districts to implement new programs or proven strategies to increase student achievement ought to address an appropriate balance of oversight from the state to ensure a program is implemented well while granting flexibility to a local district to make decisions in the best interest of their community and students; and
- *WHEREAS*, with their deep knowledge of the strengths and needs and commitment to the success of their schools and students, local school districts should have the flexibility to design the strategies for “turnaround schools,” which may include community school models, partnerships with appropriate laboratories and institutions of higher education, and models of support for entry-level teachers through mentoring and collaboration with master-level teachers who then deepen their own practice; and
- *WHEREAS*, local school boards support accountability and request that the legislature adopt a strategy of less mandates on program specifics so districts may meet the demands of student success in the way they deem best; and
- *WHEREAS*, policy decisions should allow students to demonstrate their progress and achievement in creative, individualized ways; and

- *WHEREAS*, trusting local school boards allows them to foster local relationships with families, teachers, elected officials and business leaders and seek buy in from all stakeholders for successful educational reforms in schools; and
- **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education formally requests that the legislature and Public Education Department allow local school boards to exercise their statutorily granted authority to make policy decisions about education; and
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education and administration want to work collaboratively with the legislature and the Public Education Department in the best interest of the students of New Mexico; and
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New Mexico State Legislature work with the executive to determine best ways to ensure student success and local flexibility to implement programs; and
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New Mexico State Legislature adequately fund the local school board to meet the educational needs of students; and
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the New Mexico School Boards Association.

II. UNFUNDED MANDATES (1)

Proposed Resolution #2

Submitted by: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: Paperwork Reduction and Moratorium on “Unfunded Mandates”

- *WHEREAS*, increased paperwork results 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 2019; and
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Public Education Department modify rules and regulations to reduce paperwork during the 2018-19 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.

III. ADEQUATE FUNDING (19)

Proposed Resolution #3 (2016 Duplicate)

Submitted by: Las Cruces Public Schools

Title: Subject: Requesting the New Mexico Legislature Increase Funding to Public Schools and Provide Adequate Support for Public Schools as Required by Article XII of the New Mexico Constitution

- *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 children of school age in the state shall be established and maintained”; and
- *WHEREAS*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education believes that a solution to the current public education financing crisis is needed immediately to avoid the continuing negative impact to educational opportunity for all students; and
- *WHEREAS*, additional cuts to current public school funding levels will impact greatly the capacity of public schools to appropriately address the needs of the whole child by increasing instructional support, access to the creative and visual arts, extracurricular activities, teacher professional development, and necessary upgrades to instructional technology to ensure students are prepared for a diverse and challenging 21st century workforce; and
- *WHEREAS*, there is a demonstrated need to expand services to children with identified special needs, including children identified as economically disadvantaged or at-risk, children requiring special education programs, and children requiring bilingual instruction; and
- *WHEREAS*, the New Mexico Land Grant Permanent Fund (LGPF) which was constitutionally created to allow the state to save and invest from the extraction of natural resources statewide, has evolved and grown over time due to revenue from leases and royalties produced by non-renewable natural resources in New Mexico (primarily oil and gas), and income from returns on invested capital; and
- *WHEREAS*, Governor Susana Martinez and the State Investment Council announced in August 2017 that the LGPF achieved strong net investment returns of 12.9% for fiscal year 2017, increasing by \$1.681 billion, while the 2018 distribution rate, which includes funds for public education, is only \$689.1 million or 5%; and
- *WHEREAS*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education recognizes that New Mexico’s LGPF, when responsibly invested, would meet the dual goals of growing New Mexico’s wealth and serving current and future generations of New Mexicans by funding public education.
- **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education formally requests that the 2018 Legislature increase current levels of public school funding to ensure sufficient and adequate funding for public schools as suggested by the New Mexico Funding Formula Task Force in 2007 and as required by Article XII of the New Mexico Constitution; and
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that appropriate interim legislative committees explore options to increase funding for public schools that allow for increased and meaningful discretion and maintenance of proper local control and authority for Boards of Education and report their findings to the 2018 Legislature through its appropriate committee structure; and

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

Proposed Resolution #4 (2016 Duplicate)

Submitted by: Albuquerque Public Schools

Title: Providing that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education enter its appearance and indicate its support of a motion to support sufficient funding for the State Equalization Guarantee to Support Public Education from the New Mexico State Legislature and the Public Education Department

- *WHEREAS*, Albuquerque Public Schools is thankful for the investment in public education made by the legislature and executive in fiscal year 2018 funding K-12 education at 44% of the state’s operating budget; and
- *WHEREAS*, Article XII Sec. 1 of the New Mexico State Constitution mandates that *a uniform system of free public schools sufficient for the education of, and open to, all the children of school age in the state shall be established and maintained*; and
- *WHEREAS*, the success of public education in New Mexico is dependent on community, parents, students, teachers, administrators, school boards, school districts and adequate funding provided by the legislature and executive; 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*, local districts and educators recognize the State of New Mexico’s difficult budget situation and loss of revenue in Fiscal Year 2018; and
- *WHEREAS*, the financial needs of districts to appropriately educate students are explored throughout this resolution but to successfully address them the Legislature and the Executive are encouraged to develop a vision and strategic plan for economic development that supports New Mexico’s core values that would result in enhanced revenue so sufficient appropriations, that are not at the expense of other critical governmental programs, may be allocated to public education; and
- *WHEREAS*, despite projected flat revenue for Fiscal Year 2018, school districts are still expected to appropriately educate students; and
- *WHEREAS*, “above-the-line” investment for new revenue available in Fiscal Year 2018 preserves local school board control to best respond to the strengths and struggles in individual communities to best serve students; and

NMSBA 2018 PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

- *WHEREAS*, the legislature, executive and community have made increasing the unit value of the state equalization guarantee (a.k.a. funding formula) their number one priority when establishing the public school budget and should continue to do so; and
- *WHEREAS*, the State of New Mexico failed to comply with federal special education maintenance of effort requirements and, therefore, inadequately fund special education programs in FY2010 – FY2012; and
- *WHEREAS*, local school districts have supported special education despite a lack in appropriate funding; and
- *WHEREAS*, in the future, increasing the unit value is the best way to meet New Mexico’s federal special education maintenance of effort requirements to adequately fund special education programs; and
- *WHEREAS*, the legislature should be fully cognizant of any changes to the funding formula that could negatively impact funding for school districts across New Mexico; and
- *WHEREAS*, successful “below-the-line” pilot programs should be moved into the state equalization guarantee; and
- *WHEREAS*, sufficient funds are necessary to eliminate class size waivers; and
- *WHEREAS*, teachers and other public school employees deserve to make a livable wage for the work they do for the success and wellbeing of New Mexico’s children; and
- *WHEREAS*, teachers and school staff should be provided choices in professional development that are geared to meeting the needs of their students; and
- *WHEREAS*, there must be a recognition of the struggles districts have in providing statutorily mandated transportation for students to and from school and a recognition that the solution is a significant investment in transportation services so districts can meet this requirement and provide equal access to public schools for all students; and
- *WHEREAS*, the legislature should acknowledge the importance of instructional materials in the classroom and increase funds available for schools to purchase those materials; and
- *WHEREAS*, public schools are in need of additional funds because they are increasingly responsible for and morally obligated to respond to the wellbeing of the whole child by providing access to professional counseling services when a student suffers from mental health issues, including but not limited to substance abuse, providing access to quality health and dental care by continuing support to school-based health clinics, and by assisting families when needed through the services of trained social workers; and
- *WHEREAS*, the cost of testing continues to increase, and school districts need financial support necessary to purchase, administer, score and report the data to education stakeholders; and
- **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education formally requests that the legislature and Public Education Department recognize the financial hardships many school districts face; and

●**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New Mexico State Legislature sufficiently fund and prioritize the funding to the state equalization guarantee budget according to the needs of each school district, its local community and, most importantly, its students; and

●**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the New Mexico School Boards Association.

Proposed Resolution #5

Submitted by: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: Allocate funding “Above the Line” and preserve school district cash balances

●*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*, holding school district cash balances harmless is 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 school district cash balances be held harmless without penalty; and

●**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Public Education Department (PED) provide assistance for prudent budgeting and fiscal management; 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: Cash Reserves

●*WHEREAS*, during the 2016-17 School Year, the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education experienced a mid-year reduction in State Equalization Guarantee; and

●*WHEREAS*, the New Mexico State Legislature conducted a sweep of public school cash reserves; and

●*WHEREAS*, public school districts carefully build cash reserves, often with very specific long term goals and often with the thought cash reserves might be needed for emergencies; and

●*WHEREAS*, legislative cash sweeps of school districts impact Moody's Ratings negatively; and

●WHEREAS, public school districts need sufficient cash reserves to cover Federal program expenses until Federal reimbursement is received by districts;

●**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Farmington Municipals Schools Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to enact laws, rules and/or regulations 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 students.

Proposed Resolution #7

Submitted by: Rio Rancho Public Schools

Title: Maintenance of Adequate School District Cash Balances

●WHEREAS, by state law, school districts must maintain a minimum cash balance as an emergency reserve; and

●WHEREAS, the efficient operation of a school district requires that it have sufficient cash on hand for those expenses, such as those budgeted through federal funds, where districts are required to file requests for reimbursement (RFR's) after the district has incurred the expense; and,

●WHEREAS, insufficient cash on hand to front money and seek reimbursement jeopardizes a district's ability to lessen the burden on New Mexico taxpayers by utilizing federal and other funding sources; and

●WHEREAS, insufficient cash balances can cause credit rating agencies as Moody's to downgrade a district's credit rating, requiring the district to pay a higher interest rate for bonds and sapping the taxpayer funds that should be available for school construction and other purposes intended by the taxpayers; and,

●WHEREAS, school districts sometimes must "save up" cash to finance large and worthy projects supporting classroom instruction that cannot be funded within a single budget year; and,

●WHEREAS, aside from a minimal emergency reserve, current statute does not include any provisions for a minimum reserve or a maximum percentage of a school district's budget that can be held as a cash reserve or in escrow for major expenses; and

●WHEREAS, in tough economic times the legislature therefore can, and on occasion does, draw down school district cash balances to an unhealthy level in order to fund other state services, jeopardizing bond ratings and even potentially a district's solvency; and,

●WHEREAS, conversely, there is no guidance for districts on appropriate maximum cash balances, leaving districts open to allegations of hoarding cash as opposed to expending it in the classroom.

●**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE RIO RANCHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION** urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to establish statutory guidelines for appropriate minimum and maximum cash balances, including safeguards to prevent cash balances from being drawn below an established minimum; and

●**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** these guidelines provide for a sufficient emergency reserve, a sufficient operating reserve, a sufficient cash balance to assure bond rating companies of a district's solvency and preserve optimum bond ratings, and provisions for districts who need to save cash for

legitimate long-term needs to do so through a temporary waiver of cash balance maximums or through an escrow account approved by the NM Public Education Department.

Proposed Resolution #8

Submitted by: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: Increase funding through the State Equalization Guarantee to provide a Cost of Living Adjustment and 5% raise for all school employees

- *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 2018-19 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 and 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 to the state equalization guarantee and increase the unit value for the 2018-19 school year; and
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the New Mexico State Legislature sufficiently fund school district budgets so that districts can provide a Cost of Living Adjustment and 5% Raise for all School Employees; 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 #9 (2016 Duplicate)

Submitted by: Las Cruces Public Schools

Title: Requesting the New Mexico Legislature to Increase Salaries for Certified Teachers

- *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 children of school age in the state shall be established and maintained”; and
- *WHEREAS*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education recognizes the decreasing pool of individuals being attracted to and retained in the teaching profession; and
- *WHEREAS*, according to statistics from the National Education Association, despite an increased number of elementary teachers from 2006/07 to 2016/17, there was an 8.2% decrease in the number of secondary

teachers, while the overall number of K-12 classroom teachers nationwide in 2016/17 declined by 0.6 percent compared to a decade before; and

- *WHEREAS*, based on statistics issued from the New Mexico Public Education Department, LCPS teacher salaries in 2016/17 were an average of \$46,972, while the average teacher salary in New Mexico was \$47,163, ranking the state the 44th lowest in comparison to the rest of the country; and

- *WHEREAS*, when filling vacancies, LCPS continues to recruit nationally and offer salaries that are lower than most states for bilingual endorsed teachers and special education teachers; and

- *WHEREAS*, despite the lower salaries, in 2017 Las Cruces was ranked the 22nd Best City for K-12 Teachers in the U.S. according to the GoodCall website, and was ranked the top city in the Best Cities for Teachers in the Mountain States by the Value Penguin website; and

- *WHEREAS*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education recognizes that the future of our nation depends on the quality of our teaching workforce in shaping future generations; and

- *WHEREAS*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education asserts that if the State of New Mexico wants to attract and motivate the best and the brightest of our students to the teaching profession, we must raise the starting salaries of teachers to be competitive with other professions, and must be competitive with teacher salaries in other states; and

- *WHEREAS*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education further asserts that in order to retain a quality teaching workforce, districts must raise the salaries of Tier I, Tier II and Tier III teachers significantly, with current LCPS starting salaries beginning at \$34,000, \$42,000 and \$52,000, respectively.

- *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED* that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education formally requests that the 2018 Legislature provide the necessary funding to increase the current base salary levels of the Tier I, II and III teachers by \$10,000, respectively; and

- *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that appropriate interim legislative committees explore options to increase base teacher salaries in each tier in future years to ensure that the State of New Mexico places an appropriate emphasis on the professionalism of our public school teachers and report their findings to the 2019 Legislature through its appropriate committee structure; and

- *BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Governor Susana Martinez, the New Mexico School Boards Association, the Acting Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Finance Committee, the Legislative Education Study Committee, the Chair of the Senate Education Committee, and the Chair of the House Education Committee.

Proposed Resolution #10

Submitted by: Rio Rancho Public Schools

Title: Staff Compensation Increases

- *WHEREAS*, the state has not funded raises for public school employees since the 2014-15 school year; and

- *WHEREAS*, since 2010, the cost of living nationwide has increased by approximately 9%; and

- *WHEREAS*, although some teachers have received small increases in compensation due to adjustment of the minimum pay rates for level 1, 2, and 3 teachers, for most educational employees state-funded salary increases have not kept pace with the cost of living; and,
 - *WHEREAS*, over the past several years, due to increases in insurance premiums and retirement contributions, many educational employees have seen their take-home pay decrease; and,
 - *WHEREAS*, as a result, it is becoming increasingly difficult for schools and districts to hire and retain highly qualified teachers and classified staff; and
 - *WHEREAS*, experienced educational employees often leave for better-compensated jobs in neighboring states, making it more difficult for schools to drive continuous, sustained student improvement; and
 - *WHEREAS*, in the absence of the state providing funding for compensation increases, school districts' ability to provide raises is limited because they need every dollar they are appropriated just to keep the doors open.
- **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE RIO RANCHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION** urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to prioritize budgeting compensation increases for licensed and classified school staff.

Proposed Resolution #11

Submitted by: Farmington Municipal Schools

Title: Commensurate Salaries

- *WHEREAS*, since 2014, the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education has experienced a persistent shortage of high qualified teachers and principals; and
 - *WHEREAS*, the number of post-secondary students enrolling the higher educational teacher and educational leadership programs has declined; and
 - *WHEREAS*, the last raise for public school employees was a 3% raise in 2014-15; and
 - *WHEREAS*, salaries paid by New Mexico school districts are not competitive with surrounding states; and
 - *WHEREAS*, recruiting and retaining highly qualified teachers and educational leaders has become increasingly difficult; and
 - *WHEREAS*, to attract higher quality future teacher and school leaders to public school employment, New Mexico must honor staff as professionals by significantly raising salaries and benefits;
- **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Farmington Municipal Schools calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to implement an increase in teacher salaries and benefits to Level 1 \$50,000, Level 2 \$60,000 and Level 3 \$70,000 for the 2018-19 School Year; and
- **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to implement an increase in administrative principal Salaries and

Benefits for Elementary Principals \$75,000, Middle School Principals \$85,000 and High School Principals \$95,000 for the 2018-19 School Year; and

● **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to implement a commensurate increase in salaries and benefits for all public school's support staff.

● **FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Mexico State Legislature fund an annual increase in salary and benefits commensurate with the annual cost of living for the following five years.

Proposed Resolution #12 (Similar to 2016)

Submitted by: Las Cruces Public Schools

Title: Request for adequate funding to provide transportation to our students

● *WHEREAS*, transportation of students to schools is a necessity for public school systems throughout the State of New Mexico; and

● *WHEREAS*, the Las Cruces Public Schools contracts with STS-New Mexico in order to provide daily transportation to 7,500 students on 124 buses, traveling an estimated 1.5 million miles each school year; and

● *WHEREAS*, the district provides transportation for: to-and-from school; the 3- and 4-year old program; magnet and alternative programs; special needs children; summer and extended school year programs; activities including field trips and athletics; and other special circumstances to provide students opportunities for off-campus educational experiences; and

● *WHEREAS*, the Las Cruces Public Schools, like so many other school districts in New Mexico, must pick up students in the very early mornings and drop them off into the evenings, due to the vast distances of travel and limited number of buses to cover hundreds of miles; and

● *WHEREAS*, in communities such as Las Cruces, the average temperatures reach 106-degrees in the summer and range from 97- to 104-degrees at the beginning of a school year which, in turn, means that temperatures feel even higher inside school buses; and

● *WHEREAS*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education has discussed budget concerns for transportation funding which has decreased for Las Cruces Public Schools by \$3,230,678, or 44.8%, since 2013/14; and

● *WHEREAS*, the Las Cruces Public Schools has experienced an increase in cost to provide transportation to our student population; and

● *WHEREAS*, the LCPS Board of Education has committed to provide transportation for its students from shrinking operational dollars to supplement the available state resources, at an additional operational expenditure of \$1,849,926 in the 2016/17 school year.

● **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education formally requests that the 2017 Legislature provide the necessary funding to support the costs associated with transporting students; and

● ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, the LCPS Board of Education requests review of the feasibility of utilizing and purchasing school buses that operate by electricity or alternative fuels, and that all buses used to transport students for summer programs have air-conditioning; and

● ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable Governor Susana Martinez, The New Mexico School Boards Association, the Acting Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Finance Committee, the Legislative Education Study Committee, the Chair of the Senate Education Committee, and the Chair of the House Education Committee.

Proposed Resolution #13

Submitted by: Rio Rancho Public Schools

Title: Full Funding of Student Transportation Costs

● ***WHEREAS***, the State of New Mexico funds public school transportation through the transportation funding formula; and

● ***WHEREAS***, school transportation has never been adequately or equitably funded; and,

● ***WHEREAS***, as a cost-saving measure it has been proposed to increase the number of years of service and or mileage school buses can be operated before being replaced, which increases districts' maintenance costs and poses a potential compromise to student safety; and,

● ***WHEREAS***, due to the current economic situation, the state has made significant further cuts to school transportation budgets; and,

● ***WHEREAS***, even before the current economic situation, many school districts have had to subsidize student bus service from their operational budgets while other districts receive surplus transportation funds; and,

● ***WHEREAS***, these operational subsidies take money directly out of funding that would otherwise be used for classroom instruction.

● **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE RIO RANCHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION** urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to adequately and equitably fund student transportation, including to-and-from transportation, fuel costs, and replacement buses; and

● **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature direct that a full review of the current transportation funding formula be conducted with the objective of enacting changes that assure public school transportation is fully and equitably funded for all districts.

Proposed Resolution #14

Submitted by: Rio Rancho Public Schools

Title: Full Funding of Public Schools Instructional Materials

● ***WHEREAS***, The State of New Mexico mandates a six-year cycle for adoption of textbooks and instructional materials; and,

- *WHEREAS*, in those instances where districts adopt a textbook, state law requires that each child have a textbook he or she can take home; and,
- *WHEREAS*, in addition to the annual adoptions of new texts, school districts must replace lost/damaged books, provide additional materials to cover increased enrollment, and provide consumable instructional materials such as worksheets and softbound texts; and
- *WHEREAS*, since the 2007-08 school year, funding for instructional materials has been drastically slashed; and,
- *WHEREAS*, funding is therefore not adequate to complete entire subject area adoptions as well as provide replacement texts and materials, requiring districts to make hard choices about what grade levels and subject areas to adopt; and,
- *WHEREAS*, the current funding situation has put many districts in the position of having to violate the law since they cannot afford to stay up with the adoption cycle or provide every child with a textbook.
- **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE RIO RANCHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION** urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to adequately fund textbooks and instructional materials so that districts can annually complete full adoptions and replace consumables and damaged books; and
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the Governor and the Legislature consider support districts and charter schools in moving to digital textbooks and materials, with funding support to provide adequate digital devices along with provisions for students who may not have access to adequate bandwidth and technology at home.

Proposed Resolution #15

Submitted by: Rio Rancho Public Schools

Title: High School and Post-Secondary Dual Credit

- *WHEREAS*, Mission Graduate and other initiatives have highlighted the importance of increasing the number of New Mexicans completing post-secondary degrees and certifications to boost economic development by assuring businesses can hire well-educated, highly-qualified graduates; and
- *WHEREAS*, earning a post-secondary degree or career-technical certification increases a student's earning potential, helping to assure their economic well-being; and
- *WHEREAS*, dual credit programs provide high school students with the opportunity to earn college credit while in high school; and
- *WHEREAS*, dual credit programs encourage college completion by providing students with the opportunity to complete some core courses in advance, thus reducing the number of credits, and amount of time, and tuition costs needed to finish work towards a degree; and,
- *WHEREAS*, dual credit programs help to foster course alignment and cooperation between secondary schools and post-secondary institutions; and

● *WHEREAS*, continued funding cuts to both public education and higher education are eroding the ability for schools and colleges to provide dual credit programs.

● **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE RIO RANCHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION** supports dual credit programs for students and asks the Legislature and Governor to provide adequate funding to public schools and colleges to support comprehensive dual credit programs; and.

● **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT** the state adequately fund secondary schools for the provision of appropriate college-level textbooks and materials to students enrolled in dual-credit programs leading to a certificate or degree.

Proposed Resolution #16 (Similar to 2016)

Submitted by: Las Cruces Public Schools

Title: Bullying Prevention and Adoption of Restorative Justice Practices in Public Schools

● *WHEREAS*, bullying in schools is a pervasive problem that can have negative consequences for the school climate and for the right of students to learn in a safe environment without fear; and

● *WHEREAS*, bullying is comprised of direct behaviors such as teasing, taunting, threatening, hitting, and stealing that are imitated by one or more students against a target, as well as indirect behaviors such as spreading rumors and action in other ways to cause a student to be socially isolated through intentional exclusion, with all such behaviors, direct or indirect, amounting to intimidation occurring repeatedly over time, whether in person or online, to create an ongoing pattern of harassment and abuse; and

● *WHEREAS*, bullying other children and being the target of bullies are considered risk factors for youth violence by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and bullies whose behavior goes unchallenged risk ending up as violent adults, engaging in domestic violence and child abuse; and the CDC also reports that youth who report both bullying others and being bullied (bully-victims) have the highest risk for suicide-related behavior of any groups that report involvement in bullying; and

● *WHEREAS*, bullying for too long has gone unchallenged by parents, who are often unaware of the bullying problem, neglecting to talk about it with their children; with students feeling that adult intervention is infrequent and ineffective and will only bring more harassment; and

● *WHEREAS*, those who stand by passively watching or actively encouraging bullying are also affected by these hostile acts; they encourage bullying by creating an audience, they may become desensitized to cruelty, they may learn to imitate bullying behavior and become themselves, and/or they may learn to imitate bullying behavior and become bullies themselves and/or they may be fearful for their own safety, adding to their own security; and

● *WHEREAS*, the reaction many times by school staff when resolving incidents of bullying is to instill traditional forms of discipline that limit the amount of students' instructional time, as opposed to utilizing practices of restorative justice, an approach to discipline that focuses on processes that engage stakeholders and shifts the focus of discipline to be less about punishment and more about learning, fostering inclusiveness and bringing communities together.

● **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education supports policies and programs that address the prevention, intervention, and elimination of bullying; and

● ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests that the 2018 Legislature provide funding for the development of age-appropriate curriculum with accompanying professional development for teachers, parents, and students on the subject of bullying; and

● ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that the 2018 Legislature also provide funding for professional development for teachers, counselors, social workers and principals on the subject of restorative justice as an alternative to the typical punish/suspend method of discipline that has been historically used; and

● ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the New Mexico School Boards Association and the Director of the Legislative Education Study Committee, the Chair of the Senate Education Committee, and the Chair of the House Education Committee.

Proposed Resolution #17

Submitted by: Farmington Municipal Schools

Title: National Board Certification

● ***WHEREAS***, the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education believes in professional development and continuous improvement; and

● ***WHEREAS***, National Boards has always been centered in statistically valid research; and

● ***WHEREAS***, every student deserves to be taught by an accomplished teacher and

● ***WHEREAS***, National Board Certification was designed to develop, retain and recognize accomplished teachers; and

● ***WHEREAS***, the professional development provided generates ongoing improvement in schools nationwide; and

● ***WHEREAS***, National Board Certification is the most respected professional certification available in K-12 education,

● ***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*** that Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education calls upon the State Legislature to develop and deploy a strategy to annually fund \$250,000 beginning Fiscal Year 2019 as a reimbursement account for teachers who obtain National Board Certification.

Proposed Resolution #18

Submitted by: Farmington Municipal Schools

Title: Regional Educational Cooperative

● ***WHEREAS***, since 1993, public schools in the Four Corners region of New Mexico have not had the benefit and support of a Regional Educational Cooperative; and

● ***WHEREAS***, the absence of a Regional Education Cooperative limits collaboration and regional partnerships amongst Region 1 schools in developing area wide educational programs;

● **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to providing start-up funding in the amount of \$250,000 for the next three years to provide sufficient financial support to open a Region 1 Educational Cooperative.

● **FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED** that after three fiscal years, state funding for Regional Educational Cooperative 1 shall be consistent with the \$104,000 that other Regional Educational Cooperatives.

Proposed Resolution #19 (2016 Duplicate)

Submitted by: Las Cruces Public Schools

Title: Encouraging innovation and expanding access to early literacy experiences for 3- and 4- year old students modeled after the successful K-3+ program

● *WHEREAS*, learning to read is the fundamental right of all children and the cornerstone of their future academic success; and

● *WHEREAS*, a 2016 study by the National Institute of Early Education Research determined that universal high-quality preschool could reduce the achievement gap at kindergarten entry for students from low-income families; and

● *WHEREAS*, a growing body of research shows that poverty and hunger can have a negative impact on children’s cognitive development; and

● *WHEREAS*, Doña Ana County has high numbers of families and students living in poverty, with 75% of the students in the Las Cruces Public Schools eligible for free-or-reduced price meals based on their family income status; and

● *WHEREAS*, research confirms that children from low-income families are oftentimes disadvantaged by not having access to early reading opportunities and this can result in children entering kindergarten 12- to 14-months below national norms in language and pre-reading skills; and

● *WHEREAS*, the State of New Mexico has provided funding in the summer of 2017 for 1,793 children enrolled in the K-3+ reading intervention program utilizing appropriate research-based reading strategies that extends the school year for eligible students; and

● *WHEREAS*, public schools are continually encouraged to implement creative and innovative programs targeting students not reading at grade level and demonstrate improved reading outcomes for students; and

● *WHEREAS*, the Las Cruces Public Schools has been a leader in the State of New Mexico for providing quality K-3+ programming to eligible students.

● ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED***, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests that the New Mexico Legislature, during the 2018 Legislative session, fund a pilot program in the Las Cruces Public Schools to design and implement a program similar in design to the K-3+ program that targets 3- and 4-year-old children; and

● ***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that the state legislature require the Las Cruces Public Schools to provide enrollment and accountability data on the effectiveness of the pilot program model as a condition for future year funding; and

● **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this Resolution be submitted to the New Mexico School Boards Association and the Director of the Legislative Education Study Committee.

Proposed Resolution #20 (Similar to 2016)

Submitted by: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: Increase funding for student and staff well-being

- *WHEREAS*, physical and emotional wellness is important to student's ability to focus on learning; and
- *WHEREAS*, staff well-being is essential in developing and retaining quality teachers, leaders, and staff; 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 recognize the importance of student and staff well-being by establishing a Well-Being Education Task Force; and
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Public Education Department modify rules and regulations to facilitate a 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 #21

Submitted by: Farmington Municipal Schools

Title: Tax Study Commission

- *WHEREAS*, since School Year 2016-17, Farmington Municipal Schools experienced budget shortfalls because of mid-year reduction in funding from the New Mexico State Legislature; and
- *WHEREAS*, recent State Revenues swings fluctuated wildly, resulting in cash sweeps of school district funds to balance the state budget; and
- *WHEREAS*, tax reform will create a climate for new business, foster private investment, and create an economic stimulus for the State of New Mexico; and
- *WHEREAS*, current New Mexico State Revenues are too dependent on Gross Receipts taxes; and
- *WHEREAS*, the University of New Mexico Bureau of Business and Economic Research could provide relevant tax information; and
- *WHEREAS*, citizens, residents, and business who are impacted by current tax law will be represented on the Statewide Blue Ribbon Tax Study Commission;

● **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education supports the New Mexico State Legislature creation of a Statewide Blue Ribbon Tax Study Commission in the Legislative Session 2018 whose purpose shall be to review current tax law and make recommendations for tax reform legislation that leads to predictability/stability in state revenues through boom and bust economic cycles.

● **FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Statewide Blue Ribbon Tax Study Commission present recommendations for Legislative action in the Legislative Session 2021.

IV. OTHER RESOLUTIONS (6)

Proposed Resolution #22

Submitted by: Deming Schools

Title: SCHOOL GRADING SYSTEM

● *WHEREAS*, the district schools in New Mexico, like Deming Schools, have experienced two different school grading systems over the past approximately 12 years.

● *WHEREAS*, these school grading systems have clearly shown to be inadequate in clearly determining a fair system for evaluating the progress of New Mexico Schools.

● *WHEREAS*: the current system is resulting in a negative image of the progress being made by New Mexico schools, it is resulting in general negative factors for the state in general such as businesses and individuals not moving to the state due to low school scores. Thereby causing a negative effect on the state.

● *WHEREAS*, schools in New Mexico cannot clearly show the progress being made by students and faculty because of the inadequate standards in the current school grade system.

● **NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved that Deming Schools supports a revision of the grading system through resolution by the New Mexico School Boards Association for the State Legislature to adopt a committee of teachers, parents, students, administration, and Public Education employees to spend a year devising a more adequate and universally consistent method of determining school evaluation grades

Proposed Resolution #23

Submitted by: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: Reduce the amount of time spent on required state tests, minimize disruption of the learning process and maximize student learning time

● *WHEREAS*, it is essential to maximize the amount of student-teacher time focused on learning; and

● *WHEREAS*, state-mandated tests cause a serious disruption in the learning process; and

● *WHEREAS*, state testing time can be reduced while still providing useful accountability information.

● **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that the Public Education Department reduce by 50% the amount of time spent on state-mandated tests; and

● **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Public Education Department modify rules and regulations to reduce disruption of the learning process cause by required state testing; and

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

Proposed Resolution #24

Submitted by: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: Allow school districts to use short-cycle assessments to demonstrate student achievement growth for school report cards, the district report card, and teacher evaluations

● *WHEREAS*, valid short-cycle assessments provide highly useful information for teachers and parents; and

● *WHEREAS*, the PARCC test does 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 assessment; and

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

Proposed Resolution #25

Submitted by: Albuquerque Public Schools

Title: Providing that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education enter its appearance and indicate its support of a motion in support of current Bilingual Education Models and Programs implemented in New Mexico School Districts

● *WHEREAS*, Albuquerque Public Schools supports five bilingual education models: dual language, enrichment, heritage language, maintenance and transitional; and

● *WHEREAS*, the five bilingual education models provide the ability for a local school to determine the best educational program for each individual student who may be an English Language Learner and/or a student exploring language acquisition in a language other than English; and

● *WHEREAS*, instituting a draconian approach to terminate bilingual program funding based on standardized assessment scores may lead to missed opportunities for the Public Education Department and local school districts to address strengths and weaknesses of bilingual programs that are necessary to serve local student needs; and

- *WHEREAS*, the integration of Indigenous languages in school bilingual programs is critical to the overall success of Native American students; and
- *WHEREAS*, meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribes, community, and other education stakeholders is the foundation for local school districts and the Public Education Department to enact bilingual education programs that preserve the culture of our local communities and cultivates the skills students need;
- **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Albuquerque Public Schools respectfully request that any future amendments to regulations related to bilingual education programs only be adopted after robust collaboration with and agreement from tribes, school districts and other education stakeholders; and
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the legislature and the executive recognize the importance of bilingual education programs in our local schools; and
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the New Mexico School Boards Association.

Proposed Resolution #26

Submitted by: Bernalillo Public Schools

Title: Commending the State Legislature for their Support of Public Education

- *WHEREAS*, Bernalillo Public Schools are giving KUDOS to all Senators and Representatives for supporting an increase in state education funding for all students across the State of New Mexico; and
- *WHEREAS*, Senators and Representatives recognize that even during hard times they have made smart choices for students across the State of New Mexico; and
- *WHEREAS*, because of the support of Senators and Representatives our School Districts will continue to provide the necessary programs and support that will enable students to meet academic standards.
- **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the BERNALILLO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT commends all State Senators and State Representatives for their ongoing support of increased state funding for education in general and support for the increase in state funding for education in the state budget for 2017-2018 in particular; and
- **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be posted on the district's website and submitted to all local newspapers, to all of the elected senators and representatives of the Bernalillo Public Schools District in the General Assembly, and to the Governor of the State of New Mexico