IV. Accountability & Governance

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

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

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

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

Academic Achievement

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

Accountability

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

Campaign Finance Reporting

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

Chartering Authority Clarification

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

Charter School Advocacy

NMSBA opposes actions by NMPED officials to promote, create and prioritize school boards of education as the number one responsibility of local school boards.

NMSBA believes the accountability and quality learning as the number one priority of local school boards.

Capital Outlay

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

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

Health Insurance Continuation

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

Improved Collaboration

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

Nepotism Waivers

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

Per Diem Payments

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

State Governance System

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

School Board/Bond Elections

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

School Board Training

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

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

II. Guiding Principles

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

Unfunded Mandates

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

Local Control

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

Adequate Funding

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

Increase Funding Above the Line

NMSBA requests the State Legislature and Governor prioritize funding to the SEG “above the line” and increase the unit value. It is our belief that “below the line” funding disqualifies funding to local districts.

Land Grant Permanent Fund

NMSBA supports a constitutional amendment to permanently restore the support for public education from the Land Grant Permanent Fund at 5.8%.

Hold Harmless & Cash Balances

NMSBA 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 students.

SEG Sufficiency Funding

NMSBA supports increased funding for public education as called for in the State Constitution and in the Martinez/ Yazzie Court Ruling.

Small School Districts

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

Instructional Materials

NMSBA supports sufficient funding levels for instructional materials, including digital textbooks and materials and improved distribution oversight.

LGBTQ Success & Safety

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

Medicaid in the Schools

NMSBA supports the Medicaid in the Schools Program which reimburses districts for services to eligible students.

School Grades

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

School Grades

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

New & Virtual Charters

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

School Safety & Security

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

School Safety Council

NMSBA supports establishment a School Safety Council to oversee the implementation of student centered extended learning programs.

High School ADOC Authority

NMSBA opposes efforts to move local school board authority to make educational policy decisions regarding alternative demonstration of competencies for graduating seniors.

High School Diploma Requirements

NMSBA supports funding for the High School Reform Initiative.

Moratorium-New & Virtual Charters

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

National Board Certification

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

Public Education Strategic Plan

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

Public Records Act Exemption

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

Public School Code Amendments

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

Teacher/Principal Salaries

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

Teacher Internship Program

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

Teachers/Police Officers

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

Technology Plan/Training

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

Testing Reduction/Study

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

Three-Tiered System—Professionals

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

Transportation

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