



Keeping Kids First!

The New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders (NMCEL)

- Is relied upon as the experts in the strategic guidance of educational policy and practice in New Mexico.
- Provides the effective foundation for proactive advocacy for public education in New Mexico.



**NMCEL
2017-
2018
Strategic
Plan**

- **Part I**
Increase our collaborations and create a defined communication plan to better advocate for our efforts.
- **Part II**
Push the agenda of a quality, better defined, and all-out effort to increase local control as a state policy focus.
- **Part III**
Active set of actions to press for sufficiency of funding for New Mexico Public Schools and assure that no more raids on any part of the resources for public schools will be considered acceptable politically or strategically.

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NMCEL Affiliates
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- New Mexico School Superintendents Association (NMSSA)
- Albuquerque Public Schools Principals Association (APSPA)
- Alliance for the Advancement of Teaching & Learning (NMSU)
- Cooperative Educational Services (CES)
- Eastern New Mexico Educational Resource Center (ENMERC)
- New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA)
- New Mexico Association for Bilingual Educators (NMABE)
- New Mexico Association of Educational Retirees (NMAER)
- New Mexico Association of Elementary School Principals (NMAESP)
- New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals (NMASSP)
- New Mexico Association of School Business Officials (NMASBO)
- New Mexico School Personnel Association (NMSPA)
- New Mexico Society for Technology in Education (NMSTE)
- Regional Educational Cooperatives Association (RECA)
- Southeastern New Mexico Educational Resource Center (SNMERC)
- New Mexico Council of Administrators of Special Education

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Proposed Legislation for 2018-19

Local Control:

- All legislation passed by the New Mexico State Legislature must support the return of local control to districts and local boards of education. The best point of decision making and accountability to our school communities rests closest to our students. Therefore, local superintendents and local boards must be the first line of decision making about education.
- New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) directly assigns the superintendent of schools as the chief executive officer of the district and the State of New Mexico must allow the superintendent to make the decisions that are most appropriate to the district. Return of superintendent prerogatives in decision making for local districts must be honored.
- Below the line funding must be reduced and the current funding of at least \$50 million should be placed above the line for local districts to utilize for specialized programs that have been proven as beneficial for at least three years (such as Pre-K, K-3+, etc.). Every district must have access to those funds on a scaled basis.

Sufficiency of Funding:

- No future legislation that reduces funding for New Mexico Public Schools, raids on cash balances, or unfunded mandates will be acceptable.
- “Open the doors costs” must be calculated and added to the FY 18 funding levels in the SEG. These include the tier migration costs that districts will realize as a part of the three-tiered licensure system. These increases are “cost to do business as required by Law” and are not considered an increase above the base for public schools. Other open the doors costs must include the increases insurance for both liability and health insurance. No further reduction of benefits will be supported in legislation. Finally, energy costs, utilities, and other fixed costs increases due to inflation must be recognized and funded as a part of the initial base funding to maintain the integrity of district budgets.
- The State of New Mexico must invest in solutions to improving the recruitment and retention of teachers and administrators. The crisis of qualified candidates must be recognized and provided for in all legislation forthcoming.
- Legislation to increase the teacher day to 8 hours with the student day remaining at 6.5 hours with commensurate pay increases should be passed to allow for more teacher collaboration and quality management without inhibiting the quality instruction time for students.
- The survivability of local districts is paramount, to assure that rural districts can thrive, the State must invest more fully in Regional Educational Cooperatives as important service points for rural collaboration.