



## New Mexico School Boards Association

300 Galisteo Street, Suite 204  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501  
Phone: (505) 983-5041 □ Fax: (505) 983-2450  
website: [www.nmsba.org](http://www.nmsba.org)

### NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Joe Guillen (505) 470-3967

### Statement from NMSBA President Olivia Calabaza on Behalf of NMSBA Executive Board and Board of Directors



In Mid-March, as we began to experience the effects of the national pandemic, NMSBA called on our 450 elected school board leaders across New Mexico to exercise the critical role we play as the voice of our community and work closely with our superintendents to develop strategies to meet the challenge of keeping our students and staff safe while providing extended learning opportunities remotely.

Although we knew it was not going to be easy, and we knew it was a marathon not a sprint, we are very proud to report our school districts rose to the occasion and together with their district teams, designed and implemented positive learning programs and provided meals to students through the close of the school year.

More recently NMSBA worked closely with the New Mexico Public Education Department by serving on Secretary of Education Ryan Stewart's Reentry Task Force along with other key stakeholders representing many schools and organizations. The collaborative process utilized to gain input was extremely effective and resulted in a set of key recommendations that are the framework for the NMPED School Reentry Guide which was issued recently and serves as the guiding document for reopening our schools.

As we move toward the goal of welcoming our students and staff back to our campuses utilizing the hybrid, remote or full reentry models, NMSBA and our 450 members continue our commitment to work closely with our superintendents to insure we keep our students and staff healthy and safe; provide the highest level of academic success; and continue to serve as the voice of our community.

**Olivia Calabaza**  
NMSBA President

**Olivia Calabaza**  
*President*

**Marvyn Jaramillo**  
*President-Elect*

**Dymorie Maker**  
*Vice-President*

**Christine Ludi**  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

**Pauline Jaramillo**  
*Past-President*