



# NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

"Serving New Mexico's School Boards for over 58 Years"

## 2016 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

### 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 leg-

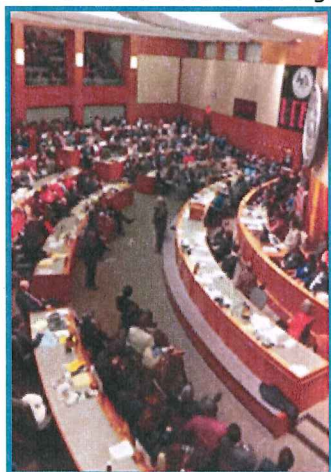
islative process to achieve needed school and program reforms. Each of these efforts is focused on the belief that every student is entitled to a free and quality public education.

Every year NMSBA issues a call for resolutions that enables local school boards to express their opinions on educational issues requiring attention by the State Legislature. After a comprehensive analysis of the resolutions by the NMSBA Resolutions and Legislative Committee, they are presented to the full membership at the Annual Delegate Assembly for discussion, debate and adoption. Our 2016 Legislative Program represents the collective voice of New Mexico's 89

school boards comprised of over 450 elected school board members.

The 2016 Legislative Session will be a challenging 30 day session with many important financial and policy issues to address. We trust our Legislative Program effectively highlights our priorities to share with New Mexico's Legislative, Executive and State Education Leaders.

NMSBA utilizes three guiding principles to develop our Legislative Program. The principles are also utilized to evaluate legislation introduced during the session that was not anticipated and did not go through our legislative review process. The guiding principles follow.



### 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 also continue to advocate for resources to carryout 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 will receive a quality education based on individualized student needs. Funds should be 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.

#### New Mexico School Boards Association

300 Galisteo, Suite 204  
Santa Fe, NM 87501  
(505) 983-5041 phone  
(505) 983-2450 fax  
[www.nmsba.org](http://www.nmsba.org)

#### Association Officers

Ron Singleton (Carlsbad)  
President  
Linda Trujillo (Santa Fe)  
President-Elect  
Ramon Montaño (Rio Rancho)  
Vice-President  
Pauline Jaramillo (Socorro)  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Audrey Jaramillo Past President  
(Moriarty/Edgewood)

#### Association Staff

Joe Guillen  
Executive Director  
[jguillen@nmsba.org](mailto:jguillen@nmsba.org)  
Carolyn Mole  
Finance Director  
Wendy Sawyer  
Programs Director  
Lilliamae G. Ortiz  
Legislative Liaison

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***I am New Mexico  
Public Schools!***



### III. Appropriations & Operations

#### New Mexico Constitution ★

The New Mexico Constitution mandates the establishment and maintenance of a "uniform system of free public schools sufficient for the education of and open to all children of school age in the state". It is incumbent upon the Legislature to make every effort to meet this mandate

#### Increase Funding Above the Line ★

NMSBA requests the State Legislature and Governor sufficiently fund the "above the line" public school funding formula enabling districts to meet the needs of their local communities and

students. Specifically NMSBA requests the allocation of no less than 50% of new revenues to the "above the line" budget. In addition NMSBA's long term goal is increase education funding in 1% increments until it is 51% of the overall state budget. It is also our belief that "below the line" funding disequalizes funding to local districts.

#### At-Risk Funding

NMSBA supports increased funding in the public school funding formula for the at-risk adjustment with hold harmless provisions ensuring additional funding for all districts.

#### Land Grant Permanent Fund ★

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

#### Small School Districts

NMSBA supports additional adjustments to the public school funding formula and small district factors which will enable small districts to operate at a base level without reliance on supplemental emergency funds. In addition NMSBA opposes mandatory consolidation of small districts as a means of reducing public school expenditures.



#### Administrators & Support Staff

NMSBA supports funding to cover the salary requirements of necessary administrative and support staff.

#### After/Summer School & Tutoring

NMSBA supports adequate funding for after school, summer school and tutoring academic programs.

#### Athletics Equity Act

NMSBA supports the streamlining of the reporting requirements associated with the State Athletics Equity Act.

#### Cash Balances

NMSBA supports legislation and incentives that insure the right of districts to maintain, carryover and utilize cash balances and reserves without penalty.

#### Charter School Financial Statements

NMSBA supports legislation to separate local charter financial statements from the district and exempt them from penalties caused by the charter.

#### Common Core Standards

NMSBA supports adequate funding for implementation of Common Core standards, assessments and costs associated with staff development, instructional materials, software and equipment.

#### Compulsory Attendance/Truancy

NMSBA supports funding for state agencies responsible for the enforcement of Compulsory Attendance Laws.

#### Dual Credit & Community Colleges

NMSBA supports increased funding for the purchase of textbooks associated with dual credit coursework and operational funding for Community Colleges.

#### Early Childhood/ Pre-School Programs

NMSBA supports increased funding for early childhood, Pre-Kindergarten and K-3 Plus initiatives including operational, facility and transportation costs.

#### Educational Retirement

NMSBA supports ERB solvency plans developed by stakeholder groups contingent on enactment of hold harmless provisions for school employees.

#### Employee Group Insurance Rates

NMSBA supports additional funding to increase the employee group insurance contribution rate for public school employees to a level comparable to state employees.

#### GRADS Program

NMSBA supports increased funding for GRADS encourage students to utilize daycare provided by the district.

#### High School ADOC Authority ★

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



#### High School Diploma Requirements

NMSBA calls for adequate funding to implement the provisions of the High School Reform Initiative.

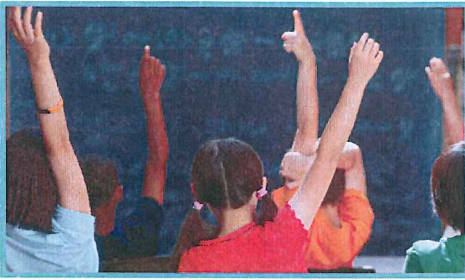
#### Instructional Materials

NMSBA supports funding increases for the purchase and replacement of textbooks and instructional materials, including digital textbooks and materials.

#### Medicaid in the Schools

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





### **Moratorium-New/Virtual Charters**

NMSBA supports a moratorium on the creation of new charter and virtual charter schools until existing programs are funded adequately and statutes are clarified to address funding inequities, capital needs, and potential abuses by for-profit companies.

### **Music, Art & Physical Education**

NMSBA supports funding for music, arts, physical education and other programs that contribute to the development of the whole child.

### **PAARC Moratorium/Paper Tests**

NMSBA supports a two year delay in fully implementing PAARC testing and calls on PED to allow districts the option to utilize paper tests.

### **Professional Development**

NMSBA supports additional funding to enable districts to provide extra contract days for professional development for teachers and administrators.

### **Reading At Grade Level**

NMSBA supports above the line funding for intervention programs to assist students not reading at grade level.

### **Reform Observation Period**

NMSBA supports a two year observation period for new education policy initiatives proposed by the Public Education Department.

### **Retiree Health Care**

NMSBA supports efforts by the Legislature to provide long term solvency for the Retiree Health Care Program.

### **School Based Health Services**

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

### **School Calendars Flexibility**

NMSBA supports continued district flexibility in adopting school calendars.

### **School Grades**

NMSBA supports revisions to the A-F School Grading Program that ensure grades are valid, defensible, replicable and can be used as a tool to help improve district academic programs.

### **School Grades Council**

NMSBA supports creation of a School Grades Council with school district representation to oversee the implementation and administration of the A-F School Grading System.

### **School Police Departments**

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

### **School Security/Violence Prevention**

NMSBA supports funding for school security needs and research based violence prevention programs.

### **Special Education Programs**

NMSBA encourages the Legislature to fully fund the costs of educating children with special needs including accessibility and transportation.

### **State Mandated Testing Costs ★**

NMSBA believes that costs for state mandated testing should come from state funds other than the SEG.

### **Standardized Testing Reduction ★**

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

### **Students with Dyslexia**

NMSBA encourages state officials to recognize Dyslexia as a disability, provide protections guaranteed under IDEA and provide funding for assessments, materials, staff and training.

### **Substance Abuse**

NMSBA supports creation of an inter-agency task force to examine the causes and suggest possible measures to address teenage substance abuse.

### **Teacher Retention/Recruitment ★**

NMSBA supports legislation allowing retiring teachers to return to work without penalty and incentives to avoid shortages in hard-to-recruit areas.

### **Teacher/Principal Evaluation System ★**

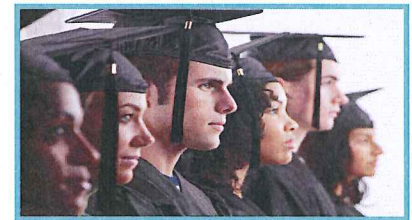
NMSBA supports a comprehensive review and fix of all problems associated with the new teacher and principal evaluation system along with a change ensuring test scores count for no more than 25% of the evaluation score.

### **Teacher Salaries ★**

NMSBA supports funding to increase minimum salaries for three-tiered licensure system for teachers to \$40, \$50 and \$60 thousand respectively.

### **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 increased funding for school transportation to levels that prevent decreases to traditional schools as a result of increased funding for charters schools.

### **Unnecessary Laws/Regulations/Reports**

NMSBA supports the removal of all unfunded, unnecessary, duplicative laws, regulations and reporting requirements.

### **Vouchers & Tax Credits**

NMSBA opposes vouchers, tuition tax credits, tuition tax subsidies, tuition tax deductions, or any program which diverts monies from public schools.

### **Waivers for Innovative Programs**

NMSBA supports legislation that would allow districts to request PED waivers to establish and evaluate new and innovative pilot programs.



### Capital Outlay

NMSBA supports continued funding through the Public School Capital Outlay Fund to address the construction needs of school districts.

NMSBA supports legislation exempting public schools from impact fees imposed by governmental entities.

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 school districts from paying gross receipts tax on construction projects, thus maximizing school construction 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 funding for the School Systems Improvement Program administered via the New Mexico Public School Capital Outlay Council.



## 2016 NMSBA Resolutions & Legislative Committee

### Chairman

Ron Singleton - Carlsbad

### Members

Peggy Muller-Aragon-Albuquerque

Barbara Petersen - Albuquerque

Liza Gomez - Bloomfield

Doris Bruton-Carleton - Carlsbad

Christina Aspass - Central

Arlan Ponder - Cloudcroft

Lance Wright - Cloudcroft

Frank Cordova - Cobre

Ralph "Toy" Sepulveda - Cobre

Bayne Anderson - Deming

Sherry Galloway - Farmington

Cody West - Fort Sumner

Emilia Vigil - Jemez Mountain

Chuck Davis - Las Cruces

Gloria Lovato-Pacheco - Las Vegas

Tom Humble - Logan

Dymorie Maker - Lovington

Mary Mascarenas - Penasco

Sharon Dogruel - Pojoaque

Inez Rodriguez - Portales

Kim Gonzales - Socorro

Tony Rubin - Wagon Mound

David Romero - West Las Vegas



## IV. Accountability & Governance

### 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 community at large.

### Campaign Finance Reporting

NMSBA opposes legislation that requires all school board candidates to file campaign finance reports.

### Chartering Authority Clarification

NMSBA supports the 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 create and prioritize charter schools at the expense of traditional public schools.

### Charter School Budget Approval

NMSBA supports legislation which would require school board approval of locally chartered school budgets prior to submission to NMPED as well as authority to impose corrective action on locally chartered charter schools.

### Health Insurance Continuation

NMSBA supports the option of allowing school board members to continue NMP-SIA 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.

### Local Governance

NMSBA opposes legislation that diminishes local school board governance.

### Per Diem Payments

NMSBA opposes the abolishment 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 Elections

NMSBA opposes moving school board elections held in February of odd numbered years to the timeframe of partisan primary and/or general elections.

### School Board Training

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