



NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

"Serving New Mexico's School Boards for 60 Years"

2018 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

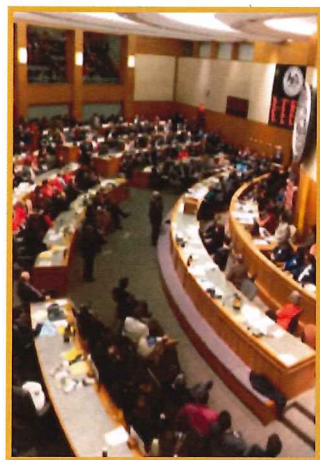
legislative process to achieve needed school and program reforms. Each of these efforts is focused on the belief that every student is entitled to a free and quality public education.

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 2018 Legislative Program represents the collective voice of New Mexico's 89

school boards comprised of over 450 elected school board members.

The 2018 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 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.

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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 constitutional mandate.

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 enabling districts to provide a cost of living adjustment and a phased salary increase for all employees to off-

set increased insurance and retirement contributions. It is our belief that "below the line" funding disequalizes 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.

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.

Small School Districts

NMSBA supports 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. NMSBA also opposes mandatory consolidation of small districts as a means of reducing the budget.



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 academic after school, summer school and tutoring programs.

Athletics Equity Act

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

Bullying Prevention

NMSBA supports funding to support the costs associated with development of bullying prevention programs curriculum and professional development.

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.

Compulsory Attendance/Truancy

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

Dual Credit Program

NMSBA supports increased funding for dual credit programs and opposes action to restrict or limit student enrollment.

Early Childhood/ Pre-School Programs

NMSBA supports funding for early childhood, 3-4 year Pilot, 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.

ESSA Implementation

NMSBA supports meaningful stakeholder consultation by NMPED and consideration of school board priorities and recommendations in developing New Mexico's ESSA Implementation Plan.

GRADS Program

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

High School ADOC Authority

NMSBA opposes efforts to remove 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 and PED action to delay full use of PARCC test scores required for graduation until 2020.

Instructional Materials

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

National Board Certification ★

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



Moratorium-New/Virtual Charters

NMSBA supports a moratorium on new and virtual charters until existing programs are funded adequately and statutes are clarified to address funding inequities/abuses by profit companies.

Music, Art & Physical Education

NMSBA supports funding for music, arts, physical education and other programs that contribute to 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.

Paperwork Reduction ★

NMSBA supports creation of a task force to removal of all unfunded, unnecessary, duplicative laws, regulations and reporting requirements.

Public Education Strategic Plan

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

Public School Code Amendments ★

NMSBA believes all PED proposals to amend the Public School Code be adopted only after rigorous collaboration with all stakeholders and that the chain of command be utilized when seeking input from district staff and students.

Reading At Grade Level

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

REC Statewide Coverage ★

NMSBA supports funding to ensure REC services are available on a statewide basis.

Retiree Health Care

NMSBA supports efforts to provide long term solvency for Retiree Health Care.

School Based Health Services

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

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.

Short Cycle Assessments ★

NMSBA supports development of a method for counting short cycle assessment data in school report cards and teacher evaluations.

Special Education Programs

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

Substance Abuse

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

Tax Study ★

NMSBA supports expansion of the 2017 Tax Study to include strategies to increase funding for public education in New Mexico.

Teacher Retention/Recruitment

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

Teacher/Principal Evaluation

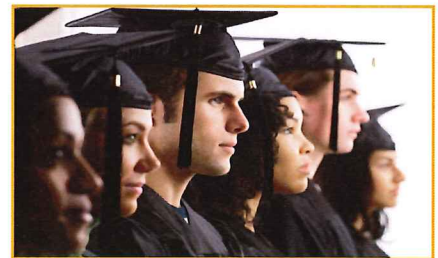
NMSBA supports fixing all problems associated with the current teacher/principal evaluation system including: 1) one year suspension on the use of student assessment data; 2) a revision ensuring assessment data counts for no more than 25% of the evaluation; and 3) removal of attendance from the evaluation criteria.

Teacher/Principal Salaries ★

NMSBA supports funding to increase minimum salaries for three-tiered licensure system for teachers to \$50, \$60 and \$70 thousand respectively and \$75, \$85 and \$95 thousand for Elementary, Mid School and High School Principals.

Testing Reduction/Study

NMSBA opposes testing requirements beyond current law which take time away from student instruction and supports a study to determine the effects of high stakes testing.



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 submitted by districts to transport students' in safe and healthy ways.

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 to allow districts to request PED waivers to establish and evaluate new and innovative 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.



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 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 charter schools at the expense of traditional public schools.

Charter School Budget Approval

NMSBA supports legislation requiring school board approval of local charter school budgets prior to submission to NMPED as well as authority to require corrective action on local charter school audit findings.

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.

Nepotism Waivers

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

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 prefers stand-alone school board elections as currently authorized in February of odd numbered years.

School Board Training

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

2018 NMSBA Resolutions & Legislative Committee

Chairperson

Ramon Montaño - Rio Rancho

Members

Barbara Petersen - Albuquerque
Olivia Calabaza - Bernalillo
Liza Gomez - Bloomfield
Lance Wright - Cloudcroft
Frank Cordova - Cobre
Ralph Sepulveda - Cobre
Bayne Anderson - Deming
Levi Pesata - Dulce
Robin Hoffman - Farmington
Sharon West - Fort Sumner
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