

NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

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

2019 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

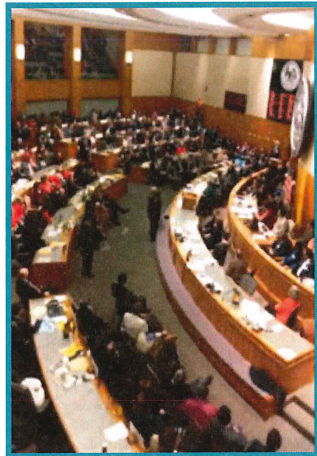
legislative process to achieve needed school and program reforms. Each of these efforts is focused on the belief that every student is entitled to a free and quality public education.

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 2019 Legislative Program represents the collective voice of New Mexico's 89

school boards comprised of over 450 elected school board members.

The 2019 Legislative Session will be a challenging 60 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 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.

Sufficiency Funding Lawsuit ★

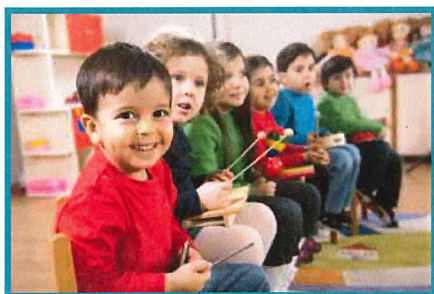
NMSBA supports increased funding and resources for public schools to comply with the Martinez/Yazzie Court Ruling.

At-Risk Funding ★

NMSBA supports increased funding in the SEG for at-risk students with hold harmless provisions ensuring additional funding for all districts.

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.



Administrators & Support Staff

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

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.

Community Schools Programs ★

NMSBA calls for additional funding for the Community Schools Program and recommends the use of the statute as a guide to implementation.

Compulsory Attendance/Truancy

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

Dual Credit Programs ★

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

Early Childhood/ Pre-School Programs ★

NMSBA supports full funding for all day pre-school, half-day pre-school for 3 year-olds and K-3 Plus initiatives including operational, facility and transportation costs.

Ethnic Studies ★

NMSBA supports allowing districts to develop ethnic studies curriculum which would satisfy social studies credit requirements.

ESSA Consultation

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

High School ADOC Authority ★

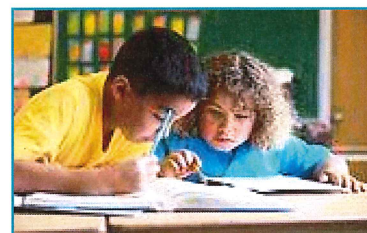
NMSBA opposes efforts to remove local school board authority to make educational policy decisions regarding alternative demonstration of competencies for graduating seniors.

High School Diploma Requirements

NMSBA supports funding for the High School Reform Initiative and the delay in use of PARCC test scores until all associated problems are addressed.

High School Career Pathways ★

NMSBA supports funding and legislation to establish career and technical pathways, financial assistance and job opportunities for high school students.



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 their unique challenges and developing strategies for improvement of educational outcomes.

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 schools are funded adequately funding inequities/abuses by profit companies are addressed.

PAARC Moratorium

NMSBA supports a delay in fully implementing PAARC testing until all associated problems have been addressed.

Paperwork Reduction

NMSBA supports creation of a task force to remove 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 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 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 Funding ★

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

School Based Health Services

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.

School Grades Council

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

School Police Departments

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

School Safety & Security ★

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

Separation of Children/Families ★

NMSBA calls for the immediate end to the separation of children from their families by the federal government.

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.

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.

Teacher/Principal Evaluation ★

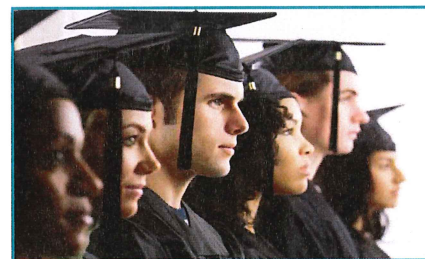
NMSBA supports replacement or fixing all problems associated with the current teacher/principal evaluation system including suspension of the use of student assessment data and removal of attendance from the evaluation criteria.

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 \$80, \$90 and \$100 thousand for Elementary, Mid School and High School Principals.

Technology Plan/Training ★

NMSBA supports the development and implementation of a statewide technology plan, recognition of the importance of technology as a career, 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 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.

Capital Outlay

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

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 continued funding for the systems, broadband and school safety programs administered via the 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 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 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 school board 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 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 reimbursement for unplanned special elections and allowing districts 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.

2019 NMSBA Resolutions & Legislative Committee

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Pauline Jaramillo - Socorro

Members

Barbara Petersen - Albuquerque

Olivia Calabaza - Bernalillo

Frank Cordova - Cobre

Ralph Sepulveda - Cobre

Bayne Anderson - Deming

Levi Pesata - Dulce

Robyn Hoffman - Farmington

Sharon West - Fort Sumner

Laura Salazar-Flores - Gadsden

Maria Flores - Las Cruces

Gloria Lovato-Pacheco - Las Vegas

Tom Humble - Logan

Dymorie Maker - Lovington

Maria Salcido-Alcantar - Lovington

Marvyn Jaramillo - Mesa Vista

Mary Trujillo-Mascarenas - Penasco

Sharon Dogruel - Pojoaque

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Catherine Cullen - Rio Rancho

Mona Kirk - Roswell

Shane Holder - Ruidoso

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Stephanie Vicente - Zuni

