



NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

"Serving New Mexico's School Boards for over 63 years"

2021 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 enabling 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 2021 Legislative Program represents the collective voice of New Mexico's 89

school boards comprised of over 450 elected school board members.

The 2021 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 carry out 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 recurring 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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450 Strong!

III. Appropriations & Operations

★ SEG Funding/Above the Line

NMSBA supports funding to the SEG "above the line". It is our belief that "below the line" appropriations disequalizes funding to local districts.

NMSBA Also Supports

Sufficient funding for administrators and support staff; instructional materials; community schools programs; intervention programs; special education programs; transportation/bus air conditioning; and increases to the unit value as called for in the State Constitution.



Anti-Underage Student Vaping

NMSBA supports funding for school and community education to address the vaping epidemic in schools.

★ Broadband Access

NMSBA supports legislation to convene a statewide committee with school board, superintendent and NMPED representation to establish broadband access for all residents

Bullying Prevention

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

Career and Technical Pathways

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

★ Cigarettes & Tobacco Regulation

NMSBA supports legislation to repeal the preempting of stricter city and county regulations on the sale of tobacco products and smoking devices.

★ Operating Budget Hold Harmless

NMSBA supports legislation that holds public schools harmless from reductions to operating budgets due to declining enrollment during the pandemic which guarantees schools receive no fewer SEG revenues than prior year pre-pandemic levels.

★ Operating Reserves

NMSBA supports legislation that preserves and protects operating reserves (cash balances) without penalty at the local level.

Compulsory Attendance/Truancy

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

★ COVID-19 Pandemic Relief

NMSBA supports the following COVID related legislative priorities: Transparency in the sharing of health data, Flexibility needed to develop school reentry plans; Direct aid to meet the PPE, technology, social emotional supports, food and other basic needs; establishment of bulk purchasing programs at the state level to fill gaps in relief response; and temporary flexibility for alternative demonstration of competency and in meeting graduation requirements

★ Cultural Curriculum/Materials

NMSBA supports legislation to fund culturally and linguistically responsive curriculum and materials; accountability reporting and training to engage in the work necessary to address educational disparities among racial groups.

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-K Funding

NMSBA supports full funding for all day pre-school, half-day pre-school for 3 year-olds and K-5 Plus initiatives including flexibility, and operational, facility and transportation costs.

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 opposes mandatory consolidation of small districts for budgetary reasons.

Ethnic Studies

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



★ Extended Learning Programs

NMSBA supports greater local school board decision making and flexibility in the implementation of student centered extended learning program including the K-5 Plus Program and recommends removing the 80% cohort requirement; and increasing funding and updating all curriculum materials.

High School ADOC Authority

NMSBA opposes efforts to remove school board authority to make educational policy decisions regarding alternative demonstration of competencies for graduating seniors and supports funding for the High School Reform Initiative.

★ Impact Aid

NMSBA supports a hold harmless provision from any reductions to district operating budgets as a result of the U.S. Department of Education's ruling on federal impact aid distributions.



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.

Moratorium-New & Virtual Charters

NMSBA supports a moratorium on new and virtual charters until existing schools are funded adequately and funding inequities/abuses by profit companies are addressed.

National Board Certification

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

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.

REC Funding

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

★ Return to Work

NMSBA supports legislation to eliminate or reduce ERB contributions for short and long term substitute teachers and retired PERA security personnel.

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 personnel including capital improvements, training, behavioral, emotional and mental health services, counseling, student and staff 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.

Teacher Internship Program

NMSBA supports funding that pays full-time teacher Level 1 salary and benefits to student teacher interns as they complete their student teacher internship requirements.

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/fixing all problems associated with the current teacher/principal evaluation system.

★ Teacher/Principal Salaries

NMSBA supports retention of teachers and 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 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.

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 including bus air conditioning.

Capital Outlay

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

NMSBA supports the creation of a temporary allowance to remove local matching requirements for school security upgrades.

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 schools from paying gross receipts taxes and impact fees from governmental agencies on construction projects thus maximizing improvements.



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 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.

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.

2021 NMSBA Resolutions & Legislative Committee

Chairperson

Marvyn Jaramillo - Mesa Visa

Members

Barbara Petersen - Albuquerque

Olivia Calabaza - Bernalillo

Ron Singleton - Carlsbad

Donald Valdez - Chama

Terry Martin - Clovis

Frank Cordova - Cobre

Ralph "Toy" Sepulveda - Cobre

Bayne Anderson - Deming

Levi Pesata - Dulce

Robyn Hoffman - Farmington

Sharon West - Fort Sumner

Jennifer Viramontes - Gadsden

Laura Salazar-Flores - Gadsden

Dymorie Maker - Lovington

Mary Trujillo-Mascarenas - Penasco

Sharon Dogruel - Pojoaque

Inez Rodriguez - Portales

Wynne Coleman - Rio Rancho

Mona Kirk - Roswell

Luther Light - Ruidoso

Tony Rubin - Wagon Mound

Christine Ludi - West Las Vegas

Linda Montoya - West Las Vegas

Stephanie Vicente - Zuni

