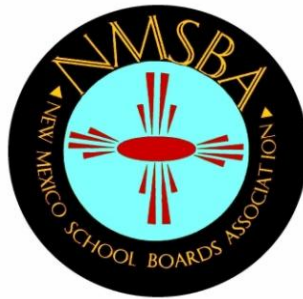


NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2026 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS AND COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS



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2026 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1

Submitted By: Albuquerque Public Schools

Title: Providing that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education supports legislation that strengthens and funds locally informed approaches to governance that keep student success at the center of decision-making across New Mexico, informed by meaningful family and community engagement, and high-quality, collaborative, educator-led professional development.

WHEREAS, the success of New Mexico's students and families is essential to the future of our state, yet student achievement has long lagged behind national benchmarks; and

WHEREAS, the Martinez and Yazzie decision necessitates that historically disenfranchised families and community advocates be consulted and engaged to address a system that has historically caused harm by enforcing curriculum and assessments that are absent of cultural and linguistic relevance; and

WHEREAS, locally elected school boards are entrusted with ensuring that every student has access to a high-quality, culturally, linguistically, and developmentally relevant education that prepares them for life and career, and;

WHEREAS, effective governance models must be built on the vision and values of their families and communities, and'

WHEREAS, effective governance models in New Mexico must include the families and children impacted by the Martinez and Yazzie decision, and must include in policy decisions Tribal Consultation, Urban Indigenous Leaders where relevant, and Parent Indian Education Committee Leaders, especially where federal monies or Johnson O'Malley funds are involved, and;

WHEREAS, research shows that effective governance models must support staff voice and promote high-quality and collaborative educator-led professional development as a key indicator for successful student outcomes, and

WHEREAS, effective governance models help school board focus their work on improving student learning, meaningfully engaging family, student, community and educators, and;

WHEREAS, effective governance models empower superintendents to lead day-to-day operations that honor the vision and values of the community, and;

WHEREAS, when school boards align their priorities, decisions, and accountability measures with the goal of improving student outcomes, especially those represented in the Martinez and Yazzie decision, those outcomes show measurable improvement; and;

WHEREAS, when school boards operate with unity and trust and build consensus on decisions, a culture of respect trickles down to school culture and the community at large, and;

WHEREAS, evidence from school districts nationwide demonstrates that a sustained, intentional focus on student learning, family/community engagement, and high-quality professional development leads to higher achievement and stronger futures for students, and the community at large, and;

WHEREAS, evidence from school districts nationwide indicates that properly funding the community schools model supports all of the above;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education, in partnership with the New Mexico School Boards Association, urges the New Mexico State Legislature to support and fund approaches to community-informed governance models that keep student, family, and educator success as the top priority across all school districts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the New Mexico School Boards Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Chair of the Senate Education Committee, the Chair of the House Education Committee, and the Director of the New Mexico Legislative Education Study Committee.

Recommendation: Approve

Consistent with our governance priorities and supports funding for these initiatives

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2

Submitted By: GALLUP-McKINLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS

Title: 2026 GMCS LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM – DRUG AND SAFETY RELATED FUNDING FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico legalized the recreational use of cannabis through Cannabis Regulation Act in 2021. As of 08/31/2025, the NM Regulation and Licensing Reports All Time Sales for “Adult-Use” of cannabis as \$1,887,917,882.60.; and

WHEREAS, the School District has seen an increase in the number of students bringing gummy products, vapes, and other type of cannabis related products into school buildings since the legalization of cannabis use in New Mexico.; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) sites the following negative effects on student use of cannabis: difficulty thinking and problem solving, problems with memory and learning, reduced coordination, difficulty paying attention, and problems with school and social life, increased risk of mental health issues, and potential for addiction. The CDC goes on to state that “compared with teens who do not use cannabis, teens who use cannabis are more likely to quite high school or not get a college degree”; and

WHEREAS, the School District administrative and security staff continue to confiscate paraphernalia and products that are packaged to be attractive to students and are deceptive in nature. Additionally, the School District has continued to invest operational funding into security systems and safety staff to help curb the drug problem among students, while the State has provided no recurring appropriation to school districts to fund these activities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Education, the governing body of the Gallup-McKinley County Schools, requests the New Mexico School Board Association (NMSBA) adopts a platform to have the NM Regulation and Licensing Committee aggressively addresses packaging targeted at students and that the Legislature develop and consistently fund recurring financial support for safety programs related to drug investigation, prevention and response.

Recommendation: Approve. We support legislation prohibiting the packaging of cannabis products targeted at students. Funding support for substance abuse and safety programs is already addressed in our legislative program.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #3

Submitted by: HOBBS MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Title: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STRENGTHENING PENALTIES AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR JUVENILE VIOLENCE ON SCHOOL CAMPUSES

WHEREAS, The Hobbs Municipal Schools Board of Education is committed to providing all students with a safe, supportive, and disruption-free learning environment; and

WHEREAS, Acts of violence on public school campuses endanger the safety of students and staff, disrupt the educational process, and undermine the mission of New Mexico's public schools; and

WHEREAS, Existing provisions of the New Mexico Children's Code and criminal statutes do not adequately address the growing concerns related to juvenile violence on school campuses and the responsibility of guardians whose negligence may contribute to such acts; and

WHEREAS, Recent legislative initiatives, including House Bill 134, Senate Bill 326, and House Bill 255 (2025 Regular Session), have recognized the need to strengthen accountability for serious youthful offenders, enhance community-based rehabilitation, and expand services to reduce youth violence across the state; and

WHEREAS, The Board recognizes that a balanced approach is required—combining stronger penalties for violent offenses with supportive interventions, rehabilitation opportunities, and accountability measures for guardians who knowingly or through negligence or otherwise contribute to campus violence; and

WHEREAS, The safety and well-being of students and staff in Hobbs and across New Mexico depends on clear statutory guidance, enhanced school safety measures, and appropriate consequences for those who endanger others in the educational environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hobbs Municipal Schools Board of Education respectfully requests the New Mexico Legislature to enact legislation that:

1. **Strengthens penalties for juveniles committing acts of violence on public school campuses**, including elevating certain offenses to felony status where serious injury, threats of harm, or possession of weapons are involved.
2. **Establishes accountability for parents or legal guardians**, through civil liability and, in cases of negligence, criminal penalties when their actions or inactions facilitate violence on school property.
3. **Mandates intervention and rehabilitation services**, including counseling, behavioral support, and community-based supervision for youth offenders, to address root causes and prevent recurrence.

4. **Supports funding for preventative programs**, including wrap-around services, school security training, and trauma-informed practices for educators and staff.
5. **Affirms the authority of school districts** to work in close coordination with law enforcement, juvenile justice agencies, and the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) in order to ensure swift and appropriate response to incidents of violence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Hobbs Municipal Schools Board of Education formally submits this resolution to the New Mexico Legislature and the Governor of New Mexico for consideration in the upcoming special session.

Recommendation: Do Not Approve

After full and careful discussion Committee voted not to approve due to the uncertainty of the nature and extent of increased penalties for juveniles committing crimes on school property

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #4

Submitted by: HOBBS MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Title: A RESOLUTION URGING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE TO FULLY FUND UNIVERSAL HEALTHY SCHOOL MEALS FOR ALL STUDENTS

WHEREAS, the State of New Mexico recognizes that access to healthy, nutritious meals is essential to the academic success, well-being, and overall development of children; and

WHEREAS, research consistently demonstrates that students who have reliable access to balanced meals show improved concentration, behavior, attendance, and academic performance; and

WHEREAS, food insecurity remains a significant challenge for many New Mexico families, with nearly one in five children experiencing hunger, creating barriers to equitable educational outcomes; and

WHEREAS, universal healthy meals ensure that no child is stigmatized or singled out based on their family's income, and that all students are treated with dignity and respect; and

WHEREAS, the provision of universal meals reduces administrative burdens for schools by eliminating the need for income verification, meal applications, and the collection of unpaid meal debt; and

WHEREAS, investing in universal healthy meals contributes to the long-term health of New Mexico's children by encouraging lifelong healthy eating habits, reducing childhood obesity, and addressing chronic conditions such as diabetes; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Legislature has a responsibility to ensure that no child in the state goes hungry during the school day and that the cost of meals does not create inequities among students; and

WHEREAS, fully funding universal healthy meals represents a moral, educational, and economic commitment to New Mexico's future, ensuring that every child has the nourishment necessary to learn and thrive;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Hobbs Municipal Schools Board of Education, that the Legislature of New Mexico declares its strong support for fully funding universal healthy meals for all New Mexico public school students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Mexico Legislature commits to allocating the necessary resources to sustain a permanent program ensuring that every student, regardless of income, has access to breakfast and lunch at no cost during the school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Education, the Public Education Department, and other relevant stakeholders as an expression of the Legislature's commitment to equity, health, and educational success through universal school meals.

Recommendation: Approve

Funding to districts for the universal and healthy meals program continues to be short and does not cover all costs.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #5

Submitted By: Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education

Title: Resolution to Close the Funding Gap for Federally Funded Positions

WHEREAS, the school districts in New Mexico are committed to recruiting and retaining highly qualified staff to serve all students; and

WHEREAS, many essential positions are funded through federal programs such as Title I, Title II, Title III, and IDEA-B, providing critical services including intervention, language support, and special education; and

WHEREAS, state-approved salary increases for state-funded positions are not accompanied by proportional increases for federally funded positions, leaving federal allocations fixed and creating a funding gap; and

WHEREAS, in addition to salary increases, district costs for the employer portion of insurance and retirement benefits have steadily increased over the years, further widening the gap; and

WHEREAS, without supplemental state support, districts must divert local funds to cover these costs, straining budgets and impacting other programs; and

WHEREAS, equitable salary adjustments for all employees—regardless of funding source—support fairness, fiscal responsibility, and stability of services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education respectfully urges the State Legislature to allocate state funds to cover the cost of salary increases for all federally funded positions in public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that such funding be provided in addition to, and not as a replacement for, existing federal allocations, ensuring that districts can continue to provide high-quality services without financial penalty.

Recommendation: Approve

Districts continue to bear the burden of increasing salaries for federally funded positions without state funding assistance.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #6

Submitted By: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR STATE FUNDING TO REVISE THE SCHOOL ACCREDITATION PROCESS TO PRIORITIZE STUDENT OUTCOMES AND SUPPORT FLEXIBLE TRAINING FOR SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

WHEREAS, New Mexico public school districts and charter schools are required to undergo annual accreditation pursuant to 6.19.4 NMAC (Accreditation Procedures); and

WHEREAS, the Los Alamos Public Schools Board of Education recognizes that *meaningful* school accreditation is a critical mechanism for ensuring continuous improvement in student achievement, accountability, and the overall quality of teaching and learning environments; and

WHEREAS, under Section 22-2-2(F), NMSA 1978, the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) must assess and evaluate public schools for accreditation purposes in order to determine the adequacy of student academic growth toward state standards; and

WHEREAS, the current accreditation framework under 6.19.4 NMAC includes ten requirements, the majority of which focus on procedural and administrative reporting, while only one requirement directly addresses student growth and learning outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the landmark Martinez/Yazzie decision affirmed that the State of New Mexico has failed to meet its constitutional obligation to provide a uniform and sufficient education for all students, particularly Native American students, English learners, students with disabilities, and students living in poverty, and underscored the need for accountability systems, including accreditation, to center equity, cultural relevance, and responsiveness to the diverse needs of New Mexico's students and communities; and

WHEREAS, the Los Alamos Public Schools Board of Education affirms the importance of informed and capable governance in supporting district-wide success and recognizes that school board members' participation in professional learning is vital to accreditation and accountability; and

WHEREAS, professional development opportunities for board members are most effective when they are accessible, flexible, and relevant—ensuring that training requirements do not inadvertently penalize school districts or jeopardize accreditation due to scheduling constraints or inflexible delivery formats; and

WHEREAS, both in-person training opportunities and asynchronous learning formats can allow board members to meet statutory training requirements while supporting strong district leadership without undermining the accreditation process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Alamos Public Schools Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to enact legislation directing the Public Education Department to revise 6.19.4 NMAC (Accreditation Procedures) to Re-center student learning by shifting the emphasis of accreditation away from primarily procedural and administrative reporting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT PED provides and funds flexible professional development opportunities for school board members, through both in-person conferences and asynchronous formats, for each required training area, thereby ensuring that accreditation reflects effective leadership without punishing districts for individual scheduling challenges.

Recommendation: Do Not Approve

Committee discussed the newness and lack of experience with new accreditation system and revised mandatory training requirements for school board members.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #7

Submitted By: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR STATE FUNDING, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND LABORATORY PARTNERSHIPS TO ADVANCE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) EDUCATION IN NEW MEXICO

WHEREAS, artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly transforming the modern world, driving innovation across industries, enhancing productivity, and reshaping the way people live, work, and learn; and

WHEREAS, by fostering AI literacy and competency, New Mexico can strengthen educational outcomes and equip students with the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to adapt to and thrive in an increasingly digital society; and

WHEREAS, early, age-appropriate exposure to AI concepts can spark curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking, thereby preparing students to become informed and responsible participants in the workforce of the future; and

WHEREAS, professional development and training programs in AI are essential to empower educators to confidently guide students through this complex and evolving field; and

WHEREAS, collaboration among educators, industry leaders, and employers dependent on an AI-skilled workforce will ensure that New Mexico students are prepared with the essential competencies required across multiple career pathways; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive framework that integrates early student exposure, educator professional development, and workforce development resources will promote equity, innovation, ethical use and critical thinking, positioning New Mexico as a national leader in AI education; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has established a policy framework, including the Advancing Artificial Intelligence Education for American Youth initiative, to promote AI literacy, integrate AI into education, expand training opportunities for educators, and build a workforce pipeline capable of sustaining American leadership in this emerging field; and

WHEREAS, Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories are global leaders in AI research and innovation and are uniquely positioned to partner with New Mexico school districts to provide expertise, resources, and support for advancing AI education statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Alamos Public Schools Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to immediately create a New Mexico Task Force on Artificial Intelligence Education charged with:

- **Identifying and securing federal and state funding opportunities to support AI education initiatives, and**
- **Developing a statewide plan for age-appropriate AI instruction, professional development for educators, and equitable access to AI-related resources.**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor of New Mexico and the New Mexico Public Education Department provide dedicated, adequate, recurring, above the line state funding for AI initiatives in every

school district, proportionate to district size, to ensure that all New Mexico students and educators have access to high-quality AI training, curriculum, and resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Governor and the New Mexico Public Education Department actively engage with Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories to establish partnerships with New Mexico school districts, and providing financial investment, educational expertise, and technical support to ensure that New Mexico students are positioned to lead the nation in AI education and workforce readiness.

Recommendation: Approve

It is important to create a Task Force on Artificial Intelligence Education to develop a statewide plan and identify and secure federal and state funding opportunities to support AI education initiatives.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #8

Submitted By: Lovington Municipal Schools

Title: Proposed Resolution Supporting the Restructure of K-12 Plus Program Requirements

WHEREAS, the K-12 Plus Program was developed in 2023 through HB130, as an incentive to encourage school districts to offer extended learning opportunities, that allows districts to receive additional compensation for exceeding the mandated 1140 ***hours*** of instruction, and

WHEREAS, An instructional ***hour*** is defined as a period at school during which students receive instruction aligned to academic content and performance standards, and

WHEREAS, the Public Education Department defines a full school day as having at least 5.5 ***hours*** and not more than 7.5 ***hours*** of instructional time

WHEREAS, the Public Education Department states requirements for all components of instructional learning time, professional learning, CTE certifications, etc. be measured through ***hours***, with the lone exception being the K-12+ Program, and

WHEREAS, the Higher Education Department, the Early Childhood Education Department and the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions all have requirements for completion and/or assessment which are measured in ***hours***, and

WHEREAS, under current statute, an operating budget for a school district shall not be approved by the department if the educational plan does not provide for a school year and school day that includes instructional ***hours*** and professional work ***hours*** as provided in Section 22-2-8.1 NMSA 1978, and

WHEREAS, allowing all school districts the opportunity to exceed mandated instructional hours by participating in the K-12 Plus Program provides more opportunity for increased learning time for students, while offering flexibility and financial incentive for each school district;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lovington Municipal Schools Board of Education supports restructuring of Section 3 of the Public School Finance Act, (2023), to state that the K-12 Plus Program modify requirements for eligibility for participation in the K-12 Plus Program be measured in ***hours***, rather than ***days***,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there continue to be two (2) tiers of funding available - *Tier 1* would be for an additional 55 – up to 65 hours of instructional time, and *Tier 2* would be for an additional 65 - 75 hours of instructional time, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, due to this being a direct budget item, this be considered for the 2026 Legislative Session, with implementation for the FY27 School Year.

Recommendation: Approve

Resolution is consistent with our guiding principle of local decisions making and flexibility

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #9

Submitted By: Rio Rancho Public Schools

Title: Improve Insurance Coverage for School Districts

WHEREAS, Rio Rancho Public Schools, like all New Mexico school districts, relies on the New Mexico Public Schools Insurance Authority (NMPSIA) for its property, liability, workers’ compensation, and other risk insurance; and

WHEREAS, the availability of affordable and comprehensive insurance coverage is vital to ensuring the protection of students, staff, and community assets, while safeguarding the financial stability of the district; and

WHEREAS, rising insurance premiums and increasing deductibles pose significant challenges to school district budgets, diverting limited funds away from classrooms and instructional priorities; and

WHEREAS, reasonable deductibles and equitable coverage terms are necessary to ensure that districts can meet obligations when incidents occur without imposing undue burdens on local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, NMPSIA has recently proposed imposing significant deductibles (up to \$500,000 per occurrence) on school districts when school districts are already paying steep premiums that increase every year; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Legislature has a critical role in ensuring that the statewide insurance framework for public schools is reasonably priced, fiscally responsible, and adequately protective of districts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE RIO RANCHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to undertake a comprehensive review of the insurance coverage provided to public schools through NMPSIA and ensure that the terms of coverage remain fair, comprehensive, and reflective of the actual risks faced by public schools and maintain deductibles at levels that are reasonable and sustainable for school districts and consider legislative or regulatory measures to improve the stability, affordability, and adequacy of public school insurance coverage.

Recommendation: Approve

Health and risk programs run by NMPSIA are reviewed annually by the legislature and NMPSIA Board. Increased funding to cover legal and health costs should be prioritized by the Legislature.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #10

Submitted By: Truth or Consequences Schools Board of Education

Title: REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE TO PROHIBIT THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT FROM REDUCING A SCHOOL DISTRICT'S MILL LEVY BELOW THE THRESHOLD REQUIRED TO QUALIFY FOR CAPITAL OUTLAY ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS, Article XII, Section 1 of the New Mexico Constitution establishes the state's duty to provide a uniform system of free public schools sufficient for the education of all children in the state; and

WHEREAS, the Public School Capital Outlay Act provides a mechanism through which school districts may receive state support to ensure that students are educated in safe, adequate, and sufficient facilities; and

WHEREAS, eligibility for waivers from the Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) is directly tied to a district's maintenance of a qualifying local mill levy; and

WHEREAS, the ability of local school districts to meet their capital facility needs depends upon both their local effort through mill levies and the state's partnership in providing supplemental funding; and

WHEREAS, under Senate Bill 8 (2025), the Public Education Department was authorized to reduce the mill levy for small and rural districts, thereby placing some districts below the qualifying threshold for capital outlay waivers; and

WHEREAS, such reductions diminish a district's ability to qualify for state assistance, reduce long-term facility funding, and jeopardize the equitable treatment of students in small and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, escalating construction costs for school facilities across New Mexico make it increasingly difficult for districts to meet even the most basic facility needs without full access to state partnership funding; and

WHEREAS, small and rural school districts already face inequities due to limited property tax bases, geographic isolation, and higher per-student construction costs, and further reductions in qualifying mill levies deepen those inequities; and

WHEREAS, local school boards, not the Public Education Department, are directly accountable to the voters and taxpayers of their districts for local revenue decisions and should retain authority over maintaining qualifying mill levy levels.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Truth or Consequences Municipal Schools Board of Education respectfully requests that the New Mexico Legislature enact legislation to prohibit the Public Education Department from reducing the mill levy of any school district below the level required to qualify for Public School Capital Outlay Council waivers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Truth or Consequences Municipal Schools Board of Education requests the New Mexico School Boards Association to adopt this resolution as part of its approved 2026 Legislative package.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders; other statewide education advocacy organizations; the Governor of New Mexico; the Chair of the Legislative Education Study Committee; the Chairs of the House and Senate Finance

Committees; the Secretary of Public Education; and the Public School Capital Outlay Council, so they may actively support and advocate for equitable facilities funding for all New Mexico students.

Recommendation: Do Not Approve.

State statute requires PED to set school district tax rates by August 15th of each year. PED sets the mill levy rates according to the outstanding debt of the school district which could fluctuate from year based on the debt and the yield controls for SB-9 and HB-33 funds.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #11

Submitted By: Truth or Consequences Schools Board of Education

Title: REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE TO DIRECT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY COUNCIL AND THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES AUTHORITY TO STUDY THE IMPACT OF FACILITY RANKING REDUCTIONS FOLLOWING NECESSARY SAFETY REPAIRS

WHEREAS, the [Name of School District] Board of Education is committed to maintaining safe and adequate facilities for all students and staff; and

WHEREAS, the Public School Facilities Authority (PSFA) and the Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) maintain statewide facility rankings through the weighted New Mexico Condition Index (NMCI) to prioritize state capital outlay funding; and

WHEREAS, school districts must sometimes undertake immediate, locally funded repairs to address urgent health and safety concerns in order to protect students and staff; and

WHEREAS, under current methodology, when such repairs are made, the wNMCI score of the facility is reduced, lowering the facility's statewide ranking and potentially diminishing eligibility for future state funding; and

WHEREAS, this policy may unintentionally discourage timely safety-related repairs by creating a disincentive for school districts and charter schools to address urgent hazards promptly; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature has a vested interest in ensuring that capital outlay policies both promote safe school environments and distribute resources equitably across the state;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Truth or Consequences Municipal Schools Board of Education respectfully requests that the New Mexico Legislature take this matter under consideration and direct the Public School Capital Outlay Council and the Public School Facilities Authority to undertake a study of this issue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study includes:

1. An evaluation of the current impact of lowering facility rankings following necessary safety repairs;
2. An assessment of policy alternatives to prevent districts from being penalized when addressing urgent safety needs; and

3. **Recommendations for statutory or policy changes to ensure that capital outlay funding continues to be distributed equitably without discouraging timely safety compliance;**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Truth or Consequences Municipal Schools Board of Education requests the New Mexico School Boards Association to adopt this resolution as part of its approved 2026 Legislative package.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the members of the New Mexico Legislature representing this district, the Public School Facilities Authority, and the Public School Capital Outlay Council.

Recommendation: Approve

This policy should be reviewed to ensure districts are not unfairly penalized for addressing urgent safety repairs.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #12

Submitted By: Truth or Consequences Schools Board of Education

Title: AMEND THE LOCAL ELECTION ACT TO PERMIT PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS TO PRESENT BOARD QUESTIONS AT BOTH LOCAL AND GENERAL ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, the New Mexico Constitution, Article IX, Section 11, establishes limits on the indebtedness of school districts, and state law requires that general obligation bonds be authorized only with voter approval; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 22-18-2, a local school board or governing body of a charter school must submit to the qualified electors of the district the question of issuing general obligation bonds before such bonds may be authorized; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of the Local Election Act (Laws 2018, Chapter 79; codified at NMSA 1978, §1-22-1 et seq.) standardized local elections to odd-year cycles and requires that bond questions not be placed on even-year general election ballots – a restriction that forces districts to call costly special elections under the Special Election Act; and

WHEREAS, current state law mandates that the cost of conducting a special local election –including postage for mail-in ballots, printing, staffing, and legal notices – be borne fully by the school district or charter school calling the election; and

WHEREAS, holding special elections outside the general election cycle imposes significant financial burdens on school districts, especially small and rural districts, with costs frequently exceeding tens of thousands of dollars – resources that would otherwise be available for direct student services; and

WHEREAS, in 2020, Cobre Consolidated School District held such a special mail-ballot bond election that cost approximately \$25,000 – a figure often used as an anchor for planning, but which observers note has likely increased by at least \$10,000 or more, considering vendor and postage cost escalation (*The Silver City Daily Press*, published June 25, 2024); and

WHEREAS, multiple public statements and news reports indicate that smaller districts like Cobre, when weighing the option, have determined it was fiscally prudent to delay bond elections until November regular local elections “at no cost” to the district, given the prohibitive expense of standalone elections; and

WHEREAS, mounting election administration costs statewide – including vendor services and postage obligations – have placed even greater financial burden on small and rural districts with limited budgets; and

WHEREAS, aligning school bond elections with general elections would reduce election administration costs (often tens of thousands of dollars per special election), increase voter participation, and preserve taxpayer resources for direct educational benefit; and

WHEREAS, maintaining the option to present bond questions during regular local elections preserves local control and scheduling flexibility, while expanding options to include general elections would yield both fiscal relief and greater democratic engagement;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the [Name of Governing Body] respectfully requests the New Mexico Legislature to amend the Local Election Act and related statutes – especially NMSA 1978, §§22-18-2 and 22-18-4 – to authorize that school districts and charter schools may present general obligation bond questions to the electorate at the discretion of the district’s or charter school governing body, either:

1. at a Regular Local Election (odd-year November election), or
2. at a Statewide General Election (even-year November election).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Truth or Consequences Municipal Schools Board of Education requests the New Mexico School Boards Association to adopt this resolution as part of its approved 2026 Legislative package.

Recommendation: Approve

NMSBA supported this proposed legislation during the 2025 Legislative Session

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #13

Submitted By: West Las Vegas Schools

Title: Study on Public School Rankings

WHEREAS, New Mexico public schools are dedicated to educating students at the highest possible level; and

WHEREAS, national rankings of public schools across the United States are determined by varying factors, with significant differences from state to state; and

WHEREAS, if there were greater equity and consistency in the variables used for such determinations, New Mexico would not consistently appear among the lowest-ranked states in education; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico's public education system has produced highly accomplished educators, medical professionals, judicial leaders, and career and technical education (CTE) professionals who contribute significantly to our nation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the West Las Vegas Schools Board of Education respectfully requests that the New Mexico Legislature, in collaboration with the Public Education Department, conduct a comprehensive study on the variances and methodologies used to rank public schools in New Mexico and in surrounding states.

Such a study should examine the differences in accountability measures and ensure that New Mexico's performance data are evaluated equitably. The New Mexico Vistas, a public data system developed by the New Mexico Public Education Department to comply with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), must include comparable variables to those used in other states in order to provide a fair and accurate reflection of performance.

Key factors to be analyzed should include, but not be limited to:

- Equal comparison of student achievement in mathematics and reading
- Dropout and graduation rates
- Per-pupil funding levels
- School safety indicators
- Class sizes
- Instructor qualifications and credentials

Recommendation: Approve

New Mexico should ensure that state and national school accountability ratings are accurate, equitable and consistent.