



**New Mexico School Boards Association  
2020 Resolutions/Legislative Committee Meeting**

9:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 1, 2020

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/92447561598>

[Meeting ID: 924 4756 1598](#)

[Telephone Link](#)

[Dial: +1 346 248 7799](#)

[Meeting ID: 924 4756 1598](#)

**Agenda**

- Call to Order
- Introductions
- Overview of Committee Duties
- Review and Action on Board Resolutions
- Review of Legislative Program
- Other Proposals
- Adjournment



## 2020 Resolutions/Legislative Committee

**Marvyn Jaramillo, President-Elect (Mesa Vista)**  
**Committee Chairperson**

	<b><u>Region Member</u></b> <b><u>Elected</u></b> <i>2 year term</i>	<b><u>Region President</u></b> <b><u>Appointee</u></b> <i>2 year term</i>	<b><u>State President</u></b> <b><u>Appointee</u></b> <i>1 year term</i>
<b>Region I</b>	<b>Levi Peseta</b> (Dulce)	<b>Stephanie Vicente</b> (Zuni)	<b>Robyn Hoffman</b> (Farmington)
<b>Region II</b>	<b>Sharon Dogruel</b> (Pojoaque)	<b>Donald Valdez</b> (Chama)	<b>Mary Mascarenas</b> (Penasco)
<b>Region III</b>	<b>Christine Ludi</b> (West Las Vegas)	<b>Linda Montoya</b> (West Las Vegas)	<b>Tony Rubin</b> (Wagon Mound)
<b>Region IV</b>	<b>Barbara Petersen</b> (Albuquerque)	<b>Olivia Calabaza</b> (Bernalillo)	<b>Wynne Coleman</b> (Rio Rancho)
<b>Region V</b>	<b>Sharon West</b> (Fort Sumner)	<b>Inez Rodriguez</b> (Portales)	<b>Terry Martin</b> (Clovis)
<b>Region VI</b>	<b>Dymorie Maker</b> (Lovington)	<b>Mona Kirk</b> (Roswell)	<b>Ron Singleton</b> (Carlsbad)
<b>Region VII</b>	<b>Shane Holder</b> (Ruidoso)	<b>Laura Salazar-Flores</b> (Gadsden)	<b>Jennifer Viramontes</b> (Gadsden)
<b>Region VIII</b>	<b>Ralph "Toy" Sepulveda</b> (Cobre)	<b>Frank Cordova</b> (Cobre)	<b>Bayne Anderson</b> (Deming)

9/10/20



**New Mexico School Boards Association  
Article BV –Bylaws  
Standing Committees**

**Section 1. Resolutions/Legislative Committee**

Members of the Resolutions/Legislative Committee shall be appointed as follows: Each region shall elect one member, each region president appoints one member, and the State President appoints one member from each region. Elected members and those appointed by the Region President shall serve two (2) year terms. Members appointed by the State President shall serve a one (1) year term. The President-Elect shall serve as Chairman of the Resolutions /Legislative Committee.

Duties of the Resolutions/Legislative Committee are:

- a. Attend legislative sessions to represent NMSBA positions.
- b. To review the current positions and new resolutions.
- c. To suggest amendments, deletions, or additions where needed.
- d. To submit a report to the membership for adoption or disapproval.
- e. Prioritize them for publication to present to the Legislature.
- f. To promote legislation which benefits education in general and is consistent with the beliefs and positions (resolutions) of the Association.

# NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

## 2021 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

### Staff Recommendations

#### **ADEQUATE FUNDING**

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1. Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Curriculum and Materials (APS) | Approve |
|--|---------|

#### **COVID-19**

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 2. Covid-19 Instruction Planning (CMS)   | Approve |
| 3. Emergency COVID-19 Funding Relief (APS)                                     | Approve |
| 4. Hold Harmless for Declining Enrollment Arising from COVID-19 (RRPS)         | Approve |
| 5. Hold Harmless for Enrollment & State Equalization Guarantee Funding (FMS)   | Approve |
| 6. Hold Harmless for Enrollment & State Equalization Guarantee Funding (HMS)   | Approve |
| 7. Hold Harmless for Enrollment & State Equalization Guarantee Funding (BPS)   | Approve |
| 8. Hold Harmless for Enrollment & State Equalization Guarantee Funding (AMS)   | Approve |
| 9. Local Decision Making & Health Data Transparency for School Re-Entry (LAPS) | Approve |
| 10. Localized Health Data Transparency for School Re-Entry Criteria (LCPS)     | Approve |
| 11. Safety for School Employees & Saving Taxpayer Dollars (LAPS)               | Approve |

#### **OTHER RESOLUTIONS**

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| 12. Broadband Access Across New Mexico (APS)  | Approve            |
| 13. K-5 Plus Statute Amendment to Expand Learning Opportunities (LAPS)  | Approve            |
| 14. Create & Fund Inclusive Learning Environments (LAPS)  | Approve            |
| 15. Public School Capital Outlay Act Amendment for "Adequacy" (LAPS)  | Further Discussion |
| 16. Reimbursement Funding for National Boards Certified Teachers (FPS)  | No Action Needed   |
| 17. Repeal Statutory Provisions Preempting Stricter County and Municipal Regulation of Sale of Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices (APS) | Approve            |
| 18. Retired Teacher Return to Work (FPS)  | No Action Needed   |
| 19. School Community Gardens (APS)  | Approve            |

# NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

## 2021 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

### ADEQUATE FUNDING

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1**

Submitted By: Albuquerque Public Schools

Title: Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Curriculum and Materials

**WHEREAS**, the need for culturally and linguistically responsive curriculum and materials must continue to be a prioritized item on our educational and legislative agendas until the goal is realized; and,

**WHEREAS**, the same students we often classify as at-risk, comprise the students who are most often culturally under-represented in their education through course designs and course materials; and,

**WHEREAS**, all students in our diverse state can only develop empathy and awareness of our multicultural society through exposure to culturally and linguistically responsive curriculum and materials; and,

**WHEREAS**, the funding to culturally responsive instructional materials continues to be seen as something we can afford only when there is enough money as evidenced by the 2020 Special Session veto and only restored by governor veto.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education, along with the New Mexico School Boards Association, calls upon the Legislature to continue to advance the development of culturally and linguistically responsive courses and material for all New Mexico students; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New Mexico Legislature develop methods of accountability and reporting to demonstrate that our New Mexico students are provided these course opportunities and materials.

#### **Committee Recommendation:**

***Support for at-risk funding and hold harmless provisions are in 2020 Legislative Program (page 2, column 3). Advancing the development of culturally and linguistically responsive courses and material should be a priority as well. Recommend Approval***

### COVID-19

#### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2**

Submitted By: Cimarron Municipal Schools

Title: Covid-19 Instruction Planning

**WHEREAS**, the Cimarron Municipal Schools' (CMS) calendar was approved for school to start on August 12, 2020; and,

**WHEREAS**, on July 15, 2020, the Board voted on a plan for reentry that was submitted to the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED); and,

**WHEREAS**, on multiple occasions, NMPED has provided inconsistent guidance to school districts for opening schools, including the following:

-On July 24 Governor Lujan-Grisham issued an order that mandated schools to be moved to remote learning and identified that all special education students needed to be served on site as well as students in PreK-3. CMS spent valuable time and resources to plan for that option.

-On August 4, NMPED again issued different guidance that included additional district identified students 4th-12th grade in 1:5 teacher ratio CMS again invested substantial resources bringing in teachers and administrators to develop another plan that would incorporate all of those students on campus in a safe and orderly manner; and,

**WHEREAS**, families in the District were contacted by teachers by phone on August 6 and 7 in order to include their wishes and address their concerns regarding their child's school attendance; and,

**WHEREAS**, with that action, CMS created reasonable expectations with parents, students, and the community regarding the structure for returning to school; and,

**WHEREAS**, at 5:10 pm on Friday August 7, 2020, as the District was preparing to host an informational Zoom meeting with the community to explain the new plan, a memorandum was received from NMPED Secretary Stewart indicating that their prior guidance was not in compliance with the Governor's Public Health Order and indicated that only PreK-3 students and students with disabilities could attend school in person. This nullified the District's previous efforts, communications with the community, and preparatory expenditures. That NMPED notice stated:

"We are very sorry for this mistake in communication, knowing that you may have put in time and effort planning and communicating based on last week's guidance, and we take full responsibility for this error. The last thing we want to do is nullify your efforts or create confusion in your community. Please note that if you have submitted written plans to PED that incorporate this guidance, you are not required to revise those plans or to resubmit them to PED"; and,

**WHEREAS**, CMS believes that, in addition to Pre-K-3 and SPED students, other student groups who need additional support and immediate in-person attendance include the following:

- At-risk students PreK-12
- Students with no internet access at home
- English Language Learners
- Students on SAT Plans
- Economically disadvantaged students
- Families who depend on the schools for day-care; and,

**WHEREAS**, CMS is a small district with limited resources that has invested heavily in the plan to bring back the listed groups of students for in-person instruction at the 1:5 ratio outlined in previous NMPED guidance.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, The Board will seek, through its superintendent, authorization from NMPED to continue forward with the 1:5 ratio of in-person instruction for the student groups listed in this resolution.

The Board will seek, through its superintendent, authorization from NMPED to recognize the importance of immediate in-person instruction at the 1:5 ratio for the student groups listed in this resolution.

The Board will seek, through its superintendent, recognition from NMPED that the school return plans should not be a “one size fits all” approach and that small districts like Cimarron should have some flexibility, based on low community infection numbers, to institute in-person instruction for more groups of students.

The Board will seek, through its superintendent, recognition from NMPED that the lack of flexibility creates substantial hardship for school districts that are trying to plan with staff, families, and students for reasonable return to in-person instruction.

The Board will communicate, through its superintendent, with community stakeholders and families that it is seeking increased flexibility but is subject to the limitations put in place by the State.

The Board will provide NMPED with a copy of this Resolution and request a written response from NMPED within one week.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***Resolution does not request Legislative action but is directed to NMPED. Recommend Approval and forwarding to NMPED for consideration.***

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #3**

Submitted By: Albuquerque Public Schools

Title: Emergency COVID-19 Funding Relief

**WHEREAS**, the funding needed to open schools in hybrid, full capacity or remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic exceeds the normal school operational costs; and,

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Legislature during the 2020 session took partial credit on federal CARES Act funding to offset state revenue shortfalls; and,

**WHEREAS**, the federal CARES Act represented only a portion of the need for schools to reopen; and,

**WHEREAS**, public schools were excluded from other sources of federal relief funds such as Paycheck Protection Programs, for which private schools could apply; and,

**WHEREAS**, funding beyond normal operations is critical to the needs of students in the global pandemic, including technology, social-emotional supports, food and other basic needs; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is more critical than ever for public schools to be able to provide a sufficient education and for our most vulnerable students who the insufficiently funded education of prior years is further exacerbated; and,

**WHEREAS**, additional direct state funding and flexibility for COVID-19 relief to schools must be immediate and targeted to eliminating any possible learning loss or achievement gaps for our most vulnerable students.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education, along with the New Mexico School Boards Association, calls upon the Legislature, to provide direct aid with the flexibility necessary for school districts to meet the unpredictable and ever-changing, COVID-19 relief needs.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***Direct aid with flexibility to meet COVID-19 the ever-increasing requirements and needs is critically important and necessary. Recommend Approval***

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #4**

Submitted By: Rio Rancho Public Schools

Title: Hold Harmless for Declining Enrollment Arising from COVID-19 Emergency

**WHEREAS**, Article XII of the Constitution of New Mexico declares that a uniform system of free public schools sufficient for the education of, and open to, all the children of school age in the state shall be established and maintained; and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 5 of the Constitution of New Mexico further requires the attendance of school age children; and,

**WHEREAS**, federal laws similarly require that states and school districts provide educational services particularly to students with identified physical, mental, and behavioral disabilities; and,

**WHEREAS**, the current COVID-19 emergency has not absolved schools of these responsibilities despite state public health orders requiring the closure of school facilities; and,

**WHEREAS**, the state requires that school districts provide educational services online, including taking extraordinary steps to provide internet access or to provide printed materials to assure that students without access have full educational opportunities; and,

**WHEREAS**, the state currently requires districts to plan both for delivery of curriculum online and for a phased reopening of in-person learning once it becomes safe for teachers and students to be in the classroom; and,

**WHEREAS**, these dual requirements have required districts to develop or acquire additional curricula to provide online services and to train teachers to deliver lessons online, often at considerable expense to schools and districts; and

**WHEREAS**, schools and districts have incurred and will incur considerable additional expense to clean and sanitize facilities, provide personal protective equipment (PPE) for teachers and staff, provide for health checks of all persons entering school facilities, provide ongoing meal service for food-insecure families, and provide transportation services with buses not able to operate at full capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, concern about the health risks to their families and the ability of schools to provide



online educational services has prompted many parents to not register their students for school in 2020-21, leading to significant declines in enrollment, and,

**WHEREAS**, school districts and charter schools receive most of their funding based on student enrollment, making it likely that they will experience a drastic decline in revenues at a time when it costs more, not less, to educate each student; and,

**WHEREAS**, everyone wants to return to in-person learning as quickly as possible in the interest of educational outcomes and the state's economic health; and,

**WHEREAS**, once schools can reopen fully, it is possible if not probable that many families who are currently holding their children out of school will re-enroll their students; and,

**WHEREAS**, even when schools start to reopen, there may be additional closures due to surges in infection rates both in schools and in the community at large; and,

**WHEREAS**, uncertainty about the progression of the virus, its impact on children's health, children's ability to spread COVID-19, and the timeline for development/administration of a vaccine make it likely that this situation will continue indefinitely.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to hold school districts and charter schools harmless from the prior year enrollment provisions of the funding formula for the duration of the public health emergency and for a sufficient period of time afterwards, once children can return to school, to allow enrollment to stabilize.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***Significant declines in enrollment due to COVID-19 health and safety concerns are negatively impacting district SEG distributions and should be calculated at prior year levels until students are able to return to school without risk. Recommend Approval (Similar to Farmington, Hobbs, Bernalillo, Artesia Resolutions.)***

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #5**

Submitted By: Farmington Municipal Schools

Title: Hold Harmless for Enrollment and State Equalization Guarantee Funding

**WHEREAS**, the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education recognizes the importance of sufficient funding for schools; and,

**WHEREAS**, the education of New Mexico's student is the paramount responsibility of school districts and is made possible by adequacy of funding to support the education of New Mexico's children; and,

**WHEREAS**, school district student enrollments throughout the state are potentially impacted negatively by the downturn in the state economy, which resulted in student movement in and out of New Mexico school systems; and,

**WHEREAS**, school district enrollments loss of student count subject to family choice to withdraw students from public schools due to the concern exposure to or for infection of Covid-19; and,

**WHEREAS**, the loss of State Equalization Guarantee funding for decreased student enrollment due to the combination of these factors, places school districts at great risk of maintaining current staffing levels and continued educational programming.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education requests that the New Mexico School Boards Association support legislation to that implements a legislative “hold harmless” for New Mexico public school systems from the potential impact of enrollment fluctuations that would affect state funding; and,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New Mexico State School Boards Association calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to pass legislation that guarantees that public school districts receive no fewer State Equalization Guarantee revenues than school districts received as funded by the pre-Covid-19 Full Time Equivalent average enrollment from School Year 2019-2020.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***Significant declines in enrollment due to COVID-19 health and safety concerns are negatively impacting district SEG distributions and should be calculated at prior year levels until students are able to return to school without risk. Recommend Approval (Similar to Rio Rancho, Hobbs, Bernalillo, Artesia Resolutions.)***

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #6**

Submitted by: Hobbs Municipal Schools

Title: Hold Harmless for Enrollment and State Equalization Guarantee Funding

**WHEREAS**, since March 13, 2020, Hobbs Municipal Schools has been required to provide remote education for all students in the HMS district boundary; and,

**WHEREAS**, parents and students have expressed concern and anguish with remote learning; and,

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic and the down turn in the extraction and production of crude oil has created tremendous job loss, thus requiring families to relocate; and,

**WHEREAS**, parents and students have explored new avenues to educating their children; and,

**WHEREAS**, schools across New Mexico are experiencing historic enrollment reductions; and,

**WHEREAS**, HMS believes students will return to in person instruction as the pandemic subsides thus increasing enrollment to pre COVID numbers.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Hobbs Municipal Schools Board of Education calls upon Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and the New Mexico Legislature to review the 1974 Public School Finance Act [22-8-17 through 25 NMSA 1978]; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Hobbs Municipal Schools Board of Education calls upon Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham, and the New Mexico Legislature to institute legislation to revert funding for 2021-22 academic year to be based on membership counts from the 2019-20 eighty and one hundred twenty-day average.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***Significant declines in enrollment due to COVID-19 health and safety concerns are negatively impacting district SEG distributions and should be calculated at prior year levels until students are able to return to school without risk. Recommend Approval (Similar to Rio Rancho, Farmington, Bernalillo, Artesia Resolutions.)***

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #7**

Submitted by: Bernalillo Public Schools

Title: Hold Harmless for Enrollment and State Equalization Guarantee Funding

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico school districts are continuing to be negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the Board of Education must act in the best interests of their school community during this difficult time, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Education recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic prevents all students from attending school on a daily basis, whether virtually or in person; and

**WHEREAS**, under NMSA § 22-8-1, et al., enrollment forms one of the metrics by which New Mexico School Districts are funded and enrollment growth units are a factor in calculating how the New Mexico Public Education Department distributes revenue to New Mexico school districts pursuant to the State Equalization Guarantee (SEG); and

**WHEREAS**, Board Policy D-0150 grants the Board of Education the power for review and final adoption of the School District's Annual Budget.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved this 24th day of September, 2020, by the Bernalillo Public Schools Board of Education that it is important to communicate to the New Mexico Public Education Department the following due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the provision of full-time on-site education during the 2020-21 school year:

1. The attendance rate of students for the 2020-2021 academic year should not be used as a basis for negatively impacting the funding provided by the State of New Mexico and/or New Mexico Public Education Department to Bernalillo Public Schools and all other school districts in the State; and
2. The State of New Mexico and/ or the New Mexico Public Education Department should not use any factor or metric that utilizes attendance rates in their calculation for the distribution of funds to school districts for the subsequent 2021-2022 academic year; and
3. The Board of Education of Bernalillo Public Schools and the boards for all other school districts in the State should be held harmless and free of liability for any decision by the State of New Mexico and/or the New Mexico Public Education Department to reduce State funding to Bernalillo Public Schools on the basis of a drop in the rate of attendance by the District's students during the 2020-21 school year.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***Significant declines in enrollment due to COVID-19 health and safety concerns are negatively impacting district SEG distributions and should be calculated at prior year levels until students are able to return to school without risk. Recommend Approval (Similar to Rio Rancho, Farmington, Hobbs and Artesia Resolutions.)***

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #8**

Submitted by: Artesia Municipal Schools

Title: Hold Harmless for Enrollment and State Equalization Guarantee Funding

**WHEREAS**, since March 13, 2020, Artesia Public Schools has been required to provide remote education for all students in the APS district boundary and;

**WHEREAS**, parents and students have expressed concern and anguish with remote learning and;

**WHEREAS**, the COVID-19 pandemic and the down turn in the extraction and production of crude oil has created tremendous job loss, thus requiring families to relocate and;

**WHEREAS**, parents and students have explored new avenues to educating their children and;

**WHEREAS**, schools across New Mexico are experiencing historic enrollment reductions and;

**WHEREAS**, APS believes students will return to in person instruction as the pandemic subsides thus increasing enrollment to pre-COVID numbers;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Artesia Public Schools Board of Education calls upon Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and the New Mexico Legislature to review the 1974 Public School Finance Act [22-8-17 through 25 NMSA 1978]

**FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Artesia Public Schools Board of Education calls upon Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and the New Mexico Legislature to institute legislation to revert funding for 2021-22 academic year to be based on membership counts from the 2019-20 eighty and one hundred twenty average.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***Significant declines in enrollment due to COVID-19 health and safety concerns are negatively impacting district SEG distributions and should be calculated at prior year levels until students are able to return to school without risk. Recommend Approval (Similar to Rio Rancho, Farmington, Hobbs, Bernalillo Resolutions.)***

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #9**

Submitted by: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: Local Decision Making and Health Data Transparency for School Re-Entry

**WHEREAS**, school boards across the state of New Mexico are responsible for developing policies and budgets that proactively address the Covid-19 health crisis, and,

**WHEREAS**, it is critical that New Mexico Superintendents and communities have the information necessary to plan and make arrangements to best support the education of children during differentiated schooling models, and,

**WHEREAS**, school boards need to use accurate and localized data to determine when to transition from Red (fully online) to Yellow (hybrid) to Green (face to face), and,

**WHEREAS**, it is important that school districts have access to the most appropriate scientific evidence for their community, and,

**WHEREAS**, district leaders need scientific evidence to determine when it is safe for small group instruction and activities such as sporting events, music concerts, art exhibits, dance performances, theater, speech and debate competitions, Science Bowl, Math Counts, Science Fairs, Student Council gatherings and a multitude of other interscholastic activities.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that the Governor and New Mexico Legislature support legislation requiring the NMPED and the NMDOH to allow local School Boards to make decisions about re-entry and small group instruction based upon relevant data:

1. Spread of Covid-19 (Rate of Spread)
2. Testing and Rapid-Testing Capacity (Average time to receive test results, Number of Covid-19 tests per day: 7-day rolling average)
3. Contact Tracing and Isolation Capacity (Time from Covid-19 positive test result to case isolation); and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the scientific evidence shared by PED and DOH should not be limited to what is referenced in items 1 to 3 above and should include any current or future factors necessary for evaluating gating criteria or acceptable conditions, thereby allowing local school districts to make appropriate data based decisions; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the DOH correct their database and add zip code data for 87545, White Rock; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Legislature require NMPED and NMDOH provide the data necessary for school districts to strengthen distance and blended learning; assess student achievement; ensure supports for social and emotional learning; emphasize authentic, culturally responsive learning and leverage more adequate and equitable school funding; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, Department of Health Secretary, the Legislative Education Study Committee, and the Legislative Finance Committee.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***Because of the magnitude of the Coronavirus, language to “require relevant scientific data be provided to school districts and allow local school boards to make decisions about school reentry” is appropriate. Resolution should also be sent to NMPED and NMDOH requesting they share relevant data immediately. Recommend Approval (Similar to Las Cruces Resolution.)***

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION #10**

Submitted By: Las Cruces Public Schools

Title: Localized Health Data Transparency for School Re-entry Criteria

**WHEREAS**, schools across the state of New Mexico are responsible for responding to the Covid-19 health crisis; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is critical that the Las Cruces community have sufficient time to plan and make arrangements to best support the education of their children during differentiated schooling models; and,

**WHEREAS**, district leaders are asked to determine when to go from Red (fully online) to Yellow (hybrid) to Green (face to face); and,

**WHEREAS**, district leaders need localized scientific evidence to determine when it is safe to go from Red (fully online) to Yellow (hybrid) to Green (face to face). It is important that district leaders have access to the most appropriate scientific evidence.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education is requesting that the NMPED and the NMDOH share relevant data related to Covid-19 with school district leaders on a county by county basis including:

1. Spread of Covid-19 (Rate of Spread)
2. Testing Capacity (Number of Covid-19 tests per day: 7-day rolling average)
3. Testing Capacity (Number of Covid-19 positive cases per day: 7-day rolling average)
4. Contact Tracing and Isolation Capacity (Time from Covid-19 positive test result to case isolation)
5. Contact Tracing and Isolation Capacity (Time from Covid-19 positive test result to quarantine of case contacts): and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the scientific evidence should not be limited to those specifically requested in items 1 to 5 and should include any current or future factors necessary for evaluating gating criteria or acceptable conditions, thereby allowing local school districts to make appropriate data based decisions; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NMPED and NMDOH develop clear criteria on what the acceptable conditions are for transitioning from Red (fully online) to Yellow (hybrid) to Green (face to face) learning.

### **Committee Recommendation:**

***Because of the magnitude of the Coronavirus, language to “require relevant scientific data be provided to school districts and allow local school boards to make decisions about school reentry” is appropriate. Resolution should also be sent to NMPED and NMDOH requesting they share relevant data immediately. Recommend Approval (Similar to Los Alamos Resolution.)***

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION #11**

Submitted By: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: Safety for School Employees and Saving Taxpayer Dollars by Bulk Purchasing PPE (Personal Protective Equipment)

**WHEREAS**, the Los Alamos School Board and community of Los Alamos are proud of our long-standing tradition of supporting safety for all school employees and students as well as saving taxpayer dollars via bulk purchasing, and,

**WHEREAS**, schools in New Mexico play an essential role in the educational and social development of children and in the functioning of the economy, and,

**WHEREAS**, personal protective equipment is essential to reduce the risk of infection including wearing a mask, using gloves when appropriate, washing hands, cleaning schools, and sanitizing common surfaces, and,

**WHEREAS**, personal protective equipment is especially important for staff and students with special health care needs, and,

**WHEREAS**, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that schools support healthy hygiene behaviors by providing adequate supplies, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol (for staff and older children who can safely use hand sanitizer), paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, and cloth face coverings, and,

**WHEREAS**, the CDC recommends that schools clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces within the school and on school buses at least daily or between use as much as possible, and,

**WHEREAS**, buying PPE in bulk reduces the cost per unit and can reduce how much the state pays in the long run on supplies and products, and,

**WHEREAS**, bulk purchasing by the state will also command a higher priority in securing hard-to-obtain PPE supplies like portable hand washing stations.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that the Governor, New Mexico Legislature, and Public Education Department support legislation to establish an ongoing statewide bulk purchasing program of PPE that is directly distributed to schools; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New Mexico Legislature provide direct funding to school districts to fill gaps in available PPE including portable hand-washing stations in areas with limited running water like mobile classrooms; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that PED provide training about proper use of PPE and safety for school employees; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, Department of Health Secretary, the Legislative Education Study Committee, and the Legislative Finance Committee.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***Assuring safety for school employees and saving taxpayer dollars through bulk purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is appropriate. Recommend Approval***

## **OTHER RESOLUTIONS**

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION #12**

Submitted By: Albuquerque Public Schools

Title: Broadband Access across New Mexico

**WHEREAS**, Census data estimates suggest that 66,000 New Mexico public school aged-children live without internet in their homes; and,

**WHEREAS**, between 13-20 percent of New Mexico homes and businesses do not have broadband available; and,

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico Department of Information Technology reported to the Legislative Finance Committee in August 2020 that broadband infrastructure development faces challenges, because it is often seen as a private sector cost, rather than a public utility; and,

**WHEREAS**, development of broadband access is fragmented across several agencies and beyond the scope of funding to be solved by K12 Education; and,

**WHEREAS**, the global pandemic demonstrates both the necessity and the possibilities that may be realized by delivering health care, education, economic development and critical services that rely on universal broadband access.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that, the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education, along with the New Mexico School Boards Association, calls on the state to convene a statewide committee for the purpose of establishing universal broadband access to all citizens of this state; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any statewide committee include representation from the New Mexico School Boards Association, Superintendent's Association and New Mexico Public Education Department.

#### **Committee Recommendation:**

***Support for Broadband funding is in the 2020 Legislative Program (page 4, column 3). Creation of a statewide committee with NMSBA, NMSSA and NMPED representation is appropriate. Recommend Approval***

### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION #13**

Submitted by: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: K-5 Plus Statute (22-13-D) Amendment to Expand Learning Opportunities for all students

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of K-5 Plus is to demonstrate that increased time in kindergarten through 5th grades narrows the achievement gap between at-risk students and other students, and,

**WHEREAS**, K-5 Plus increases cognitive skills and leads to higher test scores for all participants, and,

**WHEREAS**, the program extends the school year for grades K-5 by 25 instructional days beginning before school starts; and,



**WHEREAS**, the K–5 Plus program provides funding for additional educational time for students in kindergarten through fifth grade in elementary schools; and,

**WHEREAS**, K–5 Plus must be offered school wide and teachers and cohorts are required to remain together for the remainder of the school year after the K-5 Plus program; and,

**WHEREAS**, teachers in the K-5 Plus program need additional collaboration time to align programming to state standards.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that the Governor and New Mexico Legislature amend New Mexico State Statute 22-13-D to remove the 80% cohort requirement to increase student participation and adjust to family schedules; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that flexibilities for a 15-day program offered by the NMPED during FY21 be continued in FY22 so that school districts can ramp up to full implementation and allow for creative approaches that better fit the unique needs of communities across New Mexico; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that funding be increased by changing the factor of 0.3 x Unit Value x MEM to .5 x Unit Value x MEM; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that funding be provided by the New Mexico Legislature and signed by the Governor to update all K-5 Plus curriculum materials to incorporate culturally and linguistically responsive and relevant curricula and practices; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, Department of Health Secretary, the Legislative Education Study Committee, and the Legislative Finance Committee.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***Already in 2020 Legislative Program (page 2, column 2) “Early Childhood/Pre-K Funding”. Recommend current position include increased funding vs. full funding and request that K-5 curriculum materials incorporate culturally and linguistically practices and curricula. Recommend Approval***

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #14**

Submitted by: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: Create and Fund Inclusive Learning Environments that Incorporate Culturally and Linguistically Responsive and Relevant Curricula and Practices

**WHEREAS**, Los Alamos Public Schools leadership and staff have declared their commitment to becoming a more welcoming district that celebrates diversity and is responsive to and inclusive of people of all backgrounds and identities, and,

**WHEREAS**, the effects of systemic racism and disparities continue to negatively influence educational and economic outcomes for students and families in New Mexico; and,

**WHEREAS**, the opportunity gap and achievement gap for culturally and linguistically diverse students continues to present a challenge; and,

**WHEREAS**, native American students have historically had unique experiences that require extra supports as described in the Yazzie/Martinez ruling; and,

**WHEREAS**, it is widely recognized that utilizing culturally responsive teaching practices and curriculum that reflects the diversity of student experience and history leads to more positive student outcomes; and,

**WHEREAS**, research shows that all people have implicit racial biases, and,

**WHEREAS**, the benefits of honoring and learning about the language, culture, history, and traditions of New Mexicans will improve the lives and quality of education for all students.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that the Governor and New Mexico Legislature recognize the importance of addressing systemic racism, complying with state and federal laws regarding the education of Native American and ELL students, including the New Mexico Indian Education Act, Bilingual Multicultural Education Act, and the Hispanic Education Act, and officially condemns (catalyzed by the death of George Floyd) unlawful killings of black, indigenous and people of color and others in our state; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the New Mexico Legislature and the Public Education Department commit to engage in the anti-racism work necessary to create change in our schools to address educational disparities; and ,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that funding be provided by the New Mexico Legislature and signed by the Governor to provide annual training for school district employees to recognize how to identify their own implicit biases and learn how to create objective systems that minimize the impact of implicit bias in learning activities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that funding be provided by the New Mexico Legislature and signed by the Governor to update curriculum materials and education standards for creating inclusive learning environments that incorporate culturally and linguistically responsive and relevant curricula and practices; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, Department of Health Secretary, the Legislative Education Study Committee, and the Legislative Finance Committee.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***Acknowledging the importance of addressing systematic racism and funding for anti-racism training for school district employees is warranted. A portion of this resolution is similar to Resolution #1 calling for the development of curriculum materials and education standards that create inclusive learning environments submitted by Albuquerque. Recommend Approval***

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #15**

Submitted by: Los Alamos Public Schools

Title: Public School Capital Outlay Act Amendment to provide “adequacy” for School Districts

**WHEREAS**, the [Public School Capital Outlay Act](#) and companion legislation establish a mechanism for funding public school capital outlay and a process for distributing funds; and,

**WHEREAS**, legislation was enacted in 2001 in response to a lawsuit brought by Zuni Pueblo that challenged the adequacy and fairness of the way the state paid for school construction and equipment; and,

**WHEREAS**, the [New Mexico Constitution](#) requires that “a uniform system of free public schools sufficient for the education of, and open to, all the children of school age in the state shall be established and maintained”; and,

**WHEREAS**, key to the distribution of state dollars is the concept of “adequacy,” defined as the minimum acceptable level for the physical condition and capacity of school buildings to be educationally suitable and meet technological infrastructure needs; and,

**WHEREAS**, the [Public School Capital Outlay Council](#) determines a local district’s required match through a statutorily established formula that considers taxable land value, population density, gross square footage per student, and replacement cost; and,

**WHEREAS**, the local match may be adjusted for districts that demonstrate a good-faith effort to use all local resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, the community of Los Alamos is “bonded to capacity” and has demonstrated more than a good-faith effort to use local resources; and,

**WHEREAS**, state matching funds for the Los Alamos Public Schools has been reduced from 48% in FY18 to a projected 6% in FY24.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that the Governor and New Mexico Legislature amend the [Public School Capital Outlay Act, Chapter 22, Article 24 NMSA 1978](#) to provide a minimum matching level of 50% for all New Mexico school districts; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that [funding be provided by the Public School Capital Outlay Council to meet “adequacy” as defined as the minimum acceptable level for the physical condition and capacity of school buildings to be educationally suitable and meet technological infrastructure needs](#); and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, Department of Health Secretary, the Legislative Education Study Committee, and the Legislative Finance Committee.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***The 2020 Legislative Program, on (page 4, column 1) Capital Outlay, states “NMSBA supports the creation of a temporary provision to remove local matching requirements for school security upgrades.” The Committee should discuss the pros and cons of moving away from the current matching formula which considers taxable land value, population density, gross square footage per student, and replacement costs. There may be winners and losers as a result of this proposal.***

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION #16**

Submitted By: Farmington Municipal Schools

Title: Reimbursement Funding for National Boards Certified Teachers

**WHEREAS**, the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education believes in professional development and continuous improvement; and,

**WHEREAS**, National Board Certified Teachers has always been centered in statistically valid research; and,

**WHEREAS**, National Board Teacher Certification was designed to develop, retain and recognize accomplished teacher; and,

**WHEREAS**, National Board Teacher Certification is the most respected professional certification available in K-12 education; and,

**WHEREAS**, every student deserves to be taught by an accomplished teacher; and,

**WHEREAS**, the professional development provided generates ongoing improvement in schools nationwide; and,

**WHEREAS**, a current applicant for National Board Certified Teacher must pay up front the certification costs of \$75 registration fee and \$475 for each of the four components to certify for a total cost of \$1,975.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education calls upon the State Legislature to develop and deploy a strategy to maintain an annual fund of \$70,000 beginning Fiscal Year 2022 as a reimbursement account for costs to teachers who receive notice of her/his National Board Certification during School Year 2021-2022 and for those teacher receiving their notice in years that follow.

### **Committee Recommendation:**

***Already in 2020 Legislative Program (page 3, column 1) "National Board Certification". No Action Necessary.***

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION #17**

Submitted By: Albuquerque Public Schools

Title: Repeal the Statutory Provisions Preempting Stricter County and Municipal Regulation of the Sale of Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, and Electronic Smoking Devices

**WHEREAS**, tobacco use continues to be a public health problem in New Mexico, as the American Heart Association reports that approximately 2,600 New Mexico residents die from smoking each year, and 40,000 New Mexico children alive today will die prematurely from smoking if nothing is done to reduce tobacco use; and,

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico 2019 Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey (YRRS) indicated that 8.9 percent of New Mexico high school students smoked cigarettes on at least one day in the past 30 days, higher than the national rate of 5.8 percent that year; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2019 YRRS indicated 34.0 percent of high school students in New Mexico used electronic vapor products on at least one day in the past 30 days, higher than the national rate of 27.5 percent that year; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2019 5.9 percent of New Mexico high school students used chewing tobacco, snuff or dip on at least one day in the past 30 days, higher than the national rate of 4.8 percent in 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, 8.3 percent of high school students in New Mexico in 2019 smoked cigars, cigarillos or little cigars on at least one day in the past 30 days, higher than the national rate of 7.6 percent in 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2020, the New Mexico State Legislature passed Senate Bill 131, later signed into law on March 4, 2020, as Chapter 46, part of which declares that the sales of cigarettes, tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices are matters of statewide concern; and,

**WHEREAS**, by designating regulatory authority to the State, Chapter 46 preempts all local ordinances or regulations that govern the sale of cigarettes, tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices, thereby nullifying and voiding all conflicting existing local laws and regulations and restricting the ability of communities to address their own burden of tobacco use and addiction; and,

**WHEREAS**, in 2015, the New Mexico Legislature passed Senate Bill 433 later signed into law on April 8, 2015, which amended the provision (Section 30-49-11 NMSA 1978 being Laws 1993, Chapter 244, Section 11) to read, provided that local ordinances that pertain to the sale of e-cigarettes or nicotine liquid containers must be consistent with the provisions of the Tobacco Products, E-Cigarette and Nicotine Liquid Container Act; after "county," added "including a home rule municipality or urban county," after "tobacco products," added "e-cigarette or nicotine liquid containers," and after "Tobacco Products," added "E-Cigarette and Nicotine Liquid Container;" and,

**WHEREAS**, prior to the enactment of SB 433, the counties had their own smoking and tobacco control ordinances, some of which were more stringent than the State laws regulating the sale or use of tobacco products; and,

**WHEREAS**, one of the top objectives of the federal Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion's "Healthy People 2020" campaign is to "eliminate state laws that preempt stronger local tobacco control laws;" and,

**WHEREAS**, the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education believes that statistical variations in tobacco usage by the public demonstrate that its people are unique and that the city/county should not be prevented from adopting their own tobacco control laws and regulations to address the specific needs of their communities; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education further believes that authorizing the counties and municipalities to further regulate the sale or use of cigarettes, tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices, is necessary to combat this public health problem; and,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education that the Legislature of the State of New Mexico is urged to repeal the statutory provisions preempting stricter county regulation of the sale of cigarettes, tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to mayors, County Commission presidents, the Governor, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the President Pro Temp of the Senate.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***2020 Legislative Program (page 2, column 1) contains an “Anti-Underage Student Vaping” position which states “NMSBA supports funding for school and community education to address the vaping epidemic in schools.” This position could be expanded to include language to repeal the statutory provisions referenced in this resolution. Recommend Approval***

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #18**

Submitted By: Farmington Municipal Schools

Title: Retired Teacher Return to Work

**WHEREAS**, the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education expresses its concern for a critical teacher shortage in the State of New Mexico; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education believes in providing high quality teacher led instruction in its classrooms; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education believes the influx of newly licensed teachers does not fully meet the critical demand for current teacher openings and, as such, many teacher vacancies are annually left unfilled; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education believes that well qualified teachers are essential for instruction of its students; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education believes the current and future teacher vacancies could be partially offset by allowing newly retired teachers to immediately return to service upon retirement through annual one-year contracts; and,

**WHEREAS**, newly retired teachers would be allowed to immediately return to serve without tenure and would be expected to pay into the New Mexico State Employees Retirement Benefit (ERB) but not receive the benefit newly contributed post-retirement ERB benefits.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Farmington Municipal Schools Board of Education requests that the New Mexico School Boards Association support legislation to change the retirement rule for teachers in order to allow them to return to fill vacancies as needed on an annual basis; and,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the New Mexico State School Boards Association calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to pass legislation that allows retired teachers to return to work at salary equal or greater that at the time of retirement without penalty or negative impact to said teachers retirement pension or benefits and said teacher qualify for funding through State Equalization Guarantee generate placement with the apportionment as determined on the Teacher Credit Index.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***Already in 2020 Legislative Program (page 3, column 3) “Teacher/Police Officers”.  
No Action Necessary.***

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION #19**

Submitted By: Albuquerque Public Schools Resolutions

Title: School Community Gardens

**WHEREAS**, school community gardens can be emancipatory spaces if they are built around culturally responsive practices; and,

**WHEREAS**, school gardens provide a culturally responsive approach to helping students understand their connection to the land and personal health and nutrition; and,

**WHEREAS**, school gardens provide a mechanism to educate the community about both food insecurity and food justice, as well as strengthen community ties; and,

**WHEREAS**, school gardens teach experiential learning about earth science, food nutrition, and agro-ecosystems that support a pathway to value-added agriculture occupations; and,

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico farmers are on average sixty years old, the second highest age in the country; and,

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations reported hunger and malnutrition problems before the pandemic, urging countries to build food systems that address the needs of both producers and workers, and to eradicate hunger by ensuring more people have access to healthy, nutritious food; and

**WHEREAS**, the number of school gardens across the country has doubled between 2007 and 2013; and,

**WHEREAS**, to maintain school gardens as integral to the school communities, we need to develop formal partnerships and aligned strategy for curriculum and practices.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education, along with the New Mexico School Boards Association, support statewide conversations to acknowledge school community gardens as a method for culturally responsive education in our schools.

### **Committee Recommendation:**

***Resolution does not call for legislative action but merely supports statewide conversations to acknowledge the community gardens concept as culturally responsive education in our schools. Approve Resolution.***



# NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

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

## 2020 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



NMSBA's top priorities are focused on providing the best education possible for students, increasing achievement and implementing quality learning programs and best practices.

1. **SEG SUFFICIENCY FUNDING:** NMSBA supports increased funding, resources, flexibility and the accountability necessary to comply with the Martinez/Yazzie Court Ruling which calls on public schools to remedy identified deficiencies and create positive educational experiences and improved outcomes for all students.
2. **EARLY CHILDHOOD/PRE-K FUNDING:** NMSBA fully understands the need for and supports a comprehensive, well-aligned education system that begins with early childhood education and prepares students for success in higher education or in a career pathway. NMSBA supports full funding for all day pre-school, half-day preschool for 3-year olds and K-5 Plus initiatives including operations, facility and transportation costs.
3. **TEACHER RECRUITMENT, RETENTION AND PREPARATION:** NMSBA supports legislation to increase salaries for teachers and public school employees as well as allowing retiring teachers to return to work immediately without penalty in order to address shortages. NMSBA also supports initiatives to expand and improve teacher preparation programs including grow your own initiatives.
4. **SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY:** NMSBA supports funding for improved school safety and security personnel including capital improvements and equipment; staff training; behavioral, emotional and mental health services; counseling; student and staff well-being; restorative justice programs; and improved cybersecurity in our schools.
5. **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION:** NMSBA supports funding and legislation to establish career and technical pathways in our schools as well as financial assistance and job opportunities that lead to high-skill, high-wage and in-demand careers for our students.



# NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

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

## 2020 SPECIAL SESSION PRIORITIES



NMSBA's priorities are focused on providing a safe and healthy quality education for all students, increasing achievement and implementing research based learning programs and best practices.

1. **STUDENT AND STAFF SAFETY:** NMSBA's requests that no action be taken by the legislature that jeopardizes the health and safety of students and staff, and if necessary, supplemental funding be made available to secure necessary equipment, PPE, Covid-19 testing and sufficient staff to ensure a safe learning environment.
2. **CORE EDUCATION MISSION:** NMSBA supports sufficient SEG funding, resources and the flexibility required to open the doors and fully staff the constitutionally mandated core education program to meet the unique needs of large and small districts.
3. **DIGITAL DIVIDE/ONLINE LEARNING:** NMSBA supports action that does not jeopardize funding and resources to ensure all school districts and students are provided with Internet access, dedicated laptops, tablets or other devices coupled with education programming to enable participation in online learning opportunities which are key components of the new learning program.
4. **EXTENDED LEARNING PROGRAMS:** NMSBA supports additional funding up and above open the doors expenses for extended learning programs identified as local district priorities to help offset the effects of this year's abbreviated school calendar and to remedy identified deficiencies and create positive educational experiences and improved outcomes for all students.
5. **SALARY INCREASES AND HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS:** NMSBA supports action that would offset approved school employee salary increases with proposed increases in employee health insurance costs.
6. **SCHOOL DISTRICT CASH BALANCES:** NMSBA requests that school district cash balances be preserved and protected without penalty as they are critical to keeping the doors open between revenue inflows, are utilized for locally established priorities and provide resources to address unfunded health and safety concerns.
7. **DISTRICT LIABILITY PROTECTION:** NMSBA supports legislation that will hold school districts harmless from COVID-19 related lawsuits if they can demonstrate implementation of significant procedures to show due diligence and attempts to avoid foreseeable harm to students, staff, and community members.
8. **IMPACT AID DISTRIBUTION:** NMSBA supports a hold harmless provision from any reductions to district operating budgets as a result of the U.S. Department of Education's recent ruling on federal impact aid distributions.

***Approved by NMSBA Board of Directors May 28, 2020***