



New Mexico
Developmental
Disabilities Planning
Council

Special Education Reform

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION
STUDY COMMITTEE

8.24.20

New Mexico Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

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Special Education in New Mexico



DDPC's Stance on the State of Special Education in New Mexico:

- System is fundamentally broken
- Pandemic exposed and exacerbates existing problems
- System must be rebuilt from the ground up
- Now is the time to build the special education system New Mexico's students need

Davis Family Special Education Experience

- Burdensome & adversarial
- Delays & administrative obstacles
- Haphazard implementation
- Lack of accountability
- Teachers & staff afraid to advocate
- Fear of retaliation

Special Education Needs

- More in-person learning opportunities
- Training focused on specific disabilities (e.g., ASD training) for staff and families
- Respite care & childcare
- If pandemic conditions worsen, and in-person or hybrid models are no longer options, alternative placement and in-home support will be needed
- Transition training/planning & Project SEARCH

Restraint & Seclusion



Image from *Restraint, Seclusion, Deception*, Searchlight NM, October 8, 2019

Two-thirds of restraint and seclusion cases involve students with disabilities

- NM Stat § 22-5-4.12 (2017)
- Searchlight NM's APS report: <https://searchlightnm.org/restraint-seclusion-deception/>
- American Bar Association Resolution: <https://www.abajournal.com/news/article/resolution-103-111b>
- Joint Statement on Civil Rights <http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/education/School-Climate-Principles.pdf>
- Increasing police presence in schools

DDPC Special Education Initiatives & Proposals

- Support legislation that improves outcomes for students with disabilities
- Education survey
- Statewide sample case studies
- PED Special Education Plan
- Interagency review of regulations affecting students with disabilities
- State Ombudsman for Special Education