



The New Mexico Education Partners Coalition was established in the fall of 2005 for the purpose of promoting and supporting legislative initiatives that help to improve and benefit the public education system in New Mexico. Professional organizations comprising the New Mexico Partners include:

- American Federation of Teachers (AFT) - New Mexico
- National Education Association (NEA) - New Mexico
- New Mexico Coalition of Education Leaders
- New Mexico Parent Teacher Association
- New Mexico School Boards Association

The Partners meet on a regular basis throughout the year to identify and discuss issues facing public education and develop legislative and other proposals to address these issues. The Partners have focused their efforts with the New Mexico Legislature working closely with House and Senate Education Committees and with the respected Legislative Education Study Committee which makes key recommendations on education issues and meets during the interim.

The Partners also play a key role in educating the public and our respective memberships about educational issues and garnering support for legislative initiatives. The Partners disseminate information and encourage members and the public to communicate with their legislators on issues of concern.

Another key role the Partners plays is highlighting the many accomplishments of students, parents, teachers, administrators and school boards who work diligently to improve our public education system in New Mexico. It is extremely important the general public and governmental leaders be aware of the many successes occurring in our public schools every day.

The Partners have been extremely successful in recent years speaking with a united voice to executive and legislative leaders on public school funding, accountability, governance, teacher certification, infrastructure and many other issues that are vital to the operations of New Mexico's public school system.

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A Coalition of Professional Education Organizations

AFT New Mexico • Albuquerque Teachers Federation • NEA-New Mexico
New Mexico Coalition of Education Leaders • New Mexico PTA
New Mexico School Boards Association

PRIORITIZE THESE MEASURES TO ENSURE EVERY NEW MEXICO STUDENT HAS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCCESS, 2020

1. SEG Sufficiency Funding: Research is clear; the states that have climbed in student achievement ranking did so by focusing on consistent funding over many years. We appreciate the efforts made last year in Public Education funding. This investment was a great start on the road to recovery after over ten years of severe cuts. Continued investments are necessary to ensure that NM can provide the Public Education all our students deserve. A “one and done” attitude must not prevail.

More funding, resources and flexibility for public schools are needed to comply with requirements for a school system that provides each New Mexico student an equal opportunity to succeed. Funding and training support are needed for all instructional materials including culturally and linguistically appropriate programs (as identified in the Hispanic Education Act and the Indian Education Act). We must provide appropriate support for students with priority needs, such as special education, gifted, and English Language Learners, and funding is especially needed for increased culturally-appropriate intervention programs and initiatives. Last year’s funding increase brought us back to the insufficient levels of 2008, but in order to move the state forward we must maintain current funding formula credit for federal impact aid funds. We must address the equity issue of high impact aid districts with enhanced access to capital outlay spending for those districts. The SEG should be protected; backfilling any cuts to SEG caused by reducing credit for impact aid with general fund dollars has the effect of reducing the funds available for maintaining the sufficiency of the SEG.

2. From Early Childhood to Careers—we must invest: Student success will increase when our state provides 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. We must provide 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. Whenever possible, these services should be provided by New Mexico Public School Districts. Additionally, the partners support efforts to rebuild innovative Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs and we will advocate for the development, implementation and restoration of middle school and high school CTE programs; and CTE Funding, including a CTE weight in the NM Funding Formula.

3. Educator Recruitment, Retention and Preparation: Education jobs are among the lowest-paying occupations requiring a bachelor’s degree, and teacher salaries consistently fail to keep up with inflation. Our state’s teacher shortage is acute and will get worse unless we ensure continued investments. The Education Partners support legislation to increase total compensation significantly for teachers and other educators until we provide true professional pay commensurate with other professions requiring similar education and skills. We recommend 4 Salary Tiers for teachers as follows: \$35K-Paid Residencies; \$45K-Level 1 minimum; \$55K & \$65K for Level 2 & 3 minimums and a \$5K raise for each Level 2 & 3 teacher. In addition, we recommend:

- Sufficient funding for the same salaries for all counselors, social workers, therapists and nurses;
- Funding for staffing efforts in each district to attract and retain social workers, counselors, school psychologists, and nurses in every school to mitigate the effects of trauma and poverty among our students;
- A living wage for our EAs, secretaries, clerks, cafeteria staff, custodians, and bus drivers;
- Increasing the employer share of insurance costs and retirement by 5 percent.

The Education Partners also support initiatives to enhance New Mexico’s educator preparation programs, including extended clinical experiences. We must fully fund Grow Your Own Teachers, scholarships and loan repayment programs to attract young people into the teaching of STE(A)M, Citizenship, Special Education, Bilingual and Indian Education, and other programs to prepare New Mexicans for careers in education. The Governor’s call for free college tuition will help too.

4. School Safety and Security: The Education Partners support funding for school safety and security including capital improvements, training, behavioral, emotional and mental health, counseling, student well-being, guidance in utilizing armed school security guards, restorative justice and cybersecurity. At-Risk funding increases should provide for better pay for, and more positions of Social Workers, Counselors, and other education professionals who help reduce security concerns and classroom disruptions while helping students with their social-emotional development.