



# Rulemaking Report

**Date:** December 19, 2025

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**Rule Citation:** 6.30.15 NMAC: Community School Requirements

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## Overview of Proposed Rule

**Agency:** Public Education Department

**Rulemaking Action:** Amendment

**Date of Notice:** December 9, 2025

**Public Comment Period:** December 9, 2025, to January 12, 2025

**Rule's Purpose:** The proposed rule amendment would revise the community schools framework, clarify school personnel roles and responsibilities, align grant award language with new legislative requirements, and modify community schools coalition membership requirements.

## Summary of 6.30.15 NMAC: Community School Requirements

The Public Education Department (PED) gave notice that it is proposing amending 6.30.15 New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) to update the implementation of the Community Schools Act. The proposed amendment would revise the community schools framework with current national research, clarify school personnel responsibilities, align funding language with Laws 2025, Chapter 81 ([Senate Bill 387](#)), and modify criteria for membership in the statewide community schools coalition.

The department cites Section 9-24-8 NMSA 1978, Section 22-2-1 NMSA 1978, Section 22-2-2 NMSA 1978, and Section 22-32-1 NMSA as statutory authority for promulgating and amending rules governing the implementation of the Community Schools Act.

If adopted, the amended rule would take effect January 12, 2026.

## Impact

The proposed amendment to 6.30.15 NMAC would impact school districts and charter schools receiving state funding to implement the community schools framework.

**Community Schools Framework.** The proposed amendment would update the community schools framework to reflect current national research, replacing the four pillars of community schools with six key practices. These practices include: 1) Powerful student and family engagement; 2) Collaborative leadership, shared power, and voice; 3) Expanded, culturally enriched learning opportunities; 4) Rigorous community-connected classroom instruction; 5) A culture of belonging, safety, and care; and 6) Integrated systems of support.

**Community School Personnel.** The proposed amendment would clarify the role and responsibilities of community school personnel. The rule would require each community school to employ a full-time community school coordinator who meets PED's qualifications and who is responsible for implementing the community schools framework, leading asset mapping and needs assessments, guiding continuous improvement, and convening a site-based leadership team at least twice a month, which must include meeting with school leadership, to evaluate progress. For grantees implementing community schools at three or more sites, the proposed amendment would require the employment of a community school director or manager to coordinate implementation across schools and oversee the community school coordinator at each of those public schools.

According to [PED](#), there are currently 91 community schools receiving PED grant funding. Including schools operating without PED community schools funding, there are a total of 150 community schools in New Mexico.

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Legislative appropriations for community schools began in FY20 with \$2 million. Funding levels peaked in FY24 at \$10 million before declining to \$8 million in FY25 and \$6 million in FY26.

**Grant Application Requirements.** In response to Laws 2025, Chapter 81 (Senate Bill 387), the proposed amendment would align grant award language with state law to clarify that eligible implementation grants may be awarded in amounts of up to \$150 thousand per year for three years. This could enable PED to spend flexibly and optimize school grant awards. The proposed amendment would also require all implementation, renewal, and certification grant applicants to demonstrate full-time employment of their community school coordinator. Planning grant grantees would not be required to employ a coordinator yet and would remain eligible for one-time awards of up to \$50 thousand.

**Community Schools Coalition.** The proposed amendment would replace the coalition's specific membership requirements with broader criteria. For example, PED currently specifies the coalition should include culturally and linguistically responsive content experts, teachers from different state regions, and special education and disability experts. The proposed amended language allows individuals to represent unspecified diverse backgrounds and organizations. While this change provides flexibility in appointments, it may result in varied interpretations of representation and does not specify minimum requirements for geographic, professional, or community representation

**Severability.** The amendment also adds a severability clause, which would preserve the validity, legality, and enforceability of the remaining provisions if any section of the rule is found to be invalid or unenforceable.