

**Date:** May 1, 2026

**Prepared By:** Conor L. Hicks, Policy Analyst I

**Rule Citation:** [NMAC 6.30.15: Community School Requirements](#)

---

## Overview of Adopted Rule

**Agency:** Public Education Department

**Rulemaking Action:** Amendment

**Date of Adoption:** January 15, 2026

**Effective Date:** January 27, 2026

**Rule's Purpose:** The adopted rule amendment revises the community school framework, clarifies school personnel roles and responsibilities, aligns grant award language with new legislative requirements, and modifies community schools coalition membership requirements.

## Summary of NMAC 6.30.15: Community School Requirements

The Public Education Department (PED) adopted an amendment to New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) 6.30.15 to update the implementation of the Community Schools Act. The adopted amendment revises the community school framework with current national research, clarifies school personnel responsibilities, aligns funding language with Laws 2025, Chapter 81 ([Senate Bill 387](#)), and modifies criteria for membership in the statewide community schools coalition. No changes were made between the proposed amendment and the adopted version.

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.

## Impact

The adopted amendment to NMAC 6.30.15 impacts school districts and charter schools receiving state funding to implement the community school framework.

**Community School Framework.** The adopted amendment updates the community school 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 adopted amendment clarifies the role and responsibilities of community school personnel. The rule requires each community school to employ a full-time community school coordinator who meets PED's qualifications and is responsible for implementing the community school 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 meetings with school leadership to evaluate progress. For grantees implementing community schools at three or more sites, the amendment requires 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.

There are 150 community schools in New Mexico, with some receiving PED grant funding and others operating using other funding sources. According to [PED](#), there are currently 91 community schools receiving PED grant funding. 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. In the 2026 legislative session, the Legislature appropriated \$18.3 million from the public education reform fund for FY27 through FY29 (\$6.1 million per year) to support community schools.

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

**Community Schools Coalition.** The adopted amendment replaces 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 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 preserves the validity, legality, and enforceability of the remaining provisions if any section of the rule is found to be invalid or unenforceable.