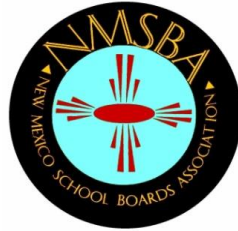


NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Presented to
LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

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About NMSBA...

Vision

The New Mexico School Boards Association aspires to be recognized as the premier source of development and support for local boards of education in New Mexico. The NMSBA will be known as the leading advocate for local boards in their role of insuring that all students will graduate from New Mexico high schools prepared for a quality life and committed to improving society.

Mission

The New Mexico School Boards Association is the member organization for all of New Mexico's school boards to support their efforts in providing a quality education for all students of New Mexico. The NMSBA serves its members through:

- *Commitment to local decision making
- *Advocacy at the state and federal level for commonly held needs
- *Leadership development services and training for local school boards
- *Collaboration with community, elected officials and other educational organizations

Celebrating 60 years of service to New Mexico's School Boards





NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION 2018-2019

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Arlan Ponder, President-Elect – Cloudcroft

Olivia Calabaza, Vice President – Bernalillo

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NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2019 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

The mission of the New Mexico School Boards Association (NMSBA), as an advocate for public education, is to provide leadership and services that enable local boards of education to govern effectively. Through NMSBA, local boards of education are involved in the legislative process to achieve needed school and program reforms. Each of these efforts is focused on the goal that every student is entitled to a free and quality public education.

Every year, NMSBA initiates a legislative process that enables local school boards to express their opinions on current educational issues. These opinions are collected through a resolutions development process. Following a comprehensive analysis of all resolutions, the NMSBA Resolutions and Legislative Committee recommends legislative priorities to the membership for adoption. At the NMSBA Annual Convention on December 7th, the 2019 Legislative Priorities were adopted and now represent the collective voice of New Mexico's 89 school boards and over 450 school board members.

The 2019 New Mexico Legislative Session will be a challenging 60 days with many important issues to deal with. We trust our Legislative Priorities will be carefully considered by New Mexico's Legislative and Executive Leaders.

II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In analyzing legislative proposals in the interim and during the legislative session NMSBA uses three guiding principles:

- **Unfunded Mandates**
NMSBA opposes legislation that mandates public schools to implement new programs or initiatives without providing the necessary financial resources. NMSBA will continue to advocate for funding for unfunded mandates that currently exist.
- **Local Control**
One of the important components of a successful public education system is local decision-making. NMSBA believes that decision making at the district level must be preserved and expanded and opposes any legislation that attempts to diminish or take away this authority.
- **Adequate Funding**
NMSBA believes funding for public schools, which is the primary responsibility of the state, should be increased to a level that assures every student will receive an adequate education based on their needs. Funds should be appropriated in a manner that preserves the ability of school boards to allocate funds within their districts based on the diverse needs of their students and communities.

III. 2019 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS/PRIORITIES

LOCAL CONTROL

1. Oppose efforts to remove or reduce powers of elected local school boards in areas such **local alternative demonstration of competency graduation policies** (Ruidoso)
2. Support greater local school board decision making including the **replacement of current teacher evaluation and school grading systems** (Las Cruces)

ADEQUATE FUNDING

3. Calls for increased and **sufficient funding for public education** as called for in the state constitution; funding for **mental health, school safety, pre-k and other unfunded programs**. (Las Cruces)
4. Request increased funding from the **Land Grant Permanent Fund** to comply with the constitutional mandate for all students, including those defined as **“At-risk” and requests resources and input from public schools in order to comply with the Martinez/Yazzie Case**. (Bernalillo)
5. Calls for funding to increase **teacher starting salaries to \$50, \$60 and \$70 thousand** and **principal starting salaries to \$80, \$90 and \$100 thousand**. (Farmington)
6. Calls for immediate steps to provide **additional funding for Regional Education Cooperatives**. (Mora)
7. Calls on the Legislature to **fully fund all-day pre-school for 4-year olds and half-day pre-school for 3-year olds**. (Farmington)
8. Calls for the development and implementation of a **statewide technology plan, recognition of the importance of careers in technology and computer science, and funding for professional development for all technology staff**. (Gadsden)
9. Supports funding, regulatory and statutory adjustments for **high school career and technical pathways and student financial assistance for job-market opportunities**, (Rio Rancho)
10. Calls for research to **determine sufficient funding levels for instructional materials, funding for instructional materials and improved distribution oversight**. (Albuquerque)
11. Calls for additional funding for schools wishing to implement **Community Schools Programs** and recommends use of the state statute as an implementation guide. (Albuquerque)

SCHOOL SAFETY

12. Calls on the Legislature to increase funding for **capital improvements, renovation, technology infrastructure and school safety and security** through the PSCOC. (Farmington)
13. Prioritize **funding for school safety, pass legislation that protects students and staff** and provide **school safety training assistance** to school districts. (Los Alamos)

14. Join in **finding a solution for acts of violence**; require and **strengthen universal background checks**; and *prioritize school safety* to include increased **funding for counselors, mental health staff, psychologists and social workers**. (Albuquerque)
15. Embed **mental health support** in public schools and provide adequate **funding to support healthy mental, social, and emotional health and student well-being in our schools**. (Gadsden)
16. Provide adequate, ongoing funding for the provision of **behavioral and mental health services and student well-being** in support of public schools. (Rio Rancho)
17. Allow **retired police officers to return to work** as school resource officers **without penalty** or negative impact to retirement pension or benefits. (Farmington)
18. Requests statutory and regulatory **guidance in utilizing armed school security guards** and calls for **training in the area of restorative justice**. (Rio Rancho)

LOCAL ELECTION ACT

19. Calls on the Legislature to **make needed changes to the Local Education Act; allow districts to conduct in-person special elections**; determine the **legality of making contributions from the State Equalization Formula to the Local Election Fund**. (Santa Fe)
20. Calls on the Legislature to **reimburse districts for special elections** and make **other needed changes** to the Local Election Act and related bond and mill levy statutes. (Albuquerque)

OTHER PRIORITIES

21. Calls for adoption of a platform that demands the **immediate end to forcible and traumatic separation of children from their families by the federal government in any community in New Mexico**. (Las Cruces)
22. Support legislation to **define “ethnic studies”** and **allow districts to develop ethnic studies curriculum which would satisfy social studies credit requirements**. (Las Cruces)
23. Calls on the Legislature, PED and HED to **guarantee equitable access to dual credit programs** by adopting a statement of purpose and **mandating equal access by higher education institutions**. (Gadsden)
24. **Support the academic success and safety of New Mexico’s LGBTQ youth** by **recognizing the unique challenges** they face and by **developing data-driven strategies** to improve their safety and education outcomes. (Gadsden)
25. Create an **exemption from Inspection of Public Records Act** allowing school boards to **release only the final three candidates** for superintendent positions. (Albuquerque)
26. Support legislative action **allowing retired teachers** and other licensed professionals **to return to work immediately without the required 12-month wait out period** or otherwise compromise their return to work status. (Las Cruces)