



**The New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders
(NMCEL)**

- Is relied upon as the experts in the strategic guidance of educational policy and practice in New Mexico.
- Provides the effective foundation for proactive advocacy for public education in New Mexico.

**NMCEL
2018-2019
Strategic
Plan**

- Part I**
Increase our collaborations and create a defined communication plan to better advocate for our efforts.
- Part II**
Push the agenda of a quality, better defined, and all-out effort to increase local control as a state policy focus.
- Part III**
Active set of actions to press for sufficiency of funding for New Mexico Public Schools and assure that no more raids on any part of the resources for public schools will be considered acceptable politically or strategically.

**NMCEL
AFFILIATES**

- New Mexico School Superintendents Association (NMSSA)
- Albuquerque Public Schools Principals Association (APSPA)
- Alliance for the Advancement of Teaching & Learning (NMSU)
- Cooperative Educational Services (CES)
- Eastern New Mexico Educational Resource Center (ENMERC)
- New Mexico Activities Association (NMAA)
- New Mexico Association for Bilingual Educators (NMABE)
- New Mexico Association of Educational Retirees (NMAER)
- New Mexico Association of Elementary School Principals (NMAESP)
- New Mexico Association of Secondary School Principals (NMASSP)
- New Mexico Association of School Business Officials (NMAASBO)
- New Mexico School Personnel Association (NMSPA)
- New Mexico Society for Technology in Education (NMSTE)
- Regional Educational Cooperatives Association (RECA)
- Southeastern New Mexico Educational Resource Center (SNMERC)
- New Mexico Council of Administrators of Special Education (NMCASE)
- New Mexico Public Facilities Management Association

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2018-19 LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

Local Control:

- The best point of decision making and accountability to our school communities rests closest to our students. Therefore, local superintendents and local boards must be the first line of decision making about education. The “Top down, one size fits all” approach to decision making for public education does not recognize the local differences that exist due to size and demographic make-up of New Mexico districts. ***Therefore, all legislation passed by the New Mexico State Legislature must support the return of local control to districts and local boards of education.***
- New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) directly assigns the superintendent of schools as the chief executive officer of the district and the State of New Mexico must allow the superintendent to make the decisions that are most appropriate for the district he/she represents. ***Therefore, legislation passed must promote the return of superintendent prerogatives in decision making for local districts.***

Sufficiency of Funding:

- With the diminished state of resource available in New Mexico, below the line funding should meet and compete with the overall priorities of educational need in New Mexico. Given the future political landscape and the long-term needs of New Mexico students, there must be a budgetary balance that assures the needs of children in ALL districts in New Mexico are addressed. ***Therefore, a long - term plan for balancing basic above the line funding, middle of the line funding and below the line funding that is sustainable through time must be formulated.***
- Supporting quality education in New Mexico is in the best interest of every citizen in the State. ***Therefore, legislation that reduces funding for New Mexico Public Schools, raids district cash balances, or enforces unfunded mandates are not acceptable.***
- The “cost to do business as required by law” should not be considered an increase above the base funding for public schools. These costs include the tier migration costs as a part of the three-tiered licensure system, liability insurance, health insurance, and utilities. ***Therefore, the “Open the Doors Costs” must be calculated and added to the FY 18 funding levels in the SEG.***
- In most districts, teachers and school employees have seen a decrease in take home wages due to the increase in shared insurance costs. ***Therefore, no further reduction of benefits should be supported in legislation.***
- The need for highly qualified teachers, administrators and ancillary service providers in New Mexico schools must be recognized as an economic development issue that requires a systemic plan of action. ***Therefore, legislation that invests in identifying and supporting viable solutions for improving the recruitment and retention of teachers and administrators must be supported.***
- The survivability of local districts is paramount to ensure that rural districts thrive. ***Therefore, the State must invest more fully in Regional Educational Cooperatives as important service points for rural collaboration.***