

# Legislative Initiatives

## Public School Capital Outlay Oversight Task Force

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*Presenter:*

**Jonathan Chamblin, Director**



**New Mexico Public School Facilities Authority**

Partnering with New Mexico's communities to provide quality, sustainable school facilities for our students and educators.

# Topics Discussed

- Since August 2020, PSFA has presented facility and policy analysis to Senate Finance Committee, PSCOOTF, and PSCOC.
- PSCOC has not taken action to endorse any of the policy proposals.
- Topics that have been presented and discussed include:
  - State participation on broadband and technology projects for remote learning during COVID and to close the homework gap.
  - HVAC projects in response to COVID.
  - PSFA operating budget cap calculation methodology.
  - Demolition funding.
  - SB-9 Program units definition.

# On-going Work on Technology Projects

- PSCOC awarded \$200 K in October to provide consultative assistance to districts to identify effective connectivity solutions for high-speed internet.
  - PSFA has contracted with consultants to assist 63 districts and 19 state charters, performing the following tasks:
    - Identify the geographic locations and grade levels of disconnected students in each district and charter school.
    - Help these districts/schools identify and contract for effective solutions to provide connectivity by January.
- Projects continue to improve school building and site WiFi strength and capacity for after-hours, parking lot connectivity, and exterior site areas.

# Additional Discussions on Technology Projects

With changes to the Educational Technology Initiative, PSCOF funding for capital expenditures for technology projects could be expanded to include:

- Support regional district consortia for fiber, centralized network equipment, and shared internet access service projects.
- Support the development of a statewide educational network to include continued fiber construction, with regional hubs for network equipment and services.
- Capital expenditures for district-wide connectivity equipment, if applicable.
- Capital expenditures for student devices and connectivity equipment.
- Capital expenditures for school bus equipment WiFi connectivity.

# HVAC Systems Projects

- PSCOC Building Systems Funding Program has included HVAC as an eligible system type for awards for the last 4 award cycles.
- In response to COVID, districts have notified PSFA that they plan to bring applications for this system type next year, if eligible.
- Upgrading or replacing HVAC systems to be COVID-ready may increase the cost of the installation and will increase energy consumption (gas and electricity bills) for the duration of the system lifespan.
- Increased focus on energy efficiency on upcoming projects and on-site power production that is sized to offset the increased energy consumption from the new COVID-ready HVAC could mitigate the impact on district utility costs.

# Additional Discussions

- Changing the calculation methodology for PSFA's operating budget cap from an average of the previous 3 years' expenditures from the fund to an average of the previous 5 years' expenditures.
- Demolition has been eligible for state funding participation through the systems-based funding program. Participation has been limited. 50 systems applications have been submitted in the first 4 years of the program, 2 applications included demolition.

# Questions

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Thank You!