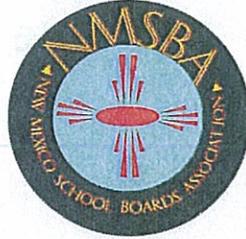


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NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Presented to

LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

Ron Singleton, NMSBA President
Joe Guillen, NMSBA Executive Director

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Santa Fe, New Mexico

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



**NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTIONS & LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
2015-2016**

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- Barbara Peterson - Albuquerque
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- Sherry Galloway - Farmington
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- Kim Gonzales - Socorro
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NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2016 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 recent NMSBA Annual Convention the 2016 Legislative Priorities were adopted and now represent the collective voice of New Mexico's 89 school boards and over 450 school board members.

The 2016 New Mexico Legislative Session will be a challenging 30 days with many important issues to deal with and a limited level of revenues. We trust our Legislative Priorities will be carefully considered by New Mexico's Legislative and Executive Leaders.

II. GUIDING PRINCIPALS

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. 2015-2016 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS / PRIORITIES

Local Decision Making

1. Requests the State Legislature and Public Education Department support the authority of local school boards to make educational policy decisions and set education priorities for local school districts by focusing on what is best for students, allowing for local flexibility and judgement and providing adequate funding. *(Albuquerque)*
2. Opposes efforts by the State Legislature and Public Education Department to remove or reduce powers of local school boards by abolishing local alternative demonstration of competency graduation policies which will result in the failure of many students to graduate and cause them irreparable harm. *(Ruidoso)*
3. Urges the State Legislature and Public Education Department to establish ways to collaborate with each local board of education in a formal mutually agreed upon process and provide insight and input into the development and modification of mandates and processes to ensure a successful education system. *(Las Cruces)*

Funding/Financial

4. Calls on the State Legislature to increase funding in the state equalization guarantee by a minimum of 1% of the overall state budget each year, until it is funded at a minimum of 51% of the overall state budget and that it never be funded less than 51% of the state's overall budget. *(Cloudcroft & Gadsden)*
5. Calls on the State Legislature to provide additional funding for the state equalization guarantee to support public education resulting in an increase to the unit value. *(Albuquerque, Bernalillo & Socorro)*

6. Requests the State Legislature adopt a three year plan to increase level one teacher salaries to \$40,000, level two salaries to \$50,000 and level three salaries to \$60,000 utilizing general fund revenues. *(Deming)*
7. Calls on the State Legislature to increase funding for school transportation to levels that prevent decreases to traditional public schools caused by allowing charter schools to access school transportation funds. *(Gadsden)*
8. Calls on the State Legislature to provide funding for all state mandated testing materials from sources other than the state equalization formula. *(Socorro)*

Teacher Evaluation/Retention

9. Urges the Public Education Department not to tie licensure renewal and advancement to the teacher evaluation system; leave all personnel decisions at the local level: use only current student growth data in teacher evaluations; make local observations and evaluations the major portion of the total teacher score; clearly and concisely explain how the VAM impacts teacher ratings; collaborate with districts statewide to eliminate possibilities of an unfair, inaccurate, and/or inequitable evaluations; establish a formal process for teachers to question and appeal their ratings and scores to an independent panel; and provide extensive professional development to evaluators, teachers, and all involved in or affected by the evaluation system. *(Quemado)*
10. Opposes efforts by the Public Education Department to reduce the authority of the State Legislature and local school boards and calls for the teacher evaluation system to be amended to reflect a more appropriate percentage for standardized test scores in the overall rating *(Ruidoso)*
11. Requests the State Legislature establish a statewide effort to recruit and retain teachers and other educational personnel by adopting a fair and equitable three tiered licensure system for all certified professional personnel not currently included in the existing three-tiered salary structure and by allowing retired teachers and other critically needed certified professionals with less than the currently required twelve month waiting period to fill vacancies in high need areas. *(Las Cruces)*

