



New Mexico Business Roundtable

Legislative Priorities and Recommendations to the 52nd Legislature of New Mexico 2015

Legislative Education Study Committee

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New Mexico Business Roundtable

The Process, Protocol, and Procedure of Establishing Legislative Education Priorities and Recommendations

ABOUT US- Each year Since 1999, The New Mexico Business Roundtable has engaged in a process of developing its' Legislative Education Priorities and Recommendations for the New Mexico Legislature. The Business Roundtable has a long and distinguished track record of being the "Go-To" business organization for leadership on education issues and reform.

Each spring, our Board of Directors begins by selecting education topics that we believe are in the best interest of New Mexico's Private Sector Business Community and that exemplify how we can best help pursue reform and improve education in our State.

During the Legislative Interim, we form a Public Policy Committee, made up of individuals from diverse private business arenas, educators, policy makers, executive directors of engaged community based organizations and foundations, as well as specialist and experts from across the country accustomed to working with diverse government agencies. This knowledgeable and dedicated committee, tasked with the responsibility of researching series of specific topics, meets monthly to discuss its' findings, thoughts and ideas, in a true roundtable format.

In 2014, our Public Policy Committee met throughout the months of May to November, and engaged more than 80 individuals who contributed their expertise, knowledge, desires, concerns, frustrations, and successes to this unbiased collaboration.

The results of each meeting are then brought forward to our Board of Directors at their fall meeting, where the process begins anew, with information presented, digested, and discussed by the full Board of Directors, many of whom have already participated in meetings of the Policy Committee. After much deliberation, the Board generates a list of specific issues detailing the Roundtable's support or opposition, with each recommendation approved by the Board, and finally posted and presented to the Legislature and the public, prior to the commencement of the Legislative Session.



New Mexico Business Roundtable

Priorities and Recommendations 2015 Regular Session of the New Mexico Legislature

Early Childhood Care and Education- NMBR SUPPORTS

- Continued infrastructure development aligned with the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Initiative and program expansion for early childhood care and education programs through the prioritization with other programs and/or new state revenue funding. Providing age-appropriate opportunities for our children is necessary to ensure that they are both ready and able to succeed in school. This is particularly true in New Mexico where we must deal with so many rural schools, economically disadvantaged families, and other social factors that impact the opportunities for children at an early age to come prepared for school. It is imperative that we invest in high quality early childhood programs in a world where education and skill levels determine future earnings. Furthermore, we increasingly find that the availability of good early childhood care and education programs is critical to the recruitment and retention of parent employees.
- To ensure that limited state funding is being correctly and efficiently applied we support a fully comprehensive accountability system which must be inclusive of a system of teacher/educator/provider accountability and the effective evaluation of children who are participants in the program. Enhancement of quality rating system and providing data and public reports for all faith based, private, and public providers where state and federal funding is utilized is critical to not only ensure that funds are spent appropriately, but also to obtain continued support.
- Reauthorization of the Early Learning Advisory Council in 2016.

Reading Interventions and Grade Three Retention- NMBR SUPPORTS

- Ending promotion at grade three as a last resort for students who are not reading at grade level proficiency
- Assessments of Kindergarten through grade two to determine student learning capacity and cognitive processing skills. Significant research shows that Education/Student Success is a function of both pedagogy and the student's learning capacity. NMBR believes that our educators are in general teaching effectively; however, the intervention needed is to accurately assess and offer improvement opportunities for those students needing additional help.
- Development of innovative approaches and processes to help build student learning capacity, including Intervention coaching, supplemental tools and grade level appropriate approaches

New Mexico Effective Teaching- NMBR SUPPORTS

- The continued implementation of an effective and fair New Mexico Effective Teacher and Administrator Evaluation System.

Jobs for America's Graduates and Dropout Prevention and Recovery Programs- NMBR SUPPORTS

- The continued and prioritization of funding for programs uniquely designed to address High School drop-out and student recovery for the purpose of increasing student graduation rates, work based learning and experience opportunities, and student follow-up into career and/or post secondary education.

Continued Implementation of Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and Partnership Assessment of Readiness For College/Career (PARCC)- NMBR SUPPORTS

- The continued implementation of CCSS to ensure all students are ready for success after high school, however NMBR is concerned that adequate planning and cost estimates have not been provided to ensure that successful implementation in the state's schools. This includes not only the implementation of the Standards themselves, in classrooms, to include additional teacher professional development and adequate classroom resources and equipment, but also the necessary professional development and technology to effectively administer the PARCC test. NMBR would recommend that the LESC conduct a comprehensive study of the implementation costs and resources necessary to effectively implement Common Core State Standards and provide those to the Legislature to ensure that this important change in the U.S. Education system is successfully accomplished in New Mexico.

Charter Schools- NMBR SUPPORTS

- Changes in the Charter School law that increase student access to effective schooling options, expanding effective Charters to serve more students and providing effective governance and oversight of Charters in the state, conducted by the Public Education Department. NMBR also supports additional flexibilities for high performing Charters and more rapid closure for failing schools within three years as opposed to five.
- A standardized fiscal accountability system for Charters commensurate with Traditional Schools.

Public Education Funding- NMBR SUPPORTS

- The continued study and implementation of a fair and equitable funding formula. This includes continued study and evaluation of the impact of increased funding for Pre K and K-12 Public Education and the utilization of funds via the State Equalization Grant and Public Education Department Funding.

Early Childhood Care and Education Funding- NMBR SUPPORTS

- The continued incremental funding for and evaluation and impact of increased funding for Early Childhood Care and Education Ages 0-5 and Pre-K.

Higher Education Funding- NMBR SUPPORTS

- Adequate funding for Research and Comprehensive Universities and Community Colleges based on a fair and equitable funding formula that provides additional support to those institutions that focus on critical career programs. NMBR believes that, because of limited resources, mission overlap of higher education institutions should be carefully monitored and funding adjusted to discourage duplication when it is not required.

Cabinet Secretary Confirmations- NMBR SUPPORTS

- Confirmation of Yolanda Deines, Cabinet Secretary, Children, Youth, and Families Department; Hanna Skandera, Cabinet Secretary, Public Education Department; Jose Garcia, Cabinet Secretary, Higher Education Department.

Education Governance and Public Education Commission- NMBR SUPPORTS

- The current governance structure of Public Education with a cabinet level Secretary of Education.
- The timely dissolution of the Public Education Commission per a Joint Resolution of the Legislature and Constitutional Amendment.

NMBR OPPOSES

- Any additional authority to be granted to the Public Education Commission

Land Grant Permanent Fund (LGPF)- NMBR OPPOSES

- Any additional distribution from the NM Land Grant Permanent Fund and supports the scheduled return of the distribution to 5%. The LGPF is not a “Rainy Day Fund or State Savings Account” but rather a Trust Fund designated for current and future LGPF Specified Beneficiaries. It is important that NM citizens understand the legality and purpose of the LGPF:
- Per Section 8 of the 1910 “Enabling Act for New Mexico”
Land grant schools under control of state; aid to sectarian schools prohibited. The schools, colleges and universities provided for in this act shall forever remain under the exclusive control of the said state, and no part of the proceeds arising from the sale or disposal of any lands granted herein for educational purposes shall be used for the support of any sectarian or denominational school, college or university.
There is no provision for distributions from the LGPF for faith based or private sector providers and funds are for the express use of Land Grant Schools. It would require an act of Congress and Presidential Signature to make any provisional change.
- Early Child Care and Education is not an “Entity” or “Specified Beneficiary” there is no provision within the “Enabling Act” for Early Childhood Care and Education. An amendment to add or delete a Specified Beneficiary would require an Act of the NM Legislature and Governor Signature to make that provisional change along with the purchase of lands and subsequent proceeds from the sale, or disposal of specified section (s) of land which would be revenue generating, or the exchange or removal of a current Specified Beneficiary and transfer of designated land and revenues from that land to a new Specified Beneficiary.
- Protecting the solvency and grow the fund which in turn provides additional revenue at the 5% distribution rate
- There is no guarantee that additional distributions from the LGPF will result in increased funds for early childhood care and education programs. Historical appropriations have demonstrated that increases in LGPF distributions have resulted in a supplanting of general fund

- Any additional distributions from the LGPF should only be used for non-recurring cost, and expenses. Distribution amounts are subject to change and often sunset. This creates funding cliffs and potential budget cuts or revenue enhancements.
- The Early Learning Care and Education System infrastructure is not sufficient or capable of implementing programs or administration of those programs beyond annual incremental additional funding
- Probable litigation by current Specified Beneficiaries and other entities and probable disruption of current funding.

Accountability, Data Systems, and Measuring Results- NMBR SUPPORTS

- Efforts to ensure fiscal and program accountability at all levels within the Early Childhood Care and Education to Higher Education Systems. This will require the continued and supplemental funding for the development, implementation, and maintenance of data systems, peer reviewed research and accountability measures to determine longitudinal results to be shared with all stakeholders.