



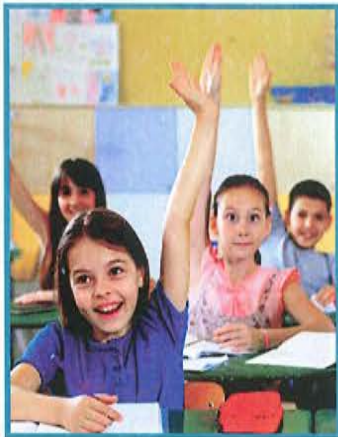
NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

"Serving New Mexico's School Boards for Over 50 Years"

2015 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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 leg-



islative process to achieve needed school and program reforms. Each of these efforts is focused on the belief that every student is entitled to a free and quality public education.

Every year NMSBA issues a call for resolutions that enables local school boards to express their opinions on educational issues requiring attention by the State Legislature. After a comprehensive analysis of the resolutions by the NMSBA Resolutions and Legislative Committee, they are presented to the full membership at the Annual Delegate Assembly for discussion, debate and adoption. Our 2015 Legislative Program represents the collective voice of New Mexico's 89

school boards comprised of over 450 elected school board members.

The 2015 Legislative Session will be a challenging 60 day session with many important financial and policy issues to address. We trust our Legislative Program effectively highlights our priorities to share with New Mexico's Legislative, Executive and State Education Leaders.

NMSBA utilizes three guiding principles to develop our Legislative Program. The principles are also utilized to evaluate legislation introduced during the session that was not anticipated and did not go through our legislative review process. The guiding principles follow.

II. Guiding Principles

NMSBA's three guiding principles utilized to evaluate legislation affecting public education are:

Unfunded Mandates

NMSBA opposes legislation that mandates school districts to implement new programs or activities without providing necessary financial resources. NMSBA will also continue to advocate for resources to carryout unfunded mandates previously imposed on districts.

Local Control

One of the important components of a successful public education system is local control and decision-making. NMSBA believes that local control must be preserved and, when possible, expanded. NMSBA opposes any legislation that attempts to diminish or take away local decision-making and supports legislation that maintains or expands local control and decision-making authority.

Adequate Funding

NMSBA believes funding for public schools, should be appropriated at a level that assures every student will receive a quality education based on individualized student needs. Funds should be appropriated in a manner that preserves the ability of school boards to utilize funds within their districts to meet local priorities and the diverse needs of their students and communities.

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**I am New Mexico
Public Schools!**

III. Appropriations & Operations

New Mexico Constitution ★

The New Mexico Constitution mandates the establishment and maintenance of a "uniform system of free public schools sufficient for the education of and open to all children of school age in the state". It is incumbent upon the Legislature to make every effort to meet this mandate as important decisions are made in this critical period of declining revenues.

Increase Funding "Above the Line" ★

NMSBA requests the State Legislature and Governor sufficiently fund the "above the line" public school funding

formula so district's may restore lost educational programs and meet the needs of local communities and students. Specifically NMSBA requests the allocation of no less than 50% of new revenues to the "above the line" budget. "Below the line" funding dis-equalizes funding to local districts.

At-Risk Funding ★

NMSBA supports increased funding in the public school funding formula for the at-risk adjustment scheduled to occur in the coming year with hold harmless provisions ensuring additional funding results for all districts.

Land Grant Permanent Fund ★

NMSBA supports a constitutional amendment to restore the level of support for public education from the Land Grant Permanent Fund to 5.8%.

Small School Districts ★

NMSBA supports additional adjustments to the public school funding formula and small district factors which will enable small districts to operate at a base level without reliance on supplemental emergency funds. In addition NMSBA opposes mandatory consolidation of small districts as a means of reducing public school expenditures.



Administrators & Support Staff

NMSBA supports funding to cover the salary requirements of necessary administrative and support staff.

After/Summer School & Tutoring

NMSBA supports adequate funding for after school, summer school and tutoring academic programs.

Athletics Equity Act

NMSBA supports the streamlining of the reporting requirements associated with the State Athletics Equity Act.

Cash Balances

NMSBA supports legislation and incentives that insure the right of districts to maintain, carryover and utilize cash balances and reserves without penalty.

Charter School Financial Statements

NMSBA supports legislation to separate local charter financial statements from the district and exempt them from penalties caused by the charter.

Common Core Standards

NMSBA supports adequate funding for adoption of Common Core Standards and assessments along with funds for associated staff development, instructional materials, software and equipment.

Compulsory Attendance/Tuency

NMSBA supports funding for state agencies responsible for the enforcement of Compulsory Attendance Laws.

Dual Credit & Community Colleges

NMSBA supports increased funding for the purchase of textbooks associated with dual credit coursework and operational funding for Community Colleges.

Early Childhood/ Pre-School Programs

NMSBA supports increased funding for early childhood, Pre-Kindergarten and K-3 Plus initiatives including operational, facility and transportation costs.

Educational Retirement

NMSBA supports ERB solvency plans developed by stakeholder groups contingent on enactment of hold harmless provisions for school employees.

Employee Group Insurance Rates

NMSBA supports additional funding to increase the employee group insurance contribution rate for public school employees to a level comparable to state employees.

GRADS Program

NMSBA supports increased funding for the GRADS Program and rules that encourage students to utilize day-care services provided by the district.

High School Diploma Requirements

NMSBA calls for adequate funding to implement the provisions of the High School Reform Initiative.



Instructional Materials

NMSBA supports increases in funding for the purchase and replacement of textbooks and instructional materials, along with the option of purchasing digital textbooks and materials.

Instructional Support Providers

NMSBA urges the Legislature to provide adequate funding for instructional support providers.

Medicaid in the Schools

NMSBA supports the continuation of the Medicaid in the Schools Program which reimburses school districts for services provided to eligible students.



Moratorium-New/Virtual Charters

NMSBA supports a moratorium on the creation of new charter and virtual charter schools until existing programs are funded adequately and statutes are clarified to address funding inequities, capital needs, and potential abuses by for-profit companies.

Music, Art & Physical Education

NMSBA supports funding for music, arts, physical education and other programs that contribute to the development of the whole child.

PAARC Moratorium/Paper Tests ★

NMSBA supports a two year delay in fully implementing PAARC testing and calls on PED to allow districts the option to utilize paper tests.

Professional Development

NMSBA supports additional funding to enable districts to provide extra contract days for professional development for teachers and administrators.

Reading At Grade Level

NMSBA supports above the line funding for intervention programs to assist students not reading at grade level.

Reform Observation Period ★

NMSBA supports a two year observation period for new education policy initiatives proposed by the Public Education Department.

Retiree Health Care

NMSBA supports efforts by the Legislature to provide long term solvency for the Retiree Health Care Program.

School Based Health Services ★

NMSBA supports efforts to increase the number of school based health centers and school nurses throughout NM.

School Calendars Flexibility

NMSBA supports continued district flexibility in adopting school calendars.

School Grades

NMSBA supports revisions to the A-F School Grading Program that ensure grades are valid, defensible, replicable and can be used as a tool to help improve district academic programs.

School Grades Council

NMSBA supports creation of a School Grades Council with school district representation to oversee the implementation and administration of the A-F School Grading System.

School Police Departments

NMSBA supports allowing school boards the option to create independent police departments to provide school security.

School Security/Violence Prevention

NMSBA supports funding for school security needs and research based violence prevention programs.

Special Education Programs

NMSBA encourages the Legislature to fully fund the costs of educating children with special needs including accessibility and transportation.

Student Assessments Payment

NMSBA requests that the costs for all state mandated student assessments be the direct financial responsibility of the Public Education Department.

Student Testing Reduction ★

NMSBA opposes any testing requirements beyond current law which take time away from student instruction.

Students with Dyslexia

NMSBA encourages state officials to recognize Dyslexia as a disability, provide protections guaranteed under IDEA and provide funding for assessments, materials, staff and training.

Substance Abuse ★

NMSBA supports creation of an inter-agency task force to examine the causes and suggest possible measures to address teenage substance abuse.

Teacher Retention/Recruitment ★

NMSBA supports legislation allowing retiring teachers to return to work without penalty and incentives to avoid shortages in hard-to-recruit areas.

Teacher/Principal Evaluation System ★

NMSBA supports a two year delay in the use of PAARC test scores for the new teacher and principal evaluation systems and supports a change ensuring test scores count for no more than 25% of the evaluation score.

Teacher Salaries

NMSBA supports funding to meet the financial requirements of the three-tiered licensure system for teachers.

Three-Tiered System—Professionals ★

NMSBA supports the creation of a three-tiered licensure system for all certified professional staff not currently in the existing structure.



Transportation

NMSBA supports increased funding for school transportation including fuel, replacement buses, buses to accommodate growth and bus safety programs.

Unnecessary Laws/Regulations/Reports

NMSBA supports the removal of all unfunded, unnecessary, duplicative laws, regulations and reporting requirements.

Vouchers & Tax Credits

NMSBA opposes vouchers, tuition tax credits, tuition tax subsidies, tuition tax deductions, or any program which diverts monies from public schools.

Waivers for Innovative Programs ★

NMSBA supports legislation that would allow districts to request PED waivers to establish and evaluate new and innovative pilot programs.

Capital Outlay

NMSBA supports continued funding through the Public School Capital Outlay Fund to address the construction needs of school districts.

NMSBA supports legislation exempting public schools from impact fees imposed by governmental entities.

NMSBA supports the removal of offset penalties on Public School Capital Outlay projects imposed when districts obtain legislative funding for capital projects.

NMSBA supports exemption of school districts from paying gross receipts tax on construction projects, thus maximizing school construction improvements.

NMSBA supports repeal of the bonding requirement for sub-contractors on school projects where the general contractor has bonded the entire project.

NMSBA supports funding for the Comprehensive Roof Replacement Program administered via the New Mexico Public School Capital Outlay Council.



NMSBA Resolutions Legislative Committee

Chairperson

Audrey Jaramillo
Moriarty/Edgewood

Members

Kathy Korte - Albuquerque
Ron Singleton - Carlsbad
Steve West - Carlsbad
Randy Manning - Central
Matthew Tso - Central
Arlan Ponder - Cloudcroft
Terry Martin - Clovis
Frank Cordova - Cobre
Ralph Sepulveda - Cobre
Bayne Anderson - Deming
Maria Saenz - Gadsden
Joe Menini - Gallup/Mckinley
Dwight Parker - House
Chuck Davis - Las Cruces
Felix Alderete - Las Vegas City
Tom Humble - Logan
Jim Hall - Los Alamos
Charles Tabet - Los Lunas
Sharon Dogruel - Pojoaque
Inez Rodriguez - Portales
Pauline Ponce - Rowell
Linda Trujillo - Santa Fe
Pauline Jaramillo - Socorro
Tony Rubin - Wagon Mound
David Romero - West Las Vegas



IV. Accountability & Governance

Academic Achievement

NMSBA ranks student achievement and quality learning as the number one priority of local school boards.

Accountability

NMSBA believes the accountability for meeting state standards is the responsibility of local school boards, staff members, parents, students and community at large.

Campaign Finance Reporting

NMSBA opposes legislation that requires all school board candidates to file campaign finance reports.

Chartering Authority Clarification

NMSBA supports the clarification of charter school statutes pertaining to authority, capital outlay, property, audits, virtual schools, employees, governing boards and suspension.

Charter School Advocacy

NMSBA opposes actions by NMPED officials to create charter schools at the expense of traditional public schools.

Charter School Budget Approval

NMSBA supports legislation which would require school board approval of locally chartered school budgets prior to submission to NMPED as well as authority to impose corrective action on locally chartered charter schools.

Health Insurance Continuation

NMSBA supports the option of allowing school board members to continue NMP-SIA insurance coverage at their own expense after leaving office.

Improved Communication

NMSBA supports continued improvement of communication and partnerships between the NMPED and local boards of education

Local Governance

NMSBA opposes legislation that diminishes local school board governance

Per Diem Payments

NMSBA opposes the abolishment of per diem for school board members to attend school board meetings.

State Governance System

NMSBA supports the review and analysis of NM Public Education Department governance to determine effectiveness, results and stakeholder satisfaction.

School Board Elections

NMSBA opposes moving school board elections held in February of odd numbered years to the timeframe of partisan primary and/or general elections.

School Board Training

NMSBA supports additional training for school board members in the areas of financial, budget and audit oversight.