



## 2022 Resolutions/Legislative Committee Report

The NMSBA Resolutions/Legislative Committee membership is comprised as follows: each region elects one member; each Region President appoints one member; and the State President appoints one member from each region. The President-Elect of the Association serves as Chair of the Committee.

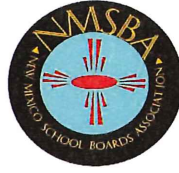
The duties of the Committee, pursuant to Article BV Standing Committees, Section 1 of the NMSBA Bylaws, are to review current positions and new resolutions; suggest amendments, deletions, or additions where needed; prioritize them for publication to present to the legislature; and to promote legislation which benefits education in general and is consistent with the beliefs and positions (resolutions) of the Association.

The election of region representatives to the Committee was held at the 2021 Fall Region Meetings. The elected members serve a two-year term. Each Region President made appointments to the Committee and these representatives serve a two-year term as well. State Presidential appointed members serve a one-year term and were appointed by Marvyn Jaramillo to the Committee in September 2022.

The Call for Resolutions with a copy of the 2022 Legislative Platform was sent via e-mail to all local school board members and district superintendents on August 4, 2022 and was made available on the NMSBA website. The deadline for submittal of resolutions was September 12, 2022. Thirty-one (31) resolutions were submitted for review. The Resolutions Committee meeting notice and all resolutions were sent to Committee members for review prior to their meeting.

The Committee met at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at the NMAA Offices in Albuquerque, NM with Dymorie Maker, NMSBA President-Elect, presiding. A quorum was present and the Committee reviewed and acted on each resolution. It should be noted that several resolutions addressed priorities that were previously approved by Delegate Assembly and do not require action. Other resolutions did not call for legislative action and were forwarded to the appropriate agency for review.

A summary along with the resolutions and Committee recommendations are provided and will be acted on at the NMSBA Delegate Assembly, Friday, December 2, 2022 during the NMSBA Annual Convention which will be conducted in Albuquerque, NM.

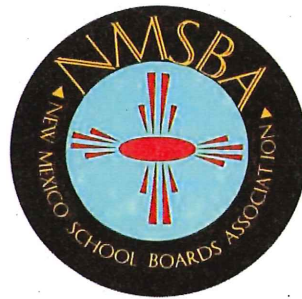


## 2022 Resolutions/Legislative Committee

**Dymorie Maker, President-Elect (Lovington)  
Committee Chairperson**

	<b><u>Region Member</u> <u>Elected</u> <i>2-year term</i></b>	<b><u>Region President</u> <u>Appointee</u> <i>2-year term</i></b>	<b><u>State President</u> <u>Appointee</u> <i>1-year term</i></b>
<b>Region I</b>	<b>Gary Montoya</b> (Central)	<b>Priscilla Benally</b> (Gallup)	<b>Stephanie Thompson</b> (Farmington)
<b>Region II</b>	<b>Felix Benavidez</b> (Pojoaque)	<b>Anthony Vigil</b> (Mesa Vista)	<b>Carmen Gonzales</b> (Santa Fe)
<b>Region III</b>	<b>Tony Rubin</b> (Wagon Mound)	<b>Linda Montoya</b> (West Las Vegas)	<b>Christine Ludi</b> (West Las Vegas)
<b>Region IV</b>	<b>Gary Tripp</b> (Rio Rancho)	<b>Pauline Jaramillo</b> (Socorro)	<b>Barbara Peterson</b> (Albuquerque)
<b>Region V</b>	<b>Laurie Strebeck</b> (Logan)	<b>Inez Rodriguez</b> (Portales)	<b>Terry Martin</b> (Clovis)
<b>Region VI</b>	<b>Terry O'Brain</b> (Hobbs)	<b>Travis Glenn</b> (Tatum)	<b>Patti Ann Ancell</b> (Lovington)
<b>Region VII</b>	<b>Jamie Sweeny</b> (T or C)	<b>Teresa Tenorio</b> (Las Cruces)	<b>Arlean Murillo</b> (Gadsden)
<b>Region VIII</b>	<b>Patrick Cohn</b> (Silver)	<b>Alfredo Morelos</b> (Lordsburg)	<b>Mary Lou Cameron</b> (Deming)

# **NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION 2023 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**



## **SECTION I – SUMMARY LISTING**

## **SECTION II – RESOLUTIONS (31)**

### **CATEGORY & NUMBER**

<b>ADEQUATE FUNDING</b>	<b>(8)</b>
<b>CAPITAL OUTLAY</b>	<b>(3)</b>
<b>LOCAL CONTROL</b>	<b>(2)</b>
<b>OTHER RESOLUTIONS</b>	<b>(10)</b>
<b>NO ACTION NEEDED</b>	<b>(8)</b>

**300 GALISTEO STREET, SUITE 204  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO 87501**

# NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

## 2023 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS & COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS SUMMARY

### ADEQUATE FUNDING

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Enable School Districts to Meet the Needs of Students While Remaining Financially Solvent (Alamogordo) | <b>Recommend Approval</b> |
| 2. Stipend for Bilingual Endorsed & TESOL Endorsed Teachers (Gadsden)                                     | <b>Recommend Approval</b> |
| 3. Stipend for Special Education Teachers (Gadsden)   | <b>Do Not Recommend</b>   |
| 4. Fully Fund the Licensure Fees and Costs for Educators (Hobbs)  | <b>Recommend Approval</b> |
| 5. Provide Transportation Funding for After School Programs, Sports, and Activities (Las Cruces)          | <b>Recommend Approval</b> |
| 6. Decrease Percentage of Insurance Premiums Paid by all Employees to 20% (Las Cruces)                    | <b>Recommend Approval</b> |
| 7. Provide Competitive Benefits Packages for Educational Employees (Rio Rancho)                           | <b>Recommend Approval</b> |
| 8. Statewide Shortage and Compensation for Educational Assistants (Rio Rancho)                            | <b>Recommend Approval</b> |

### CAPITAL OUTLAY

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| 9. Requests funding so a percentage-based renewable energy component becomes part of every project funded by PSCOC. | <b>Do Not Recommend</b>   |
| 10. Capital Funding for Early Childhood Centers (Rio Rancho)  | <b>Recommend Approval</b> |
| 11. Improve Funding for Proactive Maintenance of School Facilities (Rio Rancho)                                     | <b>Recommend Approval</b> |

### LOCAL CONTROL

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 12. Assure Flexibility for Local Decision-Making to Align with Each Community's Educational Needs (Alamogordo) | <b>Recommend Approval</b> |
| 13. Equality in the Ability for School Districts to have a 4-Day School Week (Raton)                           | <b>Recommend Approval</b> |

## OTHER RESOLUTIONS

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 14. Principal and School District Leadership Development Program (APS)                                    | <b>Recommend Approval</b>    |
| 15. Behavioral Health Pipeline and School Reimbursement (APS)   | <b>Recommend Approval</b>    |
| 16. Promote Safe and Responsible Storage of Firearms (Las Cruces)   | <b>Do Not Recommend</b>      |
| 17. Support Vocational Endorsement for Occupational Subjects<br>in Career Technical Education (Lovington) | <b>Recommend Approval</b>    |
| 18. In Appreciation for Improved Teacher and Staff Compensation<br>(Rio Rancho)                           | <b>Recommend Approval</b>    |
| 19. Gun Violence Prevention Legislative Priority (Santa Fe)   | <b>Do Not Recommend</b>      |
| 20. School Safety Discussions of Boards of Education (Taos)   | <b>Recommend Approval</b>    |
| 21. School Counselor Shortage in New Mexico (Alamogordo)  | <b>Recommend Approval</b>    |
| 22. Pay off the Acquired Student Debt for Educators Working in<br>New Mexico School (Los Alamos)          | <b>Table / Congressional</b> |
| 23. Provide Housing Assistance to Educators in New Mexico Schools<br>(Los Alamos)                         | <b>Table / Congressional</b> |

## NO ACTION NEEDED

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 24. Technology Device Funding (APS)   | <b>No Action Needed</b> |
| 25. Address Mental Health Needs of Public School Students (Las Cruces)                            | <b>No Action Needed</b> |
| 26. Fund Actual Transportation and Instructional Material Costs<br>(Rio Rancho)                   | <b>No Action Needed</b> |
| 27. Invest in New Mexico's Future through Career-Technical Education<br>(Rio Rancho)              | <b>No Action Needed</b> |
| 28. Support for School Safety (Rio Rancho)  | <b>No Action Needed</b> |
| 29. Adequate Support and Funding for School Mental and<br>Behavioral Health Services (Rio Rancho) | <b>No Action Needed</b> |
| 30. Capital Outlay Offset Exemptions (APS)  | <b>No Action Needed</b> |
| 31. Amend Math Graduation Requirements (Lovington)  | <b>No Action Needed</b> |

NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2023 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS &  
COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

ADEQUATE FUNDING

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1

**Submitted By:** Alamogordo Public Schools

**Title:** **Enable School Districts to Meet the Needs of Students While Remaining Financially Solvent**

*WHEREAS*, the priority of Alamogordo Public Schools Board of Education is to meet the needs of its students while remaining financially solvent; and

*WHEREAS*, the intent of the State Equalization Guarantee is undermined by unfunded or underfunded State mandates, particularly in rural and high-poverty School Districts; and

*WHEREAS*, all School Districts recognize that operational reserves are a prudent business practice to ensure a district can monetarily cover emergency costs and cover payroll in unexpected circumstances as was experienced in the 2008-2012 recession period; and

*WHEREAS*, the Legislature seeks to address budget shortfalls, the Legislature's ability to sweep a School District's operational reserves undermines a School District's ability to plan and fund for future needs and unforeseen challenges; and

*WHEREAS*, the Educational Technology and Instructional Materials needs of School Districts are major recurring expenses; and

*WHEREAS*, evidence shows that well-funded and supported co-curricular and extracurricular activities and mental, behavioral, and emotional health supports increase student attendance and achievement; and

*WHEREAS*, increases to employer and employee costs of equitable health care for school personnel have offset the recent pay raises for many School District employees; and

*WHEREAS*, the Legislature seeks to assist School Districts in funding specific capital projects within the school district through special Direct Legislative Appropriations sponsored by specific legislators, the requirement for the Public Schools Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC) to "reduce any grant amounts awarded to a school district by a percent of all direct non-operational legislative appropriations for schools in that district that have been accepted, including educational technology and re-authorizations of previous appropriations" has a disproportionately negative impact on the School Districts this legislation was intended to help—rural/high-poverty School Districts.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Alamogordo Public Schools Board of Education, by unanimous approval of its members, hereto proposes that the New Mexico legislature:

1. Fully fund the cost of transporting eligible bus riders to and from school;
2. Fully fund the cost of instructional materials (SEG vs. Categorical);
3. Revise PSCOC funding to include replacement of instructional technology;
4. Protect operational reserves to help districts navigate emerging/existing systemic challenges;
5. Partner with LEAs in covering the cost of any increases to the employer and employee cost of equitable health care for school personnel (impact led to essentially zero raise for many employees);
6. Enhance and fund systems and personnel that support mental, behavioral, and emotional health;
7. Enhance and provide recurring funding for school safety and security;
8. Revise PSFA adequacy standards and funding to include modern security and access control systems in all new schools as well as retrofitting existing schools;
9. Sufficiently fund co-curricular and extracurricular activities including Career and Technical Education, music, arts, and athletics;
10. Review and adjust the formula for At-Risk Index and its negative impact on small, rural, high-poverty Schools Districts funding; and
11. Eliminate PSCOC offset for FY23, 24, 25 for rural and high-poverty School Districts.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2022 Legislative Program , under various topics  
 “Transportation, Instructional Materials, Technology, Operating Reserves,  
 Student and Staff Safety, Career and Technical Pathways, At-Risk Funding, and PSCOC Offset.”  
 Consider adding language to 2023 platform specifically to:  
 “support equitable health care for school personnel” as well as  
 “support extracurricular activities.”  
Recommend Approval*

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2**

**Submitted By:** Gadsden Independent School District

**Title:** **Stipend for Bilingual Endorsed & TESOL Endorsed Teachers**

*WHEREAS*, the State of New Mexico is currently experiencing a shortage of bilingual certified education teachers and teachers of English to speakers of other languages at the elementary, middle, and high school levels; and

*WHEREAS*, districts in the State of New Mexico currently have bilingual education teachers and Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) teacher vacancies; and

*WHEREAS*, the Gadsden Independent School District presently has three (3) bilingual education teacher vacancies and six (6) teachers of English to speakers of other languages that have not been filled since the beginning of the 2022-20/23 academic year; and

*WHEREAS*, this shortage impedes students who receive bilingual or TESOL education services from attaining their language proficiency in both languages and becoming bilingual and biliterate. As prescribed under federal law, Title III, Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students and the New Mexico Bilingual Multicultural Education Act, Article 23; and

*WHEREAS*, bilingual teachers and Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages in the State of New Mexico must perform the same duties as a general education teacher but *also* teach and prepare lessons in both

English in Spanish and address speakers of other languages. In addition, teachers provide English Language Development in the bilingual multicultural education programs and regular education settings.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Gadsden Independent School District Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico Public Education Department to develop and implement a plan for increasing the bilingual teacher stipend and the TESOL stipend. These stipend increases will ensure that New Mexico adequately compensates for the extra duties and responsibilities that they must perform and that will attract highly qualified individuals to this field.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that the Gadsden Independent School District Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature for an increase in the stipend for bilingual and TESOL teachers. We would like to propose an increase of \$1,000.00 to the current bilingual teacher stipend and \$500.00 to the current TESOL stipend. These stipends will not only compensate them for the extra duties they must perform but will also attract highly qualified teachers to one of our highest areas of need.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Consider adding language to the 2023 platform specifically to:*

*“Implement a plan for increasing the bilingual teacher and TESOL stipends at \$1,000 and \$500, respectively.”*

**Recommend Approval**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #3**

**Submitted By:** Gadsden Independent School District

**Title:** Stipend for Special Education Teachers

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Mexico is currently experiencing a shortage of certified special education teachers at the elementary, middle, and high school levels; and

**WHEREAS**, districts in the State of New Mexico currently have special education teacher vacancies; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gadsden Independent School District presently has eight special education teacher vacancies that have not been filled since the beginning of the 2022-23 academic year; and

**WHEREAS**, this shortage impedes students who receive special education services from attaining their full academic potential and hinders the ability of school districts to comply with the federal mandate in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to provide each student with a disability a free appropriate public education (FAPE); and

**WHEREAS**, special education teachers in the State of New Mexico must perform the same duties as a general education teachers but *also* must create and schedule Individual Education Programs (IEPs) for each assigned student, provide special education services in accordance with each IEP, provide accommodations/modifications to general education staff who work with students receiving special education services in the general education classrooms and coordinate services for students with outside agencies.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Gadsden Independent School District Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico Public Education Department to develop and implement a plan for providing a



stipend to special education teachers in New Mexico that adequately compensates for the extra duties and responsibilities that they must perform and that will attract highly qualified individuals to this field.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that the Gadsden Independent School District Board of Education calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to fund a stipend for certified special education teachers in New Mexico. We would like to propose a \$2,500 stipend. This stipend will not only compensate them for the extra duties they must perform but will also attract highly qualified individuals to this field.

**Committee Recommendation:**  
**Do Not Recommend**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #4**

**Submitted By:** Hobbs Municipal Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Fully Fund the Licensure Fees and Costs for Educators**

**WHEREAS**, the Hobbs Municipal School Board of Education believes the foundation of a good education relies on the ability of Hobbs Municipal Schools to recruit and retain exemplary teachers and staff, and

**WHEREAS**, the Hobbs Municipal School Board of Education recognizes a critical educator shortage in New Mexico and other neighboring states, and

**WHEREAS**, the Hobbs Municipal School Board of Education expresses its desire to value all educators who feel under-valued by society, and

**WHEREAS**, the licensing process is burdensome and cost prohibitive to many educators to begin this life changing work for our students.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, the Hobbs Municipal Schools Board of Education requests that the Legislature of New Mexico and the Governor of New Mexico fully fund New Mexico Public Education Department to provide all fees and costs associated with Educators obtaining all relevant credentials required by NMPED and New Mexico State Statute.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Consider adding language to the 2023 platform specifically to:*

*“Support funding fees and costs associated with educators obtaining all credentials required by NMPED.”*

**Recommend Approval**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #5**

**Submitted By:** Las Cruces School District

**Title:** **Provide Transportation Funding for After School Programs, Sports, and Activities**

**WHEREAS**, Las Cruces Public Schools currently has 59% of the 6-12 grade population that ride the school bus daily; and

*WHEREAS*, many students do not have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities or receive tutoring after school due to a lack of funding for transportation after school hours; and

*WHEREAS*, multiple studies show that students who are involved in one or more extracurricular activities are more invested in their school and their education, earn higher grades, and are more likely to graduate on time with their peers; and

*WHEREAS*, it is in the best interest of our students to offer transportation for additional opportunities to participate in after school programs that provide enrichment experiences and homework assistance in order for students to thrive; and

*WHEREAS*, providing student transportation to leave schools daily at approximately 5:30 p.m. would alleviate the burden on parents and guardians who may not be able to pick up their child due to scheduling conflicts; and

*WHEREAS*, supplying transportation will open up the opportunity for students to join a club, sport, performing or visual art, tutoring or school/homework support, for a well-rounded and equitable experience for students to excel academically and emotionally; and

*WHEREAS*, the Las Cruces Public Schools works to engage in equitable practices; however, providing multiple transportation times will offer more educational opportunities and ensure the success of ALL students.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, the Las Cruces Public School District is asking the state legislature to fund one air-conditioned bus for each middle school and high school for each district in the State of New Mexico. Each middle and high school will have a centralized location for student drop off within the boundaries of each school. The Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests adequate funding in order to link students to additional prospects for academic support so they may rely on that support to become successful and productive leaders in our community.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2022 Legislative Program, (page 3, column 3)*

*“Transportation – NMSBA supports necessary funding to support costs required by districts to transport students’ in safe and healthy ways including bus air conditioning.”*

*Consider adding language to the 2023 platform specifically to include:*

*“transportation funding for after school programs.”*

**Recommend Approval**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #6**

**Submitted By:** Las Cruces School District

**Title:** **Decrease Percentage of Insurance Premiums Paid by all Employees to 20%**

*WHEREAS*, the New Mexico State School Boards Association is committed to improving the quality of education for all State of New Mexico’s public school students; and

*WHEREAS*, the New Mexico State School Boards Association understands the importance that public education of students serves as an investment in the future of its youth; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico State School Boards Association recognizes and highly values the importance that public school teachers and other public school employees contribute to the education of children; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico State School Boards Association honors teachers and school staff as professionals deserving of salary and benefits commensurate with the importance of role they play in the education of children; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Mexico continues to experience a persistent shortage of highly qualified teachers and leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of New Mexico has failed to attract high quality post-secondary students as our State's future teachers and leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, rapidly inflating prescription drug and health service costs have resulted in educators paying more out-of-pocket for the same level of care; and

**WHEREAS**, skyrocketing COVID-19 hospitalization costs will add to the burden borne by educators in the coming years through their insurance premiums; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 22-29-10 NMSA 1978 requires all school districts covered under NMPSIA (except for APS) to set a floor and ceiling for healthcare benefits contributions was established in 1996 and has not been amended since that time. In addition, the statute produces a cliff effect, so as the lowest paid school employees move up in pay, they face higher insurance premiums, resulting for some in a pay cut; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico State School Boards Association understands that in order to attract high quality teachers and leaders to public school employment, the State of New Mexico must honor public school staff as professionals by significantly raising salaries and benefits; and

**WHEREAS**, in spite of the recent increase in educator salaries in New Mexico, the escalating cost of living and health insurance premiums make retaining educators a challenge wage increases for educators; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico State School Boards Association values meaningful policy reforms that will help not only with the retention and recruitment of educators but will significantly improve the quality of life of current and future educators.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the New Mexico State School Boards Association calls upon the New Mexico State Legislature to implement and fully fund the 80/20 rule where all employees of New Mexico Public Schools pay 20% of their insurance premiums, regardless of salary or position. If policy reforms were made and fully funded for these statutory constraints and brought to parity with General Services Department (GSD) and Albuquerque Public Schools (APS), the state will pay a minimum of 80% health insurance premium per paycheck to an employee's maximum payment of 20%.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***Consider adding language to 2023 platform specifically to:***

***“Fully fund the 80/20 rule for insurance premiums where all public school employees pay 20% and the district provides 80% regardless of salary or position.”***

**Recommend Approval**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #7**

**Submitted By:** Rio Rancho Public Schools

**Title:** Provide Competitive Benefits Packages for Educational Employees

*WHEREAS*, provision of competitive benefits packages has historically played an important role in educational employers' ability to hire and retain outstanding employees; and

*WHEREAS*, in recent years, the overall quality of benefits packages for educational employees has declined, so the benefits offered are not on a par with those offered by other government and some private employers, and

*WHEREAS*, NMSA 22-29-10 defines the percentage of group insurance premiums to be paid by employees based upon salary levels; and

*WHEREAS*, these levels or tiers currently are set at 25% for employees making less than \$15,000, 30% for employees making \$15,000- \$20,000, 35% for employees making \$20,000-\$25,000, and 40% for employees making more than \$25,000; and

*WHEREAS*, during the 2022 session the state legislature raised the state minimum wage to \$15.00/hour, providing a much-needed boost for employees at the bottom of the salary scale who were not paid enough to make ends meet; and

*WHEREAS*, the pay increase pushed many of these lower-paid employees into higher tiers, requiring them to pay a higher percentage of insurance costs; and

*WHEREAS*, premium increases, coupled with being pushed into higher tiers, negated the compensation increase for some employees and in some cases may have even reduced take-home pay; and

*WHEREAS*, this situation clearly runs contrary to the intent of legislators that the salary increases improve the quality of life for the state's lowest-paid employees; and

*WHEREAS*, the increasing cost of living, exacerbated by inflation, is likely to continue and will over time negate the intent of the tiered group insurance compensation levels, since most employees will fall into the highest tiers.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to examine the benefits packages offered to educational employees as compared to those of other employers and, in those areas where the benefits offered lag behind those of other employers, to legislatively enact and fund competitive benefit packages.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that the legislature amend NMSA 22-29-10 to adjust the benefit tiers upward, so that the lowest-paid employees based on current salary levels contribute a lower percentage of their group insurance premium costs.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Consider adding language to the 2023 Program specifically to:*

*“Support examining the benefit packages offered to educational employees as compared to those of other employers and legislative enact and fund competitive benefit packages.”*

**Recommend Approval**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #8**

**Submitted By:** Rio Rancho Public Schools

**Title:** **Statewide Shortage and Compensation for Educational Assistants**

*WHEREAS*, federal law obligates school districts to provide certain students with identified special needs with the support of an aide (Educational Assistant, or EA) who assists the student with meeting educational and behavioral objectives and provides personal care; and

*WHEREAS*, state statute requires that teachers in kindergarten classes with more than fifteen (15) students have the full-time support of an EA who assists with instruction and classroom management; and

*WHEREAS*, under the supervision of a licensed teacher or administrator, EAs also support students and staff in classrooms, libraries, offices, and workrooms; and

*WHEREAS*, EAs historically have been very poorly paid; and

*WHEREAS*, although the 2022 increase in the minimum wage to \$15/hour has helped improve EA compensation, many EAs saw little, if any, actual increase in take-home pay because of increased costs for benefits; and

*WHEREAS*, many districts and charters face a shortage of EAs and have found few qualified EA applicants who are willing to work for such low wages; and

*WHEREAS*, if districts cannot hire qualified EAs for special needs students whose individualized education plans require them, to meet the requirements of federal law they must contract with outside providers to provide the service at a considerably higher cost; and

*WHEREAS*, providing EAs with a living wage sufficient to attract quality individuals to the profession will benefit teaching and learning and reduce costs to the state by limiting the need for contracted providers for EA services.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to increase EA compensation to at least \$20/hour, and to consider changes in benefit costs to limit the extent to which increased costs negate increased compensation for low-paid employees.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2022 Legislative Program (page 2, column 1)*

*“NMSBA Also Supports sufficient funding for administrators and support staff;...”*

*Consider adding language to the 2023 platform specifically to:*

*“Increase Educational Assistant compensation to a \$20 per hour minimum.”*

**Recommend Approval**

## CAPITAL OUTLAY

### PROPOSED RESOLUTION #9

**Submitted By:** Las Cruces School District

**Title:** **Support Reducing Recurring Utility Expenses for School Districts through Energy Efficient Capital Outlay Projects**

*WHEREAS*, New Mexico has been a nation-wide leader in solar energy; and

*WHEREAS*, the federal government in The Inflation Reduction Act provides financial incentives to address issues of climate change, and rebuild the infrastructure of our nation, including the construction of 950 million solar panels and support for cost-saving clean energy projects at rural electric cooperatives; and

*WHEREAS*, schools have the potential to make positive, tangible environmental change in the world while teaching students to be stewards of their communities, the earth, and its resources; and

*WHEREAS*, school facilities also serve as a significant portion of infrastructure for communities, serving as a hub for the community; and

*WHEREAS*, local school administrators have the greatest insight into where capital outlay projects are needed in their individual school districts; and

*WHEREAS*, schools are faced with higher utility costs, which are recurring each year, and which would be reduced by an investment in renewable sources of energy; and

*WHEREAS*, the State of New Mexico has recently invested significant funding into providing renewable energy for its buildings in Santa Fe, projected to save significant funds in utility bills.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests that the New Mexico Legislature provide financial resources to the Public School Finance Authority so that a percentage-based renewable energy component will become part of every capital project funded in whole or in part by the Public School Capital Outlay Council.

**Committee Recommendation:**

**Do Not Recommend**

### PROPOSED RESOLUTION #10

**Submitted By:** Rio Rancho Public Schools

**Title:** **Capital Funding for Early Childhood Centers**

*WHEREAS*, in 2021 the legislature indicated support for early childhood education through its approval of HJR1 (C.A.1), authorizing a voter referendum on allocating a percentage of the permanent fund to support early childhood and K-12 education; and

**WHEREAS**, studies have shown that investing taxpayer dollars in early childhood education offers a substantial return on investment in terms of increased academic achievement and reduced remedial education costs over the long term; and

**WHEREAS**, the demand for early childhood services is increasing; and

**WHEREAS**, in some school districts, large numbers of students are on waiting lists for public school-based Pre-K, since those districts do not currently have the space or resources to meet this demand; and

**WHEREAS**, although the State of New Mexico has handled funding of public school early childhood facilities through the public school capital outlay process; and

**WHEREAS**, since the state constitution does not mandate early childhood and pre-kindergarten education, as it does K-12 education, the requirements of this process may not apply to pre-K facilities, including those for district-provided matching funds and an “offset” reduces state awards by the amount of any direct legislative appropriations a district receives; and

**WHEREAS**, the state has an unprecedented financial surplus and can afford to invest in early childhood education facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, thanks to the surplus, the state has the opportunity to invest in its future through providing its children with the benefits early childhood education provides.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to fund early childhood education facilities in public schools in New Mexico, with flexibility to local districts to build the type of facilities its educational strategies and needs require.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that, for pre-K facilities, the legislature waive the state match and offset requirements, to allow school districts to most effectively leverage their limited capital outlay funds to meet its students’ needs at all grade levels.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2022 Legislative Program (page 4, column 1)*

*“NMSBA supports the creation of a temporary allowance to remove local matching requirements for school security upgrades.”*

*Consider adding language to the 2023 platform specifically to include:*

*“pre-K facilities.”*

**Recommend Approval**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #11**

**Submitted By:** Rio Rancho Public Schools

**Title:** **Improve Funding for Proactive Maintenance of School Facilities**

**WHEREAS**, an effective school facility maintenance program saves taxpayer dollars by preventing major failures from occurring and fixing small problems before they turn into big, expensive ones; and

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico requires all school districts and charter schools to maintain a five-year Facilities Master Plan describing their priorities for facility construction, modernization, and maintenance; and

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico funds school maintenance and modernization through a patchwork of sources, including locally-authorized capital improvement taxes (SB9), bond issues, operational funds, a limited amount of capital improvement funds provided to entities with a locally-authorized capital improvement tax, legislative capital outlay authorizations, and awards of available capital improvement dollars through the Public School Capital Outlay Council (PSCOC); and

**WHEREAS**, despite the variety of funding sources, the ongoing maintenance needs of New Mexico's 900+ school campuses exceed the funding available to affect repairs and conduct preventive maintenance; and

**WHEREAS**, the PSCOC awards funding to local school districts and charter schools subject to those districts and charters being able to contribute matching funds based on a formula; and

**WHEREAS**, these awards are based on a Facilities Condition Index (FCI) and New Mexico Condition Index (NMCI) which typically, after taking into account the need to take care of issues which compromise occupant health and safety, favors awarding available dollars to those facilities in the worst shape; and

**WHEREAS**, this practice may have the effect of disincentivizing preventive maintenance, since well-maintained facilities tend to remain too far down the list to be funded from available dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, there are no established provisions to assure a set percentage of available funds are awarded to projects identified by school districts in their five-year Facilities Master Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to increase the amount of money supporting ongoing preventive school facility maintenance needs as identified in district and charter five-year Master Plans.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that state statutes be revised to designate a set percentage of available capital outlay funds be allocated to school districts and charter schools, on a formula-based basis including all qualifying school district/charters in the state, to fund projects identified in the district's/charter's five year Facilities Master Plan.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2022 Legislative Program (page 4, column 1)*

*“Capital Outlay – NMSBA support continued funding through the Public School Capital Outlay Fund to address standards based construction and safety needs.”*

*Consider adding language to the 2023 platform specifically to include:*

*“Ongoing preventive school facility maintenance needs.”*

**Recommend Approval**

**LOCAL CONTROL**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #12**

**Submitted By:** Alamogordo Public Schools

**Title:** Assure Flexibility for Local Decision-Making to Align with Each Community's Educational Needs

**WHEREAS**, the Alamogordo Public Schools Board of Education respects the right of parents to participate in the decision-making process regarding their students' education, health, safety, and well-being; and



**WHEREAS**, the Alamogordo Public Schools Board of Education respects the right of the district's licensed educators, counselors, administrators, and medical professionals to participate in the decision-making process regarding students' education, health, safety, and well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alamogordo Public Schools Board of Education is concerned that the New Mexico Public Education Department may be restricting local school board management of school districts in a "one-size-fits-all" manner that may ultimately result in the elimination of local school district management that best serves their local communities; and

**WHEREAS**, School Districts and CYFD have no authority to enforce the Attendance for Success Act in decreasing chronic absenteeism.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Alamogordo Public Schools Board of Education, by unanimous approval of its members, hereto proposes that the New Mexico legislature:

1. Allow districts to deploy standards-based instructional programs as best meet the needs of the local community including, but not limited to, the school calendar.
2. Allow districts that choose to add instructional time to calculate such time on hours rather than days, consistent with statutory minimum hours for a regular school calendar.
3. Review and amend "Portrait of the NM Graduate", to include graduation requirements, assessments, and course requirements/credits to allow graduation/diploma options for students pursuing different college and career paths.
4. Increase parental responsibility in student attendance accountability.
  - a. Amend the Attendance for Success Act to provide language specific to parental responsibility in school attendance;
  - b. Provide CYFD and other authorities the authority and measures to enforce parental responsibility in decreasing chronic absenteeism of their students; and
  - c. Consider potential student and parent incentives for attendance and positive behavior.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Consider adding language to the 2023 platform specifically to:*

*"Assure flexibility for local decision making to align with each community's education needs including areas such as: standards based instructional program, instruction time and school calendar, Portrait of the NM Graduate requirements, parental responsibility for student attendance accountability."*

**Recommend Approval**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #13**

**Submitted By:** Raton Public Schools

**Title:** Equality for School Districts to have a 4-Day School Week

**WHEREAS**, The Raton Board of Education feels that selecting a date in the past that you had to have made that determination to be grandfathered hurts our district; and

**WHEREAS**, The Raton Board of Education currently has to compete against a number of area schools that siphon away teachers with the lure of a four day week; and

*WHEREAS*, The Raton Board of Education would at least like to be able to make the decision locally as to whether we would like to explore a 4 day week.

***NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED***, the Raton Board of Education requests the Governor, Legislature and Public Education Department to support legislation that would allow school districts to implement a four day school week without penalty if determined to be in the best interests of its school district, students and staff.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Consider adding language to the 2023 platform specifically to:*

*“Oppose legislation that limits any district from moving to a 4-day school week.”*

**Recommend Approval**

**OTHER RESOLUTIONS**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #14**

**Submitted By:** Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Principal and School District Leadership Development Program**

*WHEREAS*, educator workforce shortages continue to be a problem for the United States of America and for the state of New Mexico and have been exacerbated by the pandemic; and

*WHEREAS*, 59 of the 89 school districts in New Mexico have new superintendents for the 2022-23 School Year; and

*WHEREAS*, 4 out of 10 principals (38%) are expected to leave the profession in the next three years according to the National Association of Secondary School Principals; and

*WHEREAS*, principals and school district leaders set the vision that encourages teacher and student success; and

*WHEREAS*, a June 2022 Aspen Institute report calls for the rethinking of the principal’s role as one that encourages agency, expertise, collaborative leadership, and community connections; and

*WHEREAS*, the financial burden on districts to recruit, hire, prepare, mentor, and continue training for principals’ costs on average of \$75,000 per principal according to the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education, along with the New Mexico School Boards Association, calls on the state to fund and support a principal and school district leadership development program.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Consider adding language to the 2023 platform specifically to:*

*“Support funding for a leadership development program.”*

**Recommend Approval**

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION #15**

**Submitted By:** Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education

**Title:** Behavioral Health Pipeline and School Reimbursement

*WHEREAS*, there is global recognition that the behavioral health supports for students are essential for their success; and

*WHEREAS*, a 2022 New Mexico First report cites suicide rates, substance abuse, mental health, and children's behavioral health services as increasing areas of concern for behavioral health in New Mexico; and

*WHEREAS*, the pandemic exacerbated the scope of challenges and concerns; and

*WHEREAS*, a 2022 New Mexico First report cites the prevalence of persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness among New Mexico high school students increased by 25% from 2015 to 2019; and

*WHEREAS*, a 2022 New Mexico First report shows that 64.86% of New Mexicans live in a mental health professional shortage area; and

*WHEREAS*, according to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychologists report that only 76 child and adolescent psychologists serve New Mexico; and

*WHEREAS*, school districts across New Mexico provide behavioral health support for students with little reimbursement.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that, the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education, along with the New Mexico School Boards Association, calls on the state to develop a strong pathway for increased numbers of behavioral health providers that includes paid internships.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education, along with the New Mexico School Boards Association, requests that the state examine the reimbursement process for schools and districts for behavioral health services provided to students.

### **Committee Recommendation:**

*Consider adding language to the 2023 platform specifically to:*

*“Develop a pathway of behavioral health providers and paid internships.”*

**Recommend Approval**

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION #16**

**Submitted By:** Las Cruces School District

**Title:** Promote Safe and Responsible Storage of Firearms

*WHEREAS*, evidence strongly suggests that secure firearm storage is an essential component to any effective strategy to keep schools and students safe; and

*WHEREAS*, an estimated 5.4 million American children live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm; and

**WHEREAS**, every year, roughly 350 children under the age of eighteen unintentionally shoot themselves or someone else. That is roughly one unintentional shooting per day, and 70 percent of these incidents take place inside a home; and

**WHEREAS**, another 1,200 children and teens die by gun suicide each year, most often using guns belonging to a family member; and

**WHEREAS**, in incidents of gun violence on school grounds, 75 percent of active shooters are current students or recent graduates, and up to 80 percent of shooters under the age of eighteen obtained their guns from their own home, a relative's home, or from friends; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that secure firearm storage practices are associated with up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of unintentional firearm injuries among children and teens; and

**WHEREAS**, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reported that New Mexico's rate of firearm-related deaths across all ages, including children, placed the state fourth in the nation in 2019, the latest year for which a ranking is available; and

**WHEREAS**, across the country, lawmakers, community members, and local leaders are working together to implement public awareness campaigns, such as the Be SMART program, which is endorsed by the National PTA, encourages secure gun storage practices and highlights the public safety risks of unsecured guns; and

**WHEREAS**, school districts across the country have begun to proactively send materials home to parents and guardians informing them of applicable firearm storage laws and firearm secure storage best practices; and

**WHEREAS**, keeping students, teachers, and staff safe from the threat of gun violence should be the responsibility of all adult stakeholders at each of our school sites; and

**WHEREAS**, in order to continue with preventative measures to increase student and school safety we must act now.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board directs the Superintendent and staff to update the Student Handbook to include information about the secure storage of firearms, and to create an appropriate letter, in English and Spanish, addressed to parents and guardians that explains the importance of secure gun storage to protect minors from accessing irresponsibly stored guns. This letter should be included in annual registration materials at each school site and require a signature acknowledging awareness of secure gun storage responsibilities.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board and the Superintendent will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies, health agencies and non-profits to collaborate and increase efforts to inform District parents and guardians about secure storage of firearms in their homes. Collaborations could involve the distribution of free gun locks, bilingual gun safety brochures, and age-appropriate class presentations.

**AND, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Board ask our state legislators to pass a child access prevention bill that will educate, motivate, and require adults to keep firearms locked up and inaccessible when not in appropriate use.

**Committee Recommendation:**  
**Do Not Recommend**

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION #17**

**Submitted By:** Lovington Municipal Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Support Vocational Endorsement for Occupational Subjects in Career Technical Education**

*WHEREAS*, the growing interest in Career and Technical Education corresponds to an increased focus on college and career readiness nationwide as part of the *Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, in which officials determined that a significant gap exists between both contemporary and projected workforce skills and workforce demands; and

*WHEREAS*, jobs requiring these “middle skills” outnumber the adults in the workforce who possess them, and this gap presents a barrier to American economic competitiveness; and

*WHEREAS*, the expansion of career-technical programs in school districts allows the opportunity for all students to pursue well-paying jobs in a variety of fields which require specialized training, but not necessarily a four-year college degree; and

*WHEREAS*, developing and expanding the New Mexico workforce and economic development of our communities, and providing opportunities for the children in our communities requires an alternative approach to the current educational structure; and

*WHEREAS*, in this time of critical lack of access to qualified educators in our schools, the requirement that all certified educators possess a bachelor’s degree (regardless of subject matter) creates a hardship for districts to recruit qualified CTE instructors, and hampers districts’ abilities to offer quality pathways to address the needs of our students.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lovington Municipal Schools Board of Education urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to consider the option of a *Vocational Endorsement for Occupational Subjects in Career Technical Education*, which would require the following:

- **Verification of Experience in the Occupation:**  
Verification of occupational experience is required from previous and/or current employers. A letter on official letterhead is required, including the original signature of the owner of the business, the direct supervisor, or the director of human resources. The letter must attest to specific dates of service, position held, whether the service was part or full-time, and include a brief description of responsibilities in the position. A notarized statement may only be submitted if the employer is no longer in business or if the applicant is self-employed.
- High school diploma.
- Six years trade experience in the specific occupational subject requested.
- Six credits in teaching vocational and industrial education (may be concurrent); and
- A course of study in special education comprised of not fewer than 36 clock hours, which shall include study in understanding the growth and development of exceptional children, including handicapped and gifted and talented children and children who may require special education, and methods for identifying, planning for, and working effectively with special-needs children in the regular classroom.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2022 Legislative Program (page 2, column 1)*

*“ Career and Technical Pathways – NMSBA supports funding and legislation to establish STEM and career and technical pathways...”*

*Consider adding language to the 2023 platform specifically to:*

*“Provide an option of a Vocational Endorsement for Occupations Subjects.”*

*Recommend Approval*

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #18**

**Submitted By:** Rio Rancho Public Schools

**Title:** **In Appreciation for Improved Teacher and Staff Compensation**

*WHEREAS*, New Mexico schools and school districts have historically found it difficult to recruit and retain highly qualified teachers and staff; and

*WHEREAS*, the state’s brightest young people have tended to choose other career fields than teaching, in part because they can earn more money in most other professions requiring comparable levels of training and experience; and

*WHEREAS*, salary levels for teachers and other school staff in New Mexico have substantially trailed those in neighboring states; and

*WHEREAS*, this disparity in salary levels have caused many New Mexico teachers to leave the state in search of higher pay and benefits packages in other states; and

*WHEREAS*, many school districts have been struggling with chronic teacher shortages, as well as shortages in other staff positions including food service, bus drivers, educational assistants, and clerical staff; and

*WHEREAS*, these shortages may disrupt learning when schools cannot provide a full-time regular teacher in classrooms, bus routes go uncovered, and support staff cannot provide the services teachers and administrators rely on so they can focus on teaching and learning; and

*WHEREAS*, in 2022, with large state surpluses available, the state legislature recognized these challenges by increasing the base compensation for Level I, II, and III teachers and by providing raises for school employees; and

*WHEREAS*, school districts and charters report greater numbers of qualified individuals are expressing interest in working in New Mexico public education through entering traditional post-secondary programs, teacher residencies, internships, and seeking alternative licensure; and

*WHEREAS*, some teachers who left the state are returning to New Mexico and applying for positions; and

*WHEREAS*, although there are still shortages in some hard-to-fill specialties such as special education, the increased number of applicants has eased the teacher and staff shortage.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education expresses its appreciation to the New Mexico Legislature and to the Governor for improving compensation levels for teachers and staff, and that the salary increases are making a difference in our schools.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Board of Education hopes the state will continue to maintain competitive salary levels to encourage the best and brightest prospects to choose teaching as a career and seek employment in the public schools.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***Forward resolution to the Governor and NM Legislature.***

**Recommend Approval**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #19**

**Submitted By:** Santa Fe Public Schools

**Title:** Gun Violence Prevention Legislative Priority

**WHEREAS**, the most recent data confirms that firearm-related deaths are the number one cause of death for children and adolescents in American youth (ages 1-19); and

**WHEREAS**, recent mass shootings in the United States point to a trend of young men under the age of 21 purchasing assault weapons to carry out horrific acts of violence; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 24, 2022, 19 students and two teachers at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas were killed, and more than a dozen others wounded by an 18-year-old gunman with an AR-15-style rifle. In all, 169 people have died in 14 mass shooting events connected to U.S. schools and colleges since 1999's Columbine High School massacre; and

**WHEREAS**, at the Santa Fe Public Schools (SFPS) Board of Education meeting on June 16, 2022, Secretary Sarah Boses said it's unfair to ask our students to live and die like this; and

**WHEREAS**, a nationwide study conducted by the American Academy of Pediatrics found that during the pandemic, firearm deaths increased rapidly, by 28%. Gun-related deaths among children and young people ages 24 and younger grew from 7,947 in 2019 to 10,197 in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, 2020 is the first year that firearm deaths surpassed motor vehicle deaths for children and teens (ages 0-19). Between 2001 and 2010, 3.12 children were killed by a firearm every year for every 100,000 residents in New Mexico. Moreover, there were more than 87 cases of aggravated assault with a firearm for every 100,000 residents, the 6th highest rate in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, assault-style weapons have been used in the five deadliest mass shootings between 2009 and 2020, and are designed for rapid loss of life; and

**WHEREAS**, in the decade after lifting the federal assault weapons ban, fatalities in gun massacres increased by 347%; and

**WHEREAS**, the SFPS Board of Education supports the passage of legislation during the 2023 legislative session that would create a New Mexico Office of Gun Violence Prevention, a common-sense Child Access Prevention (CAP) law and raising the age of purchase for certain rifles; and

**WHEREAS**, strong communities are safe communities. An established Office of Gun Violence

Prevention housed in the Department of Health would be dedicated to implementing evidence-based policies, strategies, and interventions in communities across New Mexico with a goal of better understanding and reducing firearm violence; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office would work hand-in-hand with policymakers, public health officials, government entities, law enforcement agencies, researchers, community organizations and individual community members. It should also prioritize investment in underserved, historically disadvantaged and vulnerable communities, building violence prevention and intervention capacity through engagement, outreach and technical assistance and using data validated by our community partners to inform funding decisions; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 16, 2020, the SFPS Board of Education unanimously approved “Resolution 2019-2020-9 Secure Gun Storage” that directed the Superintendent to update the Student Code of Conduct to include information about the secure storage of firearms and create an appropriate letter, in English and Spanish, to be sent to parents and guardians that explained the importance of secure gun storage to protect minors from accessing unsecured guns. It resolved that the Board and Superintendent would continue to work with SFPS departments, local law enforcement agencies, health agencies and nonprofits to collaborate and increase efforts to inform SFPS parents about secure storage of firearms in their homes; and

**WHEREAS**, a New Mexico CAP law would require gun owners to store their weapons in such a way as to prevent access by minors without appropriate supervision in alignment with the Board’s 2020 Resolution. As of 2021, 32 states and the District of Columbia had CAP laws, according to the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, and at least three large cities (Chicago, Cleveland, and Portland); and

**WHEREAS**, CAP laws are similar to other laws requiring parents to safeguard the health and welfare of children such as mandatory child safety seats, motorcycle helmets and child labor laws; and

**WHEREAS**, research funded by the National Institute of Justice that examined mass shootings from 1966 to 2019 found that over 80% of mass shootings at K-12 schools occurred where the gunman stole a gun from family members; and

**WHEREAS**, the Gun Control Act of 1968 allows shotguns and rifles to be sold to those 18 years old or older. Handguns can only be sold to those 21 years old or older. According to Giffords Law Center, “young adults are at elevated risk of attempting suicide and engaging in violent behaviors” and “strengthening minimum age laws for purchasing and possessing guns will help protect young people and the public at large.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that:

- The SFPS Board of Education’s 2023 Legislative Platform will include creating a New Mexico Office of Gun Violence Prevention, a common-sense Child Access Prevention (CAP) law, raising the age of purchase for certain rifles and a ban on assault-style weapons.
- The SFPS Board of Education directs the Superintendent to work with Santa Fe’s legislative delegation, lobbyist, and Office of Legal Counsel to ensure passage of its legislative platform during the 2023 legislative session.
- The SFPS Board of Education renews its effort to inform parents about secure storage of firearms in their homes, first called for by the Board in “Resolution 2019-2020-9 Secure Gun Storage,” and requests the Superintendent to issue a letter to parents at the start of the 2022-2023 school year regarding this critical need.



**Committee Recommendation:**  
**Do Not Recommend**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #20**

**Submitted By:** Taos Municipal Schools

**Title:** School Safety Discussions of Boards of Education

**WHEREAS**, providing a safe, secure learning environment is a priority of the Taos Municipal School Board; and

**WHEREAS**, recent incidents around the nation such as Uvalde, Parkland, Sandy Hook, and Aztec have identified the need for school boards to enact policies that protect students and teachers from the threat of school violence; and

**WHEREAS**, many perpetrators of school violence were currently enrolled students or young adults who recently exited the school system; and

**WHEREAS**, school boards have a need to discuss school safety policies and measures in executive sessions as to prevent plans from being widely distributed to the general public.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that:

- Request that the House of Representatives, Senate, and Governor of the state of New Mexico amend NM State Statute section 10-15-1-H to include an additional subsection (11) stating “those portions of meetings of boards of education where school safety is discussed.”
- Authorize the Superintendent to send copies of this resolution to Senator Roberto Gonzales, Representative Kristina Ortez, Representative Susan Herrera, and any other appropriate state legislators.
- Authorize Board Member Pascual Maestas to submit a copy of this resolution to the New Mexico School Board Association (NMSBA) for consideration by the NMSBA Resolutions/Legislative Committee.

**Committee Recommendation:**

***Consider adding language to the 2023 platform specifically to:  
Amend Open Meetings statutes to allow discussion of school safety policies and measures in Executive Session.***

**Recommend Approval**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #21**

**Submitted By:** Alamogordo Public Schools

**Title:** School Counselor Shortage in New Mexico

**WHEREAS**, Alamogordo Public Schools and School Districts throughout New Mexico continue to experience a shortage of school counselors; and

**WHEREAS**, per New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH), 520 New Mexico residents died by suicide in 2020; this is an increase of five suicides as compared to 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico had the fourth highest age-adjusted rate for suicides in the nation in 2019, (which is the most recent year for which US data are available); and

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico had a crude suicide rate of 24.6 deaths per 100,000 residents in 2020, which is 23% higher than the crude rate in 2010 (19.9 deaths per 100,000 residents); and

**WHEREAS**, about half of individuals who died by suicide in 2020 were between the ages of 15 and 44; and

**WHEREAS**, 26 of New Mexico's resident suicides occurred among children under 18 years of age in both 2020 and 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, many students in need of school counseling mental, behavioral, and emotional health services are unable to access these services in a timely manner due to school counselor shortages, particularly in rural areas; and

**WHEREAS**, school counselors assist in identifying students in need of intervention and considering suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, there is concern the school counselor shortages are more pronounced due to the increased demand for mental, behavioral, and emotional health services as a result of the COVID pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, students' needs for academic advising and next-step planning may be neglected due to the more urgent need for mental, behavioral, and emotional health services and the shortage of school counselors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Alamogordo Public Schools Board of Education, by unanimous approval of its members, hereto proposes a solution to the school counselor shortage in New Mexico. We propose that the New Mexico Public Education Department consider adding the following licenses to the New Mexico Administrative Code 6.63.6.8 Section (b) for Title 6, Primary and Secondary Education, Chapter 63 School Personnel – Licensure Requirements for Ancillary and Support Personnel, Part 6 Licensure for School Counselors, Pre-k-12:

1. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)
2. Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW)
3. Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)
4. Master Social Worker (MSW)

The above licensees will need to adhere to Section (d). A candidate who applies for licensure as a school counselor on or after September 2007 Administration of the NMPED's Specialty Area Licensure Examinations shall take and pass the content knowledge assessment for school counselor as stated in 6.60.5.8 NMAC, prior to the issuance of the license. Schools would then have the option of having the licensed social worker to fill the role of social worker or social worker/school counselor, thereby increasing the pool of candidates and allowing students to receive academic counseling and mental, behavioral, and emotional health support through a single full-time school counselor.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Alamogordo Public Schools Board of Education requests consideration of a permanent licensure designation of student success/academic advisor. Currently, the nonrenewable, 5-year alternative student success advisor license is granted to allow time for completion of a school counseling graduate program while assisting a school district as an academic advisor. We propose that this licensure be offered as a permanent option for professionals who wish only to provide school-to-career guidance, interpreting standardized test scores, developing master class scheduling, monitoring GPA and course

mapping, and providing student success resources. This license is not a guidance counseling certification and does not allow a student success advisor to provide mental, behavioral, or emotional health services.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2022 Legislative Program , (page 3, column 2)*

*“Student and Staff Safety and Security - NMSBA supports funding for school safety, security personnel including capital improvements, training, behavioral, social emotional health services, counseling for student and staff well-being...”*

*Not requesting legislative action.*

**Recommend Approval and forward to Public Education Department.**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #22**

**Submitted By:** Los Alamos Public Schools

**Title:** Pay off the Acquired Student Debt for Educators Working in New Mexico Schools

*WHEREAS*, student Debt in the course of professional development is an unnecessarily burdensome hardship that hinders further financial and professional growth; and

*WHEREAS*, as of 2020, forty-five percent (45%) of educators have taken student loan debt to fund education, resulting in the average student debt balance of \$55,800 <sup>[1]</sup>; and

*WHEREAS*, about three-fifths (59%) of educators with unpaid loans reported that the debt had a bearing on their ability to build up their emergency savings, and four in 10 said that paying off their student loans impacted their mental, emotional, and/or physical well-being <sup>[1]</sup>; and

*WHEREAS*, educators with unpaid student loan debt were most likely to report experiencing the following financial challenges since March 2020: paying off credit card balances (35%), making housing payments (28%), paying for medical expenses (28%), paying utility bills (27%), and buying food (26%) <sup>[1]</sup>; and

*WHEREAS*, current loan forgiveness excludes many educators from qualifying due to subjects taught or the socioeconomic status of their school and all educators are valued and essential in New Mexico; and

*WHEREAS*, the recent federal action to forgive a portion of student debt will make it an easier task for the state to supplement; and

*WHEREAS*, this resolution will aid in the recruitment and retention of quality educators; and

*WHEREAS*, this action can improve the educator compensation package in a meaningful way.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Congress here assembled shall allocate funding for the forgiveness of the accrued student loans of all educators supporting New Mexico Schools after 5 years of service, regardless of personal income, subject taught, or school socioeconomic status.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, this support is extended to all educators currently employed and who will join New Mexico Schools in the future.

**Committee Recommendation:**

**Table / Congressional**

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION #23**

**Submitted By:** Los Alamos Public Schools

**Title:** **Provide Housing Assistance to Educators in New Mexico Schools**

*WHEREAS*, housing is becoming an increasingly difficult asset to attain among middle-lower class populations; and

*WHEREAS*, the average single-family home cost in New Mexico is between \$193,200<sup>[1]</sup> and \$296,833<sup>[2]</sup>, with massive disparities depending on county and district; and

*WHEREAS*, educators have found it increasingly difficult to afford housing combined with other cost of living expenses (i.e. food, utilities, transportation); and

*WHEREAS*, being able to afford housing in various New Mexico counties and districts will improve the chances of growing, recruiting, and retaining quality educators; and

*WHEREAS*, the ability of the state to grow, recruit, and retain quality educators will promote the success of public education in New Mexico.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, that the Congress here assembled will provide a housing allowance that corresponds to a percentage of the average rent/mortgage in New Mexico counties to aid educators in affording housing in the districts in which they serve.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, this payment is meant to reduce the burden of housing for educators in New Mexico communities and better allow educators to afford other necessities including food, clothing, and childcare while raising the standard of living and increasing recruitment and retention efforts in New Mexico.

**Committee Recommendation:**  
**Table / Congressional**

**NO ACTION NEEDED**

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION #24**

**Submitted By:** Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education

**Title:** **Technology Device Funding**

*WHEREAS*, technology devices are an essential part of the core instructional materials for all students in New Mexico; and

*WHEREAS*, in April 2021, in addressing the Martinez/Yazzie Consolidated Lawsuit, First Judicial District Court Judge Matthew Wilson ordered the state to provide the student plaintiffs computers and high-speed internet for remote and post-pandemic learning; and

*WHEREAS*, teachers and students are using technology devices to support academic growth; and

*WHEREAS*, research from the Brookings Institution found that ed-tech interventions are most effective when scaling up quality instruction, facilitating personalized instruction, expanding opportunities for practice, and increasing learner engagement; and

*WHEREAS*, school districts are working to ensure that all students have a device by using Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds; and

*WHEREAS*, ESSER funds will expire in 2024.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education, along with the New Mexico School Boards Association, calls on the state to develop and consistently fund technology devices for all students.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2022 Legislative Program , (page. 3, column 3)*

*“Technology Plan/Training – NMSBA supports the development and implementation of a statewide technology plan and funding...”*

**No Action Needed**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #25**

**Submitted By:** Las Cruces School District

**Title:** Address Mental Health Needs of Public School Students

*WHEREAS*, the Center for Disease Control reports that in 2021, more than a third (37%) of high school students reported they experienced poor mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic, and 44% reported they persistently felt sad or hopeless during the past year; and

*WHEREAS*, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events that happen in childhood and are linked with increased risk for mental health issues, substance use, suicide, violence, risky sexual behaviors, and lower self-esteem, and 44% of students screened at a School Based Health Clinic reported having at least one ACE risk factor; and

*WHEREAS*, Two out of five high school students (40%) felt sad or hopeless in 2019 and one out of six youth aged 12-17 (17%) experienced a major depressive episode in the year 2019-2020; and

*WHEREAS*, schools have an obligation to provide students with mental health care; and

*WHEREAS*, providing adequate resources to address the mental health needs of students in public schools continues to be a significant strain on resources; and

*WHEREAS*, a significant component of safety in our schools is contingent upon school districts providing adequate counseling and mental health services for their students; and

*WHEREAS*, counselor, social worker, and nurse caseloads have increased dramatically because of the pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the NM Department of Health’s April 2022 “State of Mental Health in NM” report indicated that 13.7% of NM youth were in schools with high mental health support, and that these youth with high support from schools were half as likely to feel persistent sadness or hopelessness than youth with low support.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests that the New Mexico Legislature provide financial support so that school districts can hire an adequate number of mental health counselors, social workers, nurses, psychiatrists, psychologists, and other health professionals who directly work with students and their mental health needs.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, we ask for sufficient funding for school-based community health clinics by expanding the community school model.

**AND, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, we need funding to provide appropriate training for all educators to address the social and emotional needs of students.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2022 Legislative Program, (page 2, column 2)*

*“COVID-19 Pandemic Relief - direct aid to meet...social emotional supports...”*

*Also, on (page 3, column 2)*

*“Student and Staff Safety and Security - NMSBA supports funding for school safety, security personnel including capital improvements, training, behavioral, social emotional health services, counseling for student and staff well-being;...”*

*And, again on (page 3, column 2)*

*“School Based Health Services – NMSBA supports efforts to increase the number of school based health centers and school nurses statewide.”*

**No Action Needed**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #26**

**Submitted By:** Rio Rancho Public Schools

**Title:** Fund Actual Transportation and Instructional Material Costs

**WHEREAS**, state statute sets forth requirements that school districts and charter schools provide instructional materials for students and transportation services for those students who qualify; and

**WHEREAS**, the fixed costs of providing these services are generally the same or similar for all districts and charters across the state; and

**WHEREAS**, funding for instructional materials is currently allocated through the State Equalization Guarantee (SEG); and

**WHEREAS**, funding for transportation is allocated through a separate funding formula based on the concept of funding equalization; and

**WHEREAS**, allocations through the SEG are based on enrollment and certain characteristics that recognize some students require higher levels of services, with no provision for adjustments for those areas (e.g. textbooks, buses, fuel, etc.) whose fixed costs are the same for all students regardless of need; and

*WHEREAS*, based on those criteria, the SEG allocates fewer dollars per student to some districts than others; and

*WHEREAS*, this leaves a growing number of districts underfunded, sometimes in the millions of dollars, for basic fixed costs for instructional materials and transportation; and

*WHEREAS*, this underfunding directly affects the classroom because districts must subsidize instructional materials and transportation costs from operational funds, inequitably reducing the amount available to support teaching and learning; and

*WHEREAS*, the Martinez-Yazzie findings of fact specifically state that a number of districts are underfunded for instructional materials and transportation; and

*WHEREAS*, with the current record surpluses, the state has ample resources to provide full funding based on the actual cost of providing instructional materials and transportation.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to require that the state fund school districts and charter schools for the actual cost of state-mandated instructional materials for all students, and for the provision of transportation services, as defined in state statute and regulation, to all eligible riders.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2022 Legislative Program (page 2, column 1)*

*“NMSBA supports instructional materials.”*

*Also, on (page 3, column 3)*

*“Transportation – NMSBA supports necessary funding to support costs required by districts to transport students in safe and healthy ways including bus air conditioning.”*

**No Action Needed**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #27**

**Submitted By:** Rio Rancho Public Schools

**Title:** Invest in New Mexico’s Future through Career-Technical Education

*WHEREAS*, employers and prospective employers cite a shortage of skilled workers in technology and the trades as a hindrance towards establishing and expanding operations in New Mexico; and

*WHEREAS*, paradoxically, some of our best and brightest young people choose to leave the state to pursue opportunities elsewhere, taking with them New Mexico’s financial investment in their education; and

*WHEREAS*, developing and expanding the New Mexico workforce and economy and providing opportunities for our high school and college graduates requires changing the current educational structure; and

*WHEREAS*, the expansion of career-technical programs provides an opportunity for students to pursue well-paying jobs in essential fields requiring specialized post-secondary training but not a four-year college degree; and

*WHEREAS*, providing career-technical programs requires safe, functional, and specialized classroom facilities with appropriate equipment to support teaching and learning; and

**WHEREAS**, the unprecedented influx of state and federal funding provides an opportunity for the state to invest in career-technical infrastructure and programs in those school districts and charters interested in providing these opportunities for students; and

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico currently lacks a mechanism to fund non-recurring start-up costs and adequate ongoing operational costs for some secondary-level career-technical programs; and

**WHEREAS**, some New Mexico secondary schools and post-secondary institutions are interested in pursuing partnerships establishing career-focused training extending from high school into college, but are challenged by differences in how their institutions are funded and required to operate; and

**WHEREAS**, successfully leveraging these partnerships could provide a cost-effective, efficient, and educationally effective means by which students can prepare for future careers; and

**WHEREAS**, investing in career-technical education supports the state's educational and economic development goals and is a good long-term investment in New Mexico's future.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to provide ongoing funding and support for career-technical education, to include:

- Dedicated ongoing (recurring) revenue streams to support school districts, charter schools, and colleges in the establishment and ongoing operation of career-technical programs;
- Non-recurring start-up funding for facilities, equipment, and qualified teachers and staff;
- Provisions to provide public school capital outlay funding for career-technical education facilities; and
- Providing a mechanism to facilitate K-12/postsecondary partnerships as well as partnerships with business and industry to provide career pathways beginning in high school and extending through post-secondary training and career internships and apprenticeships.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that emphasis should be placed on programs and student financial assistance that support current and future job-market needs such as IT or cyber-security, or support trades and professions where current shortages exist such as HVAC certification, construction trades, auto mechanics, and teaching.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2022 Legislative Program (page 2, column 1)*

*“Career and Technical Pathways – NMSBA supports funding and legislation to establish STEM and career and technical pathways, financial assistance, job opportunities and internship programs for high school students.”*

**No Action Needed**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #28**

**Submitted By:** Rio Rancho Public Schools

**Title:** Support for School Safety

**WHEREAS**, student and staff safety are a top concern for communities around New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, students cannot learn effectively, and teachers cannot teach effectively when concerned for their safety; and



*WHEREAS*, the needs of individual schools, school districts, and charters vary widely depending on the design, age, location, and condition of their buildings and campuses and the security measures that may already be in place; and

*WHEREAS*, in addition to building security, school districts and charters have to consider security issues in other areas under their jurisdiction, such as school buses and athletic venues; and

*WHEREAS*, evolving strategies and technology constantly provide new options for schools; and

*WHEREAS*, security measures, including modifications to buildings, purchasing equipment, hardware, and software, and hiring and training qualified staff is expensive; and

*WHEREAS*, local school boards, law enforcement agencies, and communities are in the best position to evaluate their needs and effectively allocate funds to improve security and safety in local schools.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Rio Rancho Public School Board of Education urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to provide adequate funding to improve safety and security in schools statewide.

***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED***, that local school boards, charter school governing councils, and law enforcement agencies be given discretion on how to best the funds to improve security in each community's schools.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2022 Legislative Program (page 3, column 2)*

***“Student and Staff Safety and Security – NMSBA supports funding for school safety, security personnel including capital improvements, training, behavioral social emotional health services, counseling for student and staff well-being; and, guidance in utilizing armed school security guards and restorative justice.”***

**No Action Needed**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #29**

**Submitted By:** Rio Rancho Public Schools

**Title:** Adequate Support and Funding for School Mental and Behavioral Health Services

*WHEREAS*, nationally up to one in five students shows signs or symptoms of a mental health disorder in a given year, and the needs are growing exponentially; and

*WHEREAS*, in many instances of school violence and violence in the community at large, the protagonist has exhibited symptoms of mental and social-emotional illness; and

*WHEREAS*, children with identified behavioral and mental health issues attend school and are entitled to an appropriate public education; and

*WHEREAS*, students with behavioral and mental health issues disrupt other students, classroom settings, and the educational process; and

*WHEREAS*, nationally nearly 80 percent of students who need mental health services do not receive them; schools and school districts lack sufficient numbers of highly trained staff to identify and diagnose students with severe behavioral issues in a timely manner; and

*WHEREAS*, students with mental health issues must be promptly identified and effectively supported and treated in the interest of maintaining a safe school environment and bolstering student academic performance; and

*WHEREAS*, school personnel are in a key position to identify the early warning signs of an emerging mental health condition, and to direct families to appropriate mental health resources; and

*WHEREAS*, schools and the mental health system in New Mexico are not sufficiently funded to provide timely diagnostic and support services for behaviorally-challenged students, adequate staff training in the recognition of mental health symptoms, short-term counseling, and services to which students and families facing mental health crises may be referred.

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Rio Rancho Public Schools Board of Education urges the Governor and the New Mexico Legislature to provide adequate, ongoing funding for the provision of behavioral and mental health services in and supporting the public schools, including:

- Full funding for sufficient behavioral programs and classrooms to provide services to all students with identified behavioral disorders;
- Resources/staff training for timely identification of students with mental health issues;
- Training and support to help teachers meet the social and emotional needs of students on a day-to-day basis;
- Exploration of intermediate units (district-wide or through regional centers) to provide intensive, short-term interventions to students with behavioral and mental issues;
- An adequate number of counselors, nurses, psychologists/psychiatrists, social workers, and other professionals to provide ongoing support and referrals for students and families facing mental health issues that require long-term and highly specialized care; and
- An adequate community safety-net system for referrals to hospitals and counseling, recognizing the limitations schools, as educational institutions, have in providing comprehensive mental health services.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2022 Legislative Program (page 3, column 2)*

*“Student and Staff Safety and Security – NMSBA supports funding for school safety, security personnel including capital improvements, training, behavioral, social emotional health services, counseling for student and staff well-being...”*

**No Action Needed**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #30**

**Submitted By:** Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education

**Title:** Capital Outlay Offset Exemptions

*WHEREAS*, the Public School Capital Outlay Fund was developed and established in response to the 1998 Zuni lawsuit; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico public school capital outlay process seeks to establish and implement a uniform capital improvement funding system; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2003, the Legislature enacted a state share funding formula to take into account the availability of school district revenues from both bond levies and direct mill levies that support capital outlay; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2003, the Legislature enacted a measure requiring an offset from direct legislative appropriations for capital outlay expenditures be applied against the state share of funds awarded to a school district by the Public School Capital Outlay Council; and

**WHEREAS**, the offset is an amount based on the state share formula equaling 100 percent minus the state share percentage calculated by the formula, times the amount of the legislative appropriation; and

**WHEREAS**, capital offsets have grown impossible for many New Mexico districts to pay back; and

**WHEREAS**, the offsets have resulted in school districts not being awarded funding for capital outlay projects that are for “life, health, and safety” including security funding.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that, the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education, along with the New Mexico School Boards Association, calls on the state to eliminate the offset for Capital Outlay projects if the project has “life, health, and safety” implications.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that “life, health, and safety” be determined if the capital outlay projects are for school security and safety, replacement of major mechanical/structural systems, and other improvements to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already in 2022 Legislative Program , (page 4, column 2)*

*“NMSBA supports the removal of offset penalties on Public School Capital Outlay projects...”*

**No Action Needed**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION #31**

**Submitted By:** Lovington Municipal Schools Board of Education

**Title:** Amend Math Graduation Requirements

**WHEREAS**, Lovington Municipal School Board is committed to providing a well-rounded and quality education accessible to all students and lifelong learners to advance our community, our country, and our world, and ensuring that Lovington students math graduation credits support the pursuit of their education and future livelihoods once they graduate with a Lovington High School Diploma; and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential for students seeking college or career technical education pathways to explore math concepts that support their varied graduation goals and careers as in current legislation from the New Mexico Legislature in § 22-13-1.1. J. (2)., graduation requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico Legislature last changed graduation requirements for students entering ninth grade in the 2009- 2010 school year, and there has not been a comprehensive study of graduation requirements or high

school redesign principles best suited to prepare students to complete high school for college and career readiness since that time; and

**WHEREAS**, New Mexico utilizes “next step plans,” which are statutorily required plans developed by all New Mexico students to identify a student’s postsecondary interests and align their high school education, including mathematics, as well as input from parents and guidance counselors for these goals; and

**WHEREAS**, there is presently a requirement of conic section analysis, asymptotic behavior and logarithmic calculations already required for New Mexico High School graduation; and

**WHEREAS**, these are required by law and administrative rule (See 6.29.1.9 NMAC, Subsection (J), current Algebra 2 needed for graduation is more similar to Math Analysis to support engineering, a change to the math graduation requirement would support all student plans and would contribute to increased success of New Mexico student’s post graduate careers; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lovington Municipal School District and its governing Board is dedicated to providing a rigorous mathematical curriculum to support students intending to go on to college, and all career choices for students focused on building knowledge and skills in a specific labor market field as well as vocational courses.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Lovington Municipal School Board recommends and seeks legislative change to State Statute § 22-13-1.1, Graduation requirements to no longer mandate successful completion of Algebra 2, while maintaining four (4) required math credits for graduation.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** those mathematical courses be offered for college and career readiness and be included in the “next step plan” for students to be focused on building knowledge and skills to support a variety of career choices or in a specific labor market field, ensuring opportunity for all.

**Committee Recommendation:**

*Already approved as part of the 2022 Legislative Program.*

**No Action Needed**