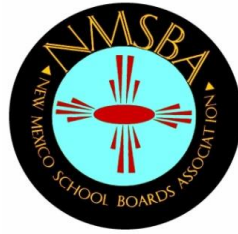


NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Presented to
LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

CHRISTINE LUDI, PRESIDENT
JOE GUILLEN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thursday, December 14, 2023
Santa Fe, New Mexico

About NMSBA...

Vision

The New Mexico School Boards Association aspires to be recognized as the premier source of development and support for local boards of education in New Mexico. The NMSBA will be known as the leading advocate for local boards in their role of insuring that all students will graduate from New Mexico high schools prepared for a quality life and committed to improving society.

Mission

The New Mexico School Boards Association is the member organization for all of New Mexico's school boards to support their efforts in providing a quality education for all students of New Mexico. The NMSBA serves its members through:

- ✓ Commitment to local decision making.
- ✓ Advocacy at the state and federal level for commonly held needs.
- ✓ Leadership development services and training for local school boards.
- ✓ Collaboration with community, elected officials and other educational organizations.

We are 450 STRONG!



NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION 2024

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Pauline Jaramillo, President-Elect – Socorro
Marvyn Jaramillo, Past President – Mesa Vista
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- Tony Rubin – Wagon Mound
- Linda Montoya – West Las Vegas
- Lilliemae Ortiz – NMSBA Legislative Liaison



NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2024 INTRODUCTION, GUIDING PRINCIPLES & LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

INTRODUCTION

The mission of the New Mexico School Boards Association (NMSBA), as an advocate for public education, is to provide leadership and services that enable local boards of education to govern effectively. Through NMSBA, local boards of education are involved in the legislative process to achieve needed school and program reforms. Each of these efforts is focused on the goal that every student is entitled to a free and quality public education.

Annually, NMSBA initiates a legislative process that enables local school boards to express their opinions on current educational issues. These opinions are collected through a resolutions development process. Following a comprehensive analysis of all resolutions, the NMSBA Resolutions and Legislative Committee recommends legislative priorities to the membership for adoption. At the recent NMSBA Annual Convention, the 2024 Legislative Priorities were adopted and now represent the collective voice of New Mexico's 89 school boards and over 450 school board members.

The 2024 New Mexico Legislative Session will be a challenging 30 days with many important issues to deal with. We trust our Legislative Priorities will be carefully considered by New Mexico's Legislative and Executive Leaders.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

In analyzing legislative proposals in the interim and during the legislative session NMSBA uses three guiding principles:

- **Unfunded Mandates**
NMSBA opposes legislation that mandates public schools to implement new programs or initiatives without providing the necessary financial resources. NMSBA will continue to advocate for funding for unfunded mandates that currently exist.
- **Local Control**
One of the important components of a successful public education system is local decision-making. NMSBA believes that decision making at the district level must be preserved and expanded and opposes any legislation that attempts to diminish or take away this authority.
- **Adequate Funding**
NMSBA believes funding for public schools, which is the primary responsibility of the state, should be increased to a level that assures every student will receive an adequate education based on their needs. Funds should be appropriated in a manner that preserves the ability of school boards to allocate funds within their districts based on the diverse needs of their students and communities.

NEW MEXICO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION

2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



NMSBA’s top priorities are focused on keeping our students and staff safe, providing the best education possible for students, increasing achievement and implementing quality learning programs based on best practices.

Local Decision Making

1. **Local Control** – NMSBA supports the local decision-making authority of school boards and opposes legislation and executive action that restricts the ability of locally elected school boards and superintendents to respond to the varied and ever-changing needs of their districts, students and communities. NMSBA calls on the New Mexico Legislature to support legislation affirming and expanding the authority of locally elected school boards to independently develop and adopt educational policies and rules that reflect the educational needs of the students and communities they serve.
2. **School Flexibility** – NMSBA recognizes that school planning decisions should not be a “one size fits all” proposition and supports legislation and flexibility to allow local school boards to make decisions about length of school week, re-entry, and instruction based upon relevant scientific evidence and community needs.

Adequate Funding

3. **Educator Recruitment, Retention, Preparation and Compensation** - NMSBA supports legislative action that keeps all school personnel employed and vacancies filled; invests in substantial increased salaries for all school personnel to remain regionally competitive; provides a competitive benefits package including a decrease in employee health care costs to 20%; provides educator housing assistance and ensures the education retirement system is financially sound.
4. **Core Education Mission** - NMSBA supports sufficient, stable and recurring funding, resources and the flexibility required to open the doors, meet any new mandates and fully staff the constitutionally mandated core education program to meet the unique needs of all districts - large, medium and small including full funding for student transportation expenses. Special attention should go to addressing the possibility of an ESSER funding cliff and mandating that school district Requests for Reimbursement (RFRs) are processed within 30 days of receipt.

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2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

CONTINUED

5. **School District Operating Reserves** – NMSBA requests that school district reserves be preserved and protected without penalty as they are critical to keeping the doors open between revenue inflows, are utilized for locally established priorities, and provide resources to address unfunded health and safety concerns.
6. **Student and Staff Safety** – NMSBA supports legislation to provide direct aid with the flexibility necessary for school districts to meet the critical and ever-changing school safety and social emotional health needs of our students and staff.
7. **Extended Learning Programs** – NMSBA supports legislation to continue extended learning programs along with flexibility in the K-12 Plus Program to help increase student participation and adjust to family schedules; and provide sufficient funding to update all related curriculum materials.
8. **Culturally and Linguistically Responsive Curriculum** – NMSBA supports legislation that will continue to fund culturally and linguistically responsive training, curriculum/materials; and develop methods of reporting and accountability to assure students are provided these opportunities and engage in the work necessary to create change in our schools to address educational disparities as required by the Martinez and Yazzie Lawsuit.
9. **Capital Outlay** – NMSBA supports the continued reduction of local matching requirements for standards based and systems projects; removal of matching requirements for school safety, Pre-K and Career Technical Education facilities and programs; and funding for AC/HAVC upgrades.

Unfunded Mandates

10. NMSBA opposes legislation that mandates public schools to implement new programs, initiatives, requirements, or actions without providing the necessary financial resources. NMSBA will continue to advocate for funding for unfunded mandates that currently exist.