

# Local Control History and Leadership

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# Education Before Colonial New Mexico

- ❑ The ancient ancestors of the Puebloan communities at Chaco and Mesa Verde were certainly versed in passing knowledge from one generation to the next. These places had communal dwellings; organized towns and villages; kivas for spiritual rites; and fields of beans, squash, and corn.
- ❑ Oral histories, traditions, laws, and holy words were passed from generation to generation. Just like today, people learned in order to be able to survive and thrive in their current circumstances. Their teachers were parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, religious, and community leaders.
- ❑ When settlers arrived from outside places such as Spain and Mexico, they brought new things to learn. The Spanish system had a duality of civil and religious powers. As such, governors and priests were appointed to serve in outlying territories like New Mexico. These were men who were educated, especially priests. The governors brought retinues that sometimes included scribes, who were intensely literate and skilled at writing calligraphy.

Martinez, Rob. "Education in New Mexico has long, tenuous history." Santa Fe New Mexican. June 4, 2021

# Education During Colonial New Mexico

- ❑ There were no schools to speak of in colonial New Mexico. What one learned was what one needed to know to be a vecino, or citizen, on the edge of the empire — planting; harvesting; and working with domesticated animals...
- ❑ Hunting skills were essential to kill buffalo and deer.
- ❑ Here and there, a child might get some form of private instruction from a priest or government official in the art of reading and writing, maybe some understanding of numbers.
- ❑ Books were scarce in colonial New Mexico. We know from scant archival mentions or lists in documents that priests had some books, mainly about theology, philosophy, scripture or writings of the saints.

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# Colonial New Mexico Education Material

- ❑ Governors brought what books they could carry on a *carreta*, or cart, some for themselves to read, others for their wives. Maria Theresa de la Roche, wife of Gov. Bernardo López de Mendizabal, was known to read books in Italian during her stay in New Mexico in the mid-1600s.
- ❑ Diego de Vargas brought a library to New Mexico in 1693.
- ❑ Those were the exceptions. Mostly, New Mexicans told stories, heard *dichos* (sayings or phrases that taught wisdom) and learned through songs.



# New Mexico Archives - Education

- ❑ One of the earliest references to a school for Spanish children comes as late as 1776 and was located in Santa Cruz.
- ❑ By 1786 there was a school for the children of soldiers in Santa Fe, with children of various other vecinos (citizen) attending.
- ❑ In the 1790 census only three people are listed as teachers in New Mexico, one in Santa Fe, one at Isleta, and one at Los Chávez.
- ❑ As late as 1812, the state of public education was nonexistent. Consider the words of Pedro Baustista Pino, who represented New Mexico at the Spanish Cortes in Cádiz. That year, he reported the state of public education in New Mexico was reduced to only those who could contribute to the hiring of a schoolmaster. According to Pino, it was not possible to fund a teacher for the general instruction of the people of Santa Fe.
- ❑ However, an 1812 report from Pedro Bautista Pino confirms that there are public schools in Albuquerque, Taos, Belén, San Miguel, and Santa Cruz.
- ❑ Up until 1821, the only true example of a type of formal education system in New Mexico were the Franciscan Missions, where indoctrination and teaching were attempted for centuries with some success and many failures.

# Mexico's Independence from Spain

- ❑ With Mexican independence from Spain in 1821, moves to establish public schools throughout the new nation were put in play.
- ❑ Antonio Narbona, Mexican governor of New Mexico in 1825, came up with a plan for establishing schools in the territory.
- ❑ He assigned the task of raising funds for education to the Rev. Juan Felipe Ortiz, as well as the various alcaldes or local magistrates.
- ❑ During Narbona's brief tenure, there was a school in Santa Fe.
- ❑ Opening schools in smaller communities proved elusive.

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# La Escuela de Ratón - The Ratón Schoolhouse



This log schoolhouse was built as a home in 1878 and was brought to Las Golondrinas from Ratón, New Mexico.

This small two-room cabin was converted into a private schoolhouse in the early 1880s becoming one of the first in Ratón and operated for only a few years before the Marcy-McCuistion Institute was begun in 1885.



# New Mexico Territorial Education – Ferguson Act

- ❑ In 1891 the Territorial Legislature passed a public education bill for the creation of statewide public schools.
- ❑ In 1898, the United States Congress passed the “Ferguson Act” (Act of June 21, 1898) firmly establishing a public school system in the New Mexico Territory.
- ❑ Sec. 4 [School Fund] That five per centum of the proceeds of the sales of public lands lying within said territory which shall be sold by the United States subsequent to the passage of this act, after deducting all expenses incident to the same, shall be paid to the said territory, to be used as a permanent fund, the interest of which only shall be expended for the support of the common schools within said territory.
- ❑ Sec. 5 [Schools, colleges and university to remain under control of territory; funds not available for sectarian schools.] That the schools, colleges, and university provided for in this act shall forever remain under the exclusive control of said territory, and no part of the proceeds arising from the sale or disposal of any lands herein granted for educational purposes, or of the income thereof, shall be used for the support of any sectarian or denominational school, college, or university.

# New Mexico Constitution – School Elections

- ❑ ...All school elections shall be held at different times from other elections. Women possessing the qualifications prescribed in this section for male electors shall be qualified electors at all such school elections:
- ❑ Provided, That if a majority of the qualified voters of any school district shall, not less than thirty days before any school election, present a petition to the board of county commissioners against women suffrage in such district, the provisions of this section relating to women suffrage shall be suspended therein, and such provision shall become again operative only upon the filing with said board of petition signed by a majority of the qualified voters favoring the restoration thereof. The board of county commissioners shall certify the suspension or restoration of such suffrage to the proper school district.
- ❑ Article 7, Section 1 – page 25, The Women’s Club of Albuquerque petition

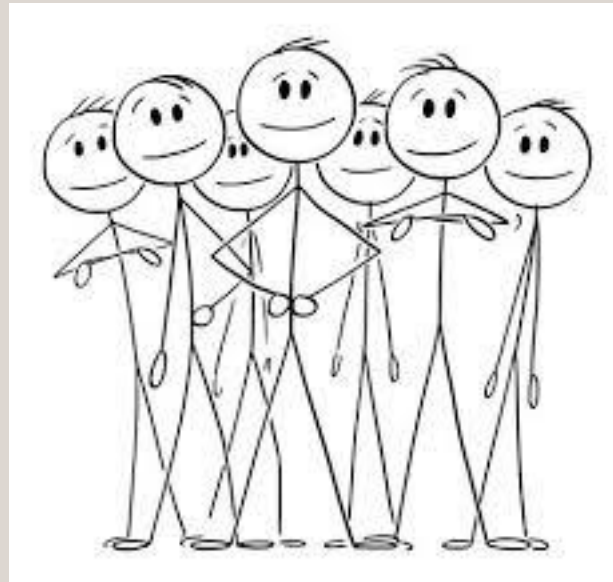
# Adelina “Nina” Otero-Warren (1881 – 1965)

- ❑ Adelina Otero-Warren, the first Hispanic woman to run for U.S. Congress and the first female superintendent of public schools in Santa Fe, was a leader in New Mexico’s woman’s suffrage movement.
- ❑ She emphasized the necessity of Spanish in the suffrage fight to reach Hispanic women and spearheaded the lobbying effort to ratify the 19th Amendment in New Mexico.
- ❑ She strove to improve education for all New Mexicans, working especially to advance bicultural education and to preserve cultural practices among the state’s Hispanic and Native American communities.
- ❑ Brandman, Mariana. “Adelina Otero-Warren.” National Women’s History Museum, 2020. Date accessed.



# State Board of Education prior to 1958 - Art. 12, Sec. 6

A state board of education is hereby created, to consist of seven members. It shall have the control, management and direction of all public schools, under such regulations as may be provided by law. The governor and the state superintendent of public instruction shall be ex officio members of said board and the remaining five members shall be appointed by the governor, by and with the consent of the senate; and shall include the head of some state educational institution, a county superintendent of schools, and one other person actually connected with educational work. The legislature may provide for district or other school officers, subordinate to said board.



# 1958 Constitutional Amendment – Art. 12, Sec. 6

A. There is hereby created a "state department of public education" and a "state board of education". The state board of education shall determine public school policy and vocational educational policy and shall have control, management, and direction, including financial direction, distribution of school funds, and financial accounting for all public schools, pursuant to authority and powers provided by law. The board shall appoint a qualified, experienced educational administrator to be known as the superintendent of public instruction, who shall, subject to the policies established by the board, direct the operation of the state department of public education.

B. Ten members of the state board of education who shall be state officers shall be elected for staggered terms of four years as provided by law. Board members shall be residents of the board of education district from which they are elected. Change of residence of a board member to a place outside the district from which he was elected shall automatically terminate the term of that member.

# 1958 Constitutional Amendment – Art. 12, Sec. 6 (Cont.)

C. Five members of the state board of education who shall be state officers shall be nominated and by and with the consent of the senate appointed by the governor from five districts substantially equal in population for staggered four-year terms as provided by law. Those appointed by the governor shall be qualified electors of the state of New Mexico, no more than one-half or a simple majority of whom at the time of their appointment shall be members of the same political party. After 1990, the number of appointed members may be changed by law not to exceed five members.

D. The governor shall fill vacancies on the board by appointment of a resident from the district in which the vacancy occurs until the next regular election for membership on the board.

E. Upon adoption of this amendment, all functions relating to the distribution of school funds and financial accounting for the public schools shall be transferred to the state department of public education to be performed as provided by law. (As amended November 4, 1958, effective January 1, 1959 and November 4, 1986.)

# 2003 Constitutional Amendment – Art. 12, Sec. 6

A. There is hereby created a “public education department” and a “public education commission” that shall have such powers and duties as provided by law. The department shall be a cabinet department headed by a secretary of public education who is a qualified, experienced educator who shall be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate.

B. Ten members of the public education commission shall be elected for staggered terms of four years as provided by law. Commission members shall be residents of the public education commission district from which they are elected. Change of residence of a commission member to a place outside the district from which he was elected shall automatically terminate the term of that member.

C. The governor shall fill vacancies on the commission by appointment of a resident from the district in which the vacancy occurs until the next regular election for membership on the commission.

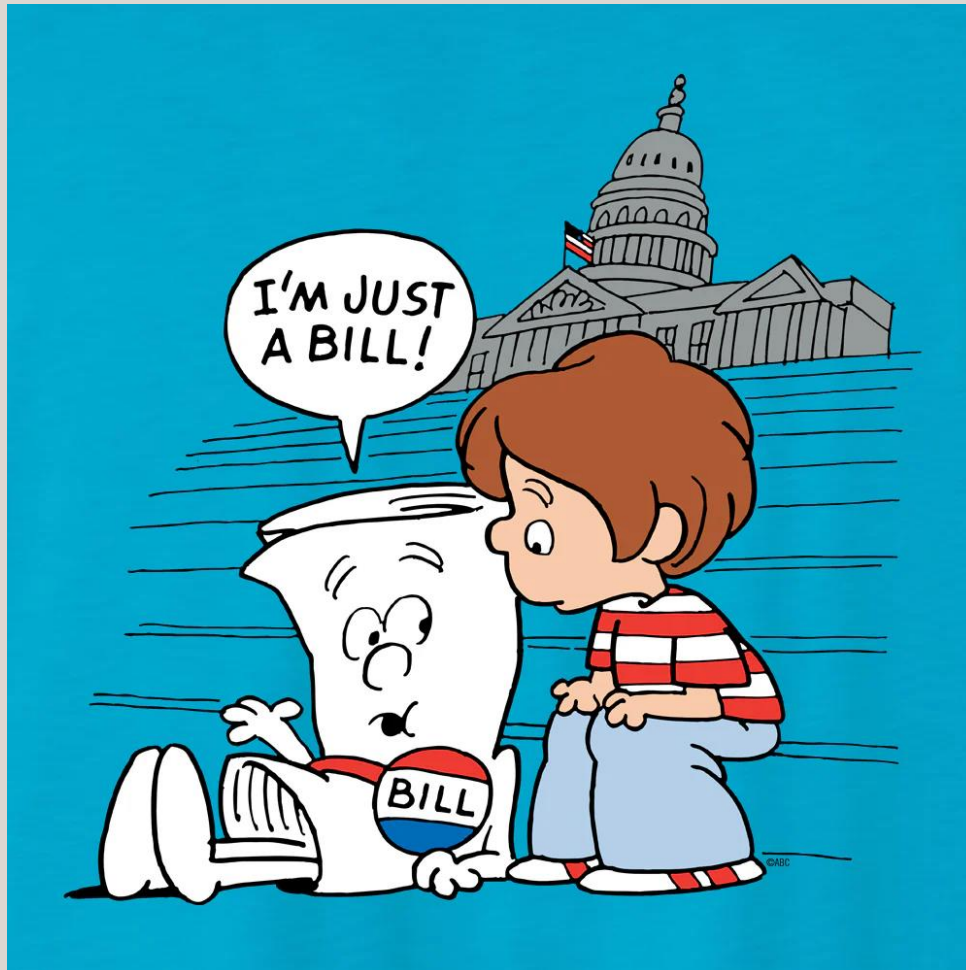
# 2003 Constitutional Amendment – Art. 12, Sec. 6 (Cont.)

D. The secretary of public education shall have administrative and regulatory powers and duties, including all functions relating to the distribution of school funds and financial accounting for the public schools to be performed as provided by law.

E. The elected members of the 2003 state board of education shall constitute the public education commission, if this amendment is approved, until their terms expire and the districts from which the state board of education were elected shall constitute the state public education commission districts until changed by law. (As amended November 4, 1958, effective January 1, 1959, November 4, 1986, and September 23, 2003.)



# Senate Joint Resolution 9 - 2024



PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 12 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO BY REPEALING SECTION 6 AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 6 TO REPLACE THE PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION WITH A STATE SCHOOL BOARD TO SET POLICY; HAVE CONTROL, MANAGEMENT AND DIRECTION OF DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL FUNDS AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING FOR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AS PROVIDED BY LAW; AND DIRECT THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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