



Resolution #1 – Regionally Competitive School Staff Compensation

Title: Implement a 4-year plan to increase funding through the State Equalization Guarantee to provide raises for all school employees so that New Mexico becomes regionally competitive when compared to Texas, Oklahoma, Arizona, Colorado, and Utah

- Whereas, students and educators are New Mexico’s most valuable resource and, thus, funding for education is our State’s best investment; and
- Whereas, New Mexico and the nation have a serious teacher shortage;* and
- Whereas, teachers and all school staff are professionals and have demonstrated that they deserve a raise for the 2019-20 school year; and
- Whereas, adequate funding provides opportunities for students to become resilient and resourceful adults who are able to achieve their personal goals in an ever-changing world; and
- Whereas, education that prepares all students for college and careers is essential for economic growth in New Mexico.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that the Governor, New Mexico Legislature, and Public Education Department prioritize funding through the State Equalization Guarantee to significantly increase the unit value for the 2019-20 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico Legislature sufficiently fund school district budgets so that salaries are regionally competitive; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, and the Legislative Finance Committee.

* According to the U.S. Department of Education, teacher shortages are affecting every state in the country

Resolution #2 – Student and Staff Safety at School

Title: Allocate funding to implement school safety plans across New Mexico

- Whereas, the most effective prevention strategy for creating safe school environments requires a comprehensive, coordinated plan that includes schoolwide, districtwide and communitywide strategies and training where all institutions, organizations and individuals accept responsibility for their critical roles and collaborate to establish a positive environment for teaching and learning;
- Whereas, providing a safe school environment ensures both the physical and emotional safety of students and staff and creates the conditions necessary to foster student and staff well-being and academic achievement;
- Whereas, a vibrant, enriching and respectful school culture where all students feel a sense of belonging and connection is essential to school safety;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that funding be prioritized for collaborative threat assessment, crisis planning, scenario training and implementation of school safety plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico Legislature prioritize the protection of students and school employees by passing legislation that:

- a. Provides extra support for youth and school staff experiencing mental health issues;
- b. Provides funds, above those needed for basic building maintenance and improvement, for capital improvements shown to improve access control and overall safety and security;
- c. Funds public health research on issues related to school safety;
- d. Provides funds to support evidence-based strategies and anti-bias and bystander intervention training to reduce social isolation;
- e. Modifies requirements for drills to align with today's needs for emergency preparation in schools;
- f. Incentivizes students and staff to follow "if you see something, say something;" and
- g. Creates safe, inclusive environments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Education Department provide assistance for school safety training; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, and the Legislative Finance Committee.

Resolution #3 – “Above the Line” Funding to Increase Local School Board Decision Making that Supports Student Success across New Mexico

Title: Allocate funding “Above the Line” to increase local decision making and support student success

- Whereas, “above the line” funding assures local decision making that is customized to unique community needs and most beneficial to students, parents, and teachers; and
- Whereas, local control and School Board decision-making is an essential component of public education and “below the line” allocations erode the integrity of the State Equalization Guarantee; and
- Whereas, school district cash balances are essential for prudent school budgeting and operations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that funding in the General Appropriations Act includes “above the line” increases for Public Education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local school boards are more knowledgeable about educational goals and budget priorities for their students and staff; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the funding formula be modified to better meet the needs of all schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, and the Legislative Finance Committee.

Resolution #4 – Student and Staff Well-being Task Force

Title: Increase understanding about the importance of student and staff well-being

- Whereas, physical and emotional wellness is important to a student’s ability to focus on learning and developing healthy relationships for self, others, and the larger community; and
- Whereas, staff well-being is essential to providing safe and nurturing learning environments and in developing and retaining quality teachers, leaders, and staff; and
- Whereas, a quality education is well-rounded, developmentally appropriate, and includes a variety of opportunities for demonstrating accomplishment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that the Governor and New Mexico Legislature recognize the importance of student and staff well-being by establishing a Well-Being Education Task Force charged with developing a statewide plan, specific recommendations for legislation and school districts, and presentations to the Legislative Education Study Committee and Legislative Finance Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Education Department modify rules and regulations to facilitate a continuing well-rounded education for students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, and the Legislative Finance Committee.

Resolution #5 – Paperwork Reduction Task Force

Title: Paperwork reduction and moratorium on “unfunded mandates”

- Whereas, House Memorial 34 “Education Employee Paperwork Reduction” was passed by the New Mexico House in 2018 requesting the “Public Education Department convene a task force to study the feasibility of a reduction in paperwork required of education employees, modification to New Mexico Administrative Code to reduce the paperwork required of education employees, and a moratorium on unfunded mandated in schools.”
- Whereas, increased paperwork continues to result in less time with students and parents; and
- Whereas, “unfunded mandates” cause school districts to stretch limited staff resources and cut budgets in other important learning programs; and
- Whereas, a quality education includes a variety of opportunities for demonstrating accomplishment for students and education employees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that the Governor and New Mexico Legislature establish a paperwork reduction task force that reports to local School Boards and Legislature in August 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Education Department modify rules and regulations to reduce paperwork during the 2019-20 school year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, and the Legislative Finance Committee.

Resolution #6 to Expand Statewide Use of Short-Cycle Assessments

Title: Allow school districts to use short-cycle assessments to demonstrate student achievement growth for school report cards, the district report card, and teacher evaluations

- Whereas, valid short-cycle assessments provide highly useful information for students, teachers, and parents; and
- Whereas, reports from short-cycle assessments provide immediate, clustered by subgroup, detailed information on student strengths and weaknesses, thus allowing teachers to immediately adapt classroom instruction to best meet student goals and help students show growth throughout the year; and
- Whereas, the PARCC test results are delayed by many months and do not provide statistically valid information for demonstrating student achievement growth; and
- Whereas, information for parents and the public would be improved if data from short-cycle assessments were used for school report cards, the district report card, and teacher evaluations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico School Boards Association requests that the Public Education Department develop a method for counting short-cycle assessment data in school report cards, district report cards, and teacher evaluations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Education Department modify rules and regulations to make better use of short-cycle assessments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor of New Mexico, the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, and the Legislative Finance Committee.