

2016 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #1

Submitted by: Albuquerque Public School Board of Education

Title: Providing that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education enter its appearance and indicate its support of a motion to support a revitalization of and dedication to the control of the local school board to make educational policy decisions and set education priorities for its local school district

- *Whereas*, New Mexico State Statute respects the division of power between the legislature, the executive and the local school board which is why it grants local school boards the responsibility of establishing the local district budget, setting policy and hiring the superintendent to implement the will of the board; and
- *Whereas*, local school boards respect and welcome the authority of the legislature and executive to establish a framework in which local schools are required to operate, minimum standards of programs that schools must establish and performance goals schools must meet but believe specific decisions about operations, programs and how to meet goals should be left to the school board; and
- *Whereas*, local school boards are elected by their communities, are often the most in tune to the community and students' individual needs and how best to work within the parameters established by the State to meet those needs; and
- *Whereas*, local school boards and superintendents take their mission seriously- to provide the very best education possible to each child who walks through the public school doors; and
- *Whereas*, local school boards, in collaboration with their superintendent, ought to have the freedom to make decisions related to curriculum programs and accountability regime to monitor the success of the curriculum and student performance; and
- *Whereas*, funding granted to school districts to implement new programs or proven strategies to increase student achievement which may force the school district to participate in practices that they believe to be substandard and infringe upon the local board and superintendent's ability to make decisions they believe to be in the best interest of their students; and
- *Whereas*, local school boards support accountability and request that the legislature adopt a legislative strategy of less mandates on program specifics so districts may meet the demands of student success in the way they deem best; and
- *Whereas*, increased mandates for testing students has hampered districts' ability to allow students to demonstrated their progress and achievement in more creative, individualized ways and has created a situation where districts are forced to treat all students as a score and tie their educational programming to that score; and
- *Whereas*, the success of public education in New Mexico is dependent on legislators and executive adequately funding the state equalization guarantee (a.k.a. "above-the-line") and trusting local districts to do their jobs; and
- *Whereas*, trusting local school boards allows them to foster local relationships with families, teachers, elected officials and business leaders and seek buy in from all stakeholders for successful educational reforms in schools; and

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education formally requests that the legislature and Public Education Department allow local school boards to exercise their statutorily granted authority to make policy decisions about education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education and administration want to work collaboratively with the legislature and the Public Education Department in the best interest of the students of New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Mexico State Legislature work with the executive to determine best ways to ensure student success while not hampering local flexibility to implement programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Mexico Public Education Department not require the administration of assessments that go beyond what is required in state statute; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education requests that the state allow teachers, principals and school districts to use their professional judgment to administer assessments as an instructional tool and not go further than what is educationally appropriate for students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Mexico State Legislature adequately fund the local school board to meet the educational needs of 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, the Legislative Finance Committee and the New Mexico School Boards Association.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2

Submitted by: Ruidoso Municipal School District

Title: Local ADC Policy

- *Whereas*, the Vision of RMSD is to grow a collaborative learning community where relationships, rigor and relevance develop fulfilled and purposeful adults; and
- *Whereas*, the Ruidoso Municipal School District is where excellence is expected; and
- *Whereas*, this school board was elected by the parents of the students for whom we educate; and
- *Whereas*, we believe that standardized test scores do NOT define our children; and
- *Whereas*, this school board supports the efforts of other districts and entities in challenging the New Mexico Public Education Department's usurp of the authority of duly elected local school districts in ultimately determining what is best for students; and
- *Whereas*, that in 2014/2015 approximately 17% of our high school students were able to graduate as a result of this District's alternative demonstration of competency graduation policy; and
- *Whereas*, we believe that local school boards and educators have a greater understanding of local needs; and

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- *Whereas*, we believe that local autonomy of the local duly elected school board has been denied voice and representation

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ruidoso Municipal School District opposes efforts by the New Mexico Public Education Department to remove or reduce powers of duly elected local school boards by abolishing local alternative demonstration of competency graduation policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the removal of these local policies will result in the failure of many of our students to graduate from our school system; and be it further

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that lack of a high school diploma will cause irreparable harm for these students' futures.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #3

Submitted by: Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education

Title: **Request for Collaboration with Public Education Department**

- *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools' administration has met with other New Mexico school districts to discuss the seeming lack of meaningful dialogue between elected school boards and the New Mexico Public Education Department; and
- *Whereas*, the New Mexico Public Education Department is tasked with leading education reform for the State of New Mexico; and
- *Whereas*, elected school boards would like to be co-creators of meaningful educational reforms across the state; and
- *Whereas*, the decisions and mandates developed by the New Mexico Public Education Department impact every educator, parent, student, board member, community member and public servant; and
- *Whereas*, educators, parents, students, elected board members, community members and public servants are able to provide valuable input that may allow for a more effective and successful education system for the State of New Mexico; and
- *Whereas*, each local board of education is elected to represent its respective community; and
- *Whereas*, under §22-5-4 NMSA 1978, a local school board shall have the following power or duty: subject to the rules of the department; develop educational policies for the school district; and
- *Whereas*, the power given to the elected school board implies a meaningful and positive relationship with the New Mexico Public Education Department as both parties share a common goal; and
- *Whereas*, collaboration allows for close cooperation, discussion, meaningful outcomes and provides for longer-lasting and more effective change; and
- *Whereas*, there is a continued degree of frustration in relation to the lack of collaboration and ability to provide input into decisions and mandates created by the Public Education Department; and

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● *Whereas*, continued and ongoing concerns with mandates are seemingly not acknowledged or remedied.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Las Cruces Public Schools join other districts across New Mexico to urge the New Mexico Public Education Department to recognize the value of participation from all stakeholders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these elected boards request that the New Mexico Public Education Department establish ways in which each local board of education will collaborate with the New Mexico Public Education Department in a formal process and provide insight and input into the development and/or modification of mandates and processes to ensure a successful education system for the State of New Mexico; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the process consists of a mutually agreed agenda, time and place and that the frequency of these meetings be agreed to by both parties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these elected boards request that agendas and minutes of these collaborative meetings be published and distributed to all elected board members in the State of New Mexico.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #4

Submitted by: Cloudcroft School Board

Title: **Funding of Public Education (K-12)**

● *Whereas*, The State of New Mexico's most important resource is our youth. We are committed to Ensuring that every opportunity is made available to our youth to have the best available education possible, with well-funded Public Schools.

● *Whereas*, Public education has previously been funded at approximately 50 percentage of the over All stated budget and with it now being funded at approximately 45 percent of the State's budget

● *Whereas*, Governor Martinez and various legislators have made public comments on supporting Public education (K-12) funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Cloudcroft School Board calls upon the State of New Mexico to increase funding of Public Education (K-12) by a minimum of 1% of the overall state budget each year, until Public Education (K-12) is funded at a minimum of 51% of the overall state budget. Furthermore that it be mandated that Public Education shall never be funded less than 51% of the State's overall budget.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #5

Submitted by: Gadsden Independent School District Board of Education

Title: **Funding of Public Education (K-12)**

● *Whereas*, The State of New Mexico's most important resources is our youth. We are committed to ensuring that every opportunity is made available to our youth to have the best available education possible, with well-funded Public Schools

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- *Whereas*, Public Education has previously been funded at approximately 50 percentage of the overall stated budget and with it now being funded at approximately 45 percent of the State's budget.
- *Whereas*, Governor Martinez, and various legislators have made public comments on supporting Public education (K-12) funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED Cloudcroft and Gadsden I.S.D. School Boards of Education call upon the State of New Mexico to increase Funding of Public Education (K-12) by a minimum of 1% of the overall state budget each year, until Public Education (K-12) is funded at a minimum of 51% of the overall state budget. Furthermore, that it be mandated that Public Education shall never be funded less than 51% of the state's overall budget.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #6

Submitted by: Albuquerque Public School Board of Education

Title: Providing that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education enter its appearance and indicate its support of a motion to support sufficient funding for the state equalization guaranteed to support public education form the New Mexico State Legislature and the Public Education Department

- *Whereas*, Albuquerque Public Schools is thankful for the investment in public education made by the legislature in fiscal year 2016 but understands that the costs of educating New Mexican children has increased since the fiscal crisis and sufficient funding for local school districts to complete their mission demands additional attention from the legislature and executive; and
- *Whereas*, Article XII Sec.1 of the New Mexico State Constitution mandates that a uniform system of free public schools sufficient for the education of, and open to, all the children of school age in the state shall be established and maintained; and
- *Whereas*, the success of public education in New Mexico is dependent on legislators and executive adequately funding the entire public education sector; and
- *Whereas*, local school boards and superintendents take their mission seriously to provide the very best education possible to each child who walks through the public school doors; and
- *Whereas*, New Mexico children deserve to be invested in because they define the future success of the state; and
- *Whereas*, local school boards are held accountable by the local voters, the legislature and the executive for every dollar spent educating New Mexico children; and
- *Whereas*, the legislature should fund all new statutory and regulatory requirements for public schools to avoid unfunded mandates from the State; and
- *Whereas*, "above-the-line" investment for new revenue available in fiscal year 2017 preserves local school boards control to the best respond to strengths and struggles in individual communities to best serve students; and
- *Whereas*, the legislature and executive ought to make increasing the unit value of the state equalization guarantee (a.k.a. funding formula) their number one priority when establishing the public school budget; and

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- *Whereas*, the State of New Mexico failed to comply with federal special education maintenance of Effort requirements and, therefore inadequately fund special education programs in FY2010-FY2012; and
- *Whereas*, local school districts made necessary decisions to support special education in spite of the lack of funding received from the State of New Mexico and should be repaid funding justly due to them to rectify the fiscal shortfall from FY2010-FY2012; and
- *Whereas*, in the future, increasing the unit value is the best way to meet New Mexico's federal special education maintenance of effort requirements to adequately fund special education programs, a priority which must be reached by the legislature; and
- *Whereas*, to guarantee there is no inadvertent decline in the unit value, the legislature must fully fund any changes to the funding formula and avoid a loss in funding for districts across New Mexico; and
- *Whereas*, the legislature should consider moving successful "below-the-line" pilot programs into the state equalization guaranteed so districts may implement those programs every year rather than rely on grant approval for funding; and
- *Whereas*, sufficient funds are necessary to continue to eliminate class size waivers and return class sizes to 2008 statutory levels; and
- *Whereas*, teachers and other public school employees deserve to make a comfortable living wage for the work they do for New Mexico children which considers the increased cost of living and sufficient funds to pay for quality insurance coverage; and
- *Whereas*, teachers and other school staff are professionals and investment in public schools assists districts in providing them consistent professional development and training on the most advanced educational practices to best serve students; and
- *Whereas*, there must be a recognition of the struggles districts have had in providing statutorily mandated transportation for students to and from school and a recognition that the solution is significant investment in transportation services so districts can meet this requirement and provide equal access to public schools for all students; and
- *Whereas*, the legislature should acknowledge the importance of instructional materials in the classroom and increase funds available for schools to purchase those materials; and
- *Whereas*, public schools are in need of additional funds because they are increasingly responsible for and morally obligated to respond to the wellbeing of the entire student by providing access to professional counseling services when a student suffers from mental health issues, including but not limited to substance abuse, providing access to quality health and dental care by continuing support to school-based health clinics, and by assisting families when needed through the services of trained social workers; and
- *Whereas*, the implementation of standards based testing has grown the costs of testing students, and school districts need to have the financial support necessary to purchase, administer and score those assessments and report the data to education stakeholders;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education formally requests that the legislature and Public Education Department prioritize funding to the state equalization guarantee and increase the unit value as much as practically possible due to the increased financial hardship on public school districts; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the New Mexico State Legislature sufficiently fund the “above the line” budget so districts may restore lost educational programs and meet the needs of their local communities and 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, the Legislative Finance Committee and the New Mexico School Boards Association.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #7

Submitted by: Bernalillo Board of Education

Title: **Support Increase Funding for the State Equalization Guarantee to Support Student Education**

- *Whereas*, Bernalillo Public Schools strongly agree that adequate funding gives students opportunities to have the many choices that increases their possibilities through higher programs needed for success
- *Whereas*, the state legislature should highly consider that students rely on a high-quality public Education, that prepares all students for college, careers and lifelong learners that strengthen the student to become successful; the increase of money is vital for all students of New Mexico
- *Whereas*, the state legislature should increase the unit value necessary for districts to provide programs that will enhance the students learning
- *Whereas*, the state legislature should prioritize the funding necessary to lower pupil/teacher ratio, giving the students/teachers the best response to the students strengths and struggles that will strengthen their social and economic well being

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico School Board Association formally requests that the New Mexico State Legislature and the Public Education Department prioritize funding to the state equalization guarantee and increase the unit value for 2016.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico State Legislature sufficiently fund the “above the line” budget so districts may restore and create educational programs needed for student success

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #8

Submitted by: Socorro Consolidated Schools

Title: **Increase above the line funding**

- *Whereas*, Local School Boards are elected by their constituents and are entrusted by their constituents to make student-based decisions
- *Whereas*, Local School Boards have a unique insight into the needs of their students and community

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● *Whereas*, Local School Boards are accountable by the local voters, the Legislature, and the Executive, for every dollar spent educating children

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the New Mexico State Legislature sufficiently fund the “above the line” budget so Local Districts may meet the needs of their local students and communities of which they are accountable to.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #9

Submitted by: Deming Public Schools Board of Education

Title: Three Tier License System

- *Whereas*, the Richardson administration and the New Mexico Legislature developed a method for providing a uniform salary system for all school districts in New Mexico and
- *Whereas*, the New Mexico Legislature has failed to do more than make minimal increases in the three tier system and
- *Whereas*, the minimal increases have failed to keep up with the cost of living and increasing salaries in neighboring states and
- *Whereas*, the failure to keep the salary schedule competitive has resulted in teachers from New Mexico abandoning their classrooms for better salaries in other states.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED be it resolved that the New Mexico Legislature should adopt a three year plan to increase the level one salary to \$50,000 and level two and level three to appropriate levels. This should be done by funds from the general fund and not by using permanent funds for this goal.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #10

Submitted by: Deming Public Schools Board of Education

Title: Teacher Evaluation System

- *Whereas*, The teacher evaluation system put into place by NMPED is a new system that replaces a subjective system with a system which is more fact based. Previous evaluations were accomplished entirely by administrative personnel (primarily principals) as part of their basic job function.
- *Whereas*, New evaluation system requires much more time than the previous process, requiring additional administrative personnel to handle evaluations, resulting in valuable resources being taken away from the students (in terms of time and money.)
- *Whereas*, The new system places an additional burden on school systems not compensated by the present funding formula.
- *Whereas*, The teacher's evaluation system is a new system developed by NMPED without funding.
- *Whereas*, At Deming Public Schools, the estimate for the cost required to evaluate a single teacher is \$1200 or approximately \$400,000 for the School district.
- *Whereas*, as an unfunded mandate, the process to evaluate teachers is a very costly process.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Deming Public Schools Board of Education is requesting that NMPED compensate schools for the additional burden this process imposes in the school district.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #11

Submitted by: Gadsden Independent School District

Title: Adequate Funding for School Transportation

- *Whereas*, the Gadsden Independent School District consists of 26 educational facilities educating the children of Southern Dona Ana County and Southern Otero County; and
- *Whereas*, the Gadsden Independent School District educates approximately 14,000 students in programs stretching from pre-school through 12th grade; and
- *Whereas*, the Gadsden Independent School District covers an area of 1400 square miles; and
- *Whereas*, approximately 77% of the 14,000 students are transported annually; and
- *Whereas*, approximately One Million Nine Hundred Thousand miles are traveled each year to transport these students; and
- *Whereas*, the Public Education Department created a shortfall of \$600,000 in transportation budget for the 2015-16 school year; and
- *Whereas*, the Gadsden Independent School District was in the top five that lost funding; and
- *Whereas*, the \$600,000 shortfall has created a hardship for the district to adequately serve students of Gadsden Independent School District for the 2015-16 school year; and
- *Whereas*, after school activities, such as athletic events, tutoring sessions, and enrichment programs have been curtailed to the detriment of student participation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gadsden Independent School District and Board of Education call upon the New Mexico Public Education Department to re-instate the transportation funding that was awarded the district in the 2014-15 school year.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #12

Submitted by: Socorro Consolidated Schools

Title: Test Materials paid by the State

- *Whereas*, Local School Districts must adhere to all PED testing mandates
- *Whereas*, Local School Districts cannot waive PED testing requirements
- *Whereas*, New Mexico is one of the few, if not the only, state that requires local school districts to pay for State mandated testing materials

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that all mandated testing materials be paid for by the State of New Mexico and will not adversely affect school districts SEG

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION #13

Submitted by: Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education

Title: **Establish defensible timelines to ensure that public school districts and charter schools receive carryover authorization one month after the closing of the federal fiscal year on September 30.**

- *Whereas*, the federal government augments state funding to public school districts and charter schools to enhance educational options through a variety of programs, such as Title I, Impact Aid, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, English Language Acquisition Title III, professional development Title II, and other federal programs; and
- *Whereas*, the New Mexico Public Education Department awards federal funds to public school districts and holds public school districts and charter schools to high accountability principles; and
- *Whereas*, public school districts and charter schools implement programs that comply with federal and state guidelines and assume the costs of effectively administering these programs on notice of award by the New Mexico Public Education Department; and
- *Whereas*, public school budgets are not sufficient to maintain programs without timely carryover authorization by the New Mexico Public Education Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education that the Secretary of Public Education establish defensible timelines to ensure that public school districts and charter schools receive carryover authorization one month after the closing of the federal fiscal year on September 30 in order to maintain high levels of service to students and teachers as required by each federal program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of Public Education, the Legislative Education Study Committee, superintendents of public schools, and charter school administrators.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #14

Submitted by: Socorro Consolidated Schools

Title: **Capping annual reductions in NM Public Schools SEG (Operational) funding at 1.5% Maximum**

- *Whereas*, Public schools in the State of NM are funded through the state funding formula, and whereas, nothing in the formula accounts for sharp decreases in operational funds resulting from decreasing units in public schools, and whereas, the sizes of public schools are a constant that does not decrease with decreasing funding units, and
- *Whereas*, Utility, insurance and other costs typically increase every year, even in years when state funding decreases according to lower funding units, and whereas, these other increasing costs (not including potential raises) must be paid from a decreasing budget via the funding formula, and
- *Whereas*, Payroll expenses typically approach 90% of operational budgets in public schools, leaving a mere 10% (or less) to cover all other operational costs,

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED In order to meet budgetary requirements in uncertain times, the NM State Funding Formula for Public Schools will include a provision that will maximize any decrease in funding from year to year at 1.5%

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #15

Submitted by: Carlsbad Board of Education

Title: Teacher Evaluations

- *Whereas*, The teacher evaluation system that is currently promulgated by the Public Education Department of New Mexico has serious flaws such as having some teacher evaluations based on student test scores in subjects they have not even taught and had no control over, and
- *Whereas*, the evaluation system relies heavily on quantifiable numbers dealing with the cognitive domain of students, basically ignoring the affective domain which is a critical component of the science and art of teaching, and
- *Whereas*, the evaluation system does not allow school administrators the flexibility to exercise judgment regarding teacher absenteeism even though absenteeism is a component of the evaluation, and
- *Whereas*, the evaluation system is a "one size fits all" approach to evaluating teachers that does not allow for diversity among school district student populations, does not allow for diversity among teachers with myriad talents, teaching styles. And personality differences, and
- *Whereas*, many teachers are discouraged because their own creativity in the classroom has been diminished by an evaluation system that neither recognizes their strengths nor supports them in their efforts so that many are leaving the state or choosing to leave the profession altogether, and
- *Whereas*, the administrators of the New Mexico Public Schools are licensed by the Public Education Department with the understanding that teacher evaluation is a component of their professional responsibilities, and
- *Whereas*, school administrators are in daily contact with the teaching staff and are, therefore, in the best position to assess the effectiveness of a teacher in his/her unique situation, to exercise professional judgment regarding teacher competence, and
- *Whereas*, the Constitutional authority for the school system resides with the locally elected Board of Education

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED , that the current teacher evaluation system be discarded, that the evaluation of teachers be returned to local control, implemented by the administrators under the purview of the local Board of Education; that the Public Education Department assist each school district, in an advisory capacity, as requested by the respective school districts.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #16

Submitted by: Quemado Independent School District

Title: Linking Teacher Licensure Renewal and Advancement to State Evaluations

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- *Whereas*, teachers play the pivotal role in a child's classroom experience and the quality of education each student receives: and
- *Whereas*, a fair, accurate, and equitable means of evaluating teacher and school administrator performance is vital to assuring children receive the best possible classroom instruction; and
- *Whereas*, the Quemado Independent School District Board of Education strongly supports a rigorous evaluation system that drives continuous improvement and fairly and equitably holds employees accountable for performance; and,
- *Whereas*, the Quemado Independent School District Board of Education has met and share concerns about the new teacher evaluation system created by the New Mexico Public Education Department; and
- *Whereas*, only 25% of the final teacher score on the state evaluation is based on local observations; and
- *Whereas*, the most current student growth data tied to teacher evaluations that accounts for 50% of the final teacher score on the state evaluations is not current data, but at least a year old; and
- *Whereas*, the Value Added Model (VAM) hugely impacts the final teacher score in the state evaluation system and has yet to be clearly explained and shown to be fair. Accurate, and equitable means for all teachers; and
- *Whereas*, the design of the system may result in considerable variation of evaluation criteria depending on the subject taught and compromise the fairness and equity of the system: and,
- *Whereas*, the Quemado Independent School District Board of Education strongly supports and defends HB 212 defining hiring and firing of teachers as a local decision and the responsibility of the superintendent; and
- *Whereas*, denying teacher licensure and advancement based on an evaluation system that only honors the local observations and input as 25% of the final teacher score is essentially making personnel decisions at the state level through denying licensure to otherwise qualified teachers, and thereby denying the right of the local school district to make their own personnel decisions, and
- *Whereas*, the consequences of tying teacher licensure renewal and advancement to an evaluation system that is or is perceived as being unfair, inaccurate, and/or inequitable could result in our best and brightest young people being discouraged from choosing teaching as a profession, teachers and administrators being unjustifiably disciplined or terminated, test cheating, lawsuits filed by employees who feel they were unfairly evaluated with resulting legal costs that could have a budget impact in the classroom, and an exodus of highly qualified classroom teachers who feel singled out in a way professionals in other career fields are not; and
- *Whereas*, districts question the legal standing of denying renewal and advancement of licensure based on evaluation system that has not been shown to be fair and equitable for all teachers

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Quemado Independent School District Board of Education strongly urges the New Mexico Public Education Department to not tie licensure renewal and advancement to the state teacher evaluation system and to leave all personnel decisions at the local level: and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Education Department use only current student growth data in teacher evaluations, make local observations and evaluations at least 50% of the total teacher score, and clearly and concisely explain how the VAM impacts teacher ratings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Education Department collaborate with districts statewide to eliminate any and all possibilities of an unfair, inaccurate, and/or inequitable evaluation system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Education Department establish a formal process for teachers to question and appeal their ratings and scores to an independent panel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Public Education Department provide extensive professional development to evaluators, teachers, and all involved in or affected by the evaluation system to eliminate all unfair, inaccurate, and/or inequitable parts of the evaluation system and minimize the perception of any unfair, inaccurate, and/or inequitable parts of the system through transparency and a collaborative approach.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #17

Submitted by: Ruidoso Municipal School District

Title: Teacher Evaluations

- *Whereas*, the Vision of RMSD is to grow a collaborative learning community where relationships, rigor and relevance develop fulfilled and purposeful adults; and
- *Whereas*, the Ruidoso Municipal School District is where excellence is expected; and
- *Whereas*, this school board was elected by the parents of the students for whom we educate; and
- *Whereas*, the current teacher evaluation system was implemented without the input of local educators or elected boards of education; and
- *Whereas*, the level of teacher turnover and vacancies remains at a historic level statewide; and
- *Whereas*, the teacher evaluation system is driven by test results; and
- *Whereas*, the influence of standardized test scores accounts for as much as 50% of a teacher's total evaluation score; and
- *Whereas*, this school board supports the efforts of other districts and entities in challenging the New Mexico Public Education Department's usurp of the authority of local school districts in an unconstitutional move to determine evaluation policies and procedures; and
- *Whereas*, we believe that local school boards and educators have a greater understanding of local needs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Ruidoso Municipal School District opposes efforts by the New Mexico Public Education Department to reduce the power of the New Mexico Legislature;

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ruidoso Municipal School District opposes efforts by the New Mexico Public Education Department to reduce the powers of duly elected local school boards;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the teacher evaluation system be amended to reflect a more appropriate percentage of standardized test scores in teachers' overall rating.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #18

Submitted by: Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education

Title: **Requesting the New Mexico Legislature Establish a Statewide Effort to Recruit and Retain Teachers and Other Educational Personnel**

● *Whereas*, classroom teachers, school counselors, school social workers, school nurses, diagnosticians, speech language therapists, behavioral therapists, occupational therapists, recreational therapists, and other certified professional providers play a critical role in creating and sustaining learning environments that are critical to student success; and

● *Whereas*, classroom teachers are currently afforded a three-tiered salary structure; and

● *Whereas*, other classifications of certified employees are not currently part of a three-tiered salary structure; and

● *Whereas*, New Mexico is currently experiencing a severe shortage of qualified personnel to staff its public schools; and

● *Whereas*, the New Mexico Educational Retirement Board (ERB) allows for retired members to return to work after a twelve-month period of not working for an ERB member system; and

● *Whereas*, the State of New Mexico must consider how it will continue to staff its public schools with qualified professionals

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education formally requests that the 2016 Legislature adopt a fair and equitable three-tiered licensure system for all certified professional personnel not currently included in the existing three-tiered salary structure.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the New Mexico Legislature amend current statute that would allow a local education agency the opportunity to secure the professional services of a retired teacher or other critically needed certified professionals with less than the currently required twelve month waiting period to fill vacancies in high need areas as demonstrated by the local education agency.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #19

Submitted by: Santa Fe Public Schools

Title: **PARCC Waiver for High School Students to Substitute ACT Exam for Graduation Requirements**

● *Whereas*, state law requires the public education department to establish a readiness assessment system to measure the readiness of every New Mexico high school student for success in higher education or a career; and

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- *Whereas*, the readiness assessment system must be aligned with state academic content and performance standards, college placement tests and entry-level career skill requirements; and
- *Whereas*, the American College Testing (ACT) is a national college admissions exam that is accepted by most colleges and would met New Mexico statutory requirements to assess a student's readiness for higher education or career.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico School Boards Association supports the granting of a waiver from taking the PARRC test if a student takes the American College Testing (ACT) and meets college readiness benchmarks.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #20

Submitted by: Los Alamos School Board

Title: Removal of the Mandatory Short- Cycle Assessment for grades 9 and 10

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #21

Submitted by: Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education

Title: A Resolution in support of reducing standardized testing of students within the Las Cruces public schools

- *Whereas*, according to a 2014 survey by Phi Delta Kappa International and the Gallup Poll, 54 percent of Americans do not believe standardized tests are helpful in letting teachers know about their students' academic achievements; and
- *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Board of Education believes that New Mexico's students are being subjected to unnecessary high-stakes standardized testing; and
- *Whereas*, the results from PARCC or other state-mandated tests should not be viewed as the only measurement of how well students are doing in school; and
- *Whereas*, local School Boards should exercise their authority in minimizing the amount of testing their district's students are mandated to complete; and
- *Whereas*, parents have the right to make decisions regarding their child's education; and
- *Whereas*, , the Las Cruces Board of Education perceives that an irrational amount of testing has had a negative impact to the morale of professional educators and has created undo stress among children of all ages; and
- *Whereas*, since the time that the test-centric No Child Left Behind was adopted, many states have since put forth legislation and/or have urged state lawmakers and Congress to reduce the amount of mandated tests.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Education Department for the State of New Mexico reduce the amount of standardized testing that is required for New Mexico's students.

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PROPOSED RESOLUTION #22

Submitted by: Socorro Consolidated Schools

Title: Nepotism

- *Whereas*, Employment vacancies are increasing in difficulty in filling in smaller, rural communities
- *Whereas*, Vacancies that cannot be filled are a detriment to the success of the educational environment
- *Whereas*, The percentage of families related to one another in smaller, more rural areas are higher than those in larger metropolitan areas

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That the New Mexico Legislature change the Nepotism Law to allow a waiver process that allows the Local Superintendent to waive the Nepotism Law and to be able to hire relatives of Local School Board members for those positions within the Local School District

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #23

Submitted by: Santa Fe Public Schools

Title: School Board Candidate Qualification

- *Whereas*, school board members throughout New Mexico are elected to provide a voice for local Communities regarding the education of children eligible to attend public schools grades K-12; and
- *Whereas*, school board members have specific statutory duties that center around providing a high quality education that includes a safe and secure learning environment; and
- *Whereas*, school personnel and volunteers are required to complete a fingerprint background check to ensure they do not have a felony conviction related to physical or sexual abuse of a child or adult; and
- *Whereas*, school board members should be held to the same standard and should be prohibited from being elected as a school board member if they have a felony conviction that would prohibit an employee or volunteer from working with students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the legislature consider passing legislation that would prohibit an individual with a felony conviction related to physical or sexual abuse of a child or adult from being qualified to run for the office of school board member.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #24

Submitted by: Santa Fe Public Schools

Title: Public Participation in ESEA Waiver

- *Whereas*, the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is under Reconciliation that could lead to the modernization of the ESAE; and
- *Whereas*, if the ESEA is not updated, the State of New Mexico would be in a position to submit a request for another waiver from the punitive sanctions required under the current ESEA commonly known as "No Child Left Behind "; and

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● *Whereas*, waivers that have been submitted on behalf of the State of New Mexico have not been drafted With input from local school districts, school boards, teachers, parents or other interested parties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico School Board Association calls on the Secretary of Public Education and the Governor to seek public comments from interested parties if the ESEA is not updated and the State of New Mexico determines a waiver from the punitive sanctions of No Child Left Behind is necessary.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #25

Submitted by: Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education

Title: **Expressing Continued Support for the 2015 New Mexico School Boards Association Resolutions**

● *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education submitted a Resolution calling for the creation of an interagency task force to examine issues regarding teen substance abuse including the cause for and potential preventive measures; and

● *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education believes strongly that the New Mexico Public Education Department should delay the full implementation of the current New Mexico Teacher Evaluation System for at least one (1) academic year; and

● *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education recommends implementing the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) Assessment on a pilot basis in its first year. Also, that the results of the PARCC Assessment would not be considered for high school graduation requirements, school grades or NM Teach Educator Evaluation System, until outcomes may be assessed. Also, the Board is concerned that the assessment is not available in Spanish; and

● *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education believes that funding for New Mexico Public Schools from the New Mexico Land Grant and Severance Tax Permanent Fund should remain exclusive to New Mexico public schools; and

● *Whereas*, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education understands that funding for public education from the permanent fund was reduced to 5.5 percent in 2013 and will be reduced to 5.0 percent in 2017; yet, all projections are that the fund will continue to grow to more than \$10 billion dollars in 2014.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests that the New Mexico Legislature consider the following during the 2016 Legislative Session:

- Establish a process through the Legislative interim committee structure to examine the root causes of drug, alcohol, and other substance abuse among our state's children and prepare legislation for consideration during the 2017 Legislative Session;
- Establish a statewide task force whose membership shall include representatives from the executive and legislative branches, superintendents, school board members, principals, and teachers to review, pilot, and refine the current teacher evaluation system based on the results of the pilot and suggest a date for the full implementation of the teacher evaluation system to the Legislature;
- Implement the PARCC Assessment on a pilot basis during the first year of implementation

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so that the Public Education Department can fully study and establish the appropriateness of all assessment components to serve as a guide for student learning, school grades and teacher evaluation;

- Reinstatement of funding to public education from the Permanent Fund to 5.8 percent or increase the percentage to ensure that public schools are able to meet the diverse learning needs of students.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #26

Submitted by: Santa Fe Public Schools

Title: Support New Mexico Safe Schools Initiative and all families matter coalition to ensure transgender and gender nonconforming students are respected and protected in New Mexico schools through local policy

- *Whereas*, according to the 2011 report, "Injustice at Every Turn: A Report on the National Transgender Discrimination Survey": Those who expressed transgender identity or gender nonconformity while in grades K-12 reported alarming rates of harassment (78%), physical assault (35%) and sexual violence (12%); and
- *Whereas*, the harassment was so severe that it led nearly one-sixth (15%) of the students reporting to leave school in grades K-12 or in higher education settings; and
- *Whereas*, the New Mexico Human Rights Act protects New Mexicans on the basis of gender identity and expression, and federal Title IX protects transgender and gender nonconforming students under the definition of "sex discrimination"; and
- *Whereas*, national longitudinal studies indicate that outcomes improve for transgender and gender nonconforming students when they are allowed to fully participate in their academic lives according to their gender identity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the New Mexico School Board Association (NMSBA) recognizes that the efforts of the NEW MEXICO SAFE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE and ALL FAMILIES COALITION will positively impact the lives of New Mexico's transgender and gender nonconforming students; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NMSBA supports the implementation of such practices that have been shown to improve the educational environment for transgender and gender nonconforming students.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #27

Submitted by: Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education

Title: A resolution in support of collective bargaining unions as partners and acknowledging their place in history as proponents of public education

- *Whereas*, the Board of Education of the Las Cruces Public Schools upholds and supports state statute Chapter 10, Article 7E, NMSA 1978, known as the "Public Employee Bargaining Act" which was re-enacted in 2003 to allow public employees to form, join or assist labor organizations for the purpose of collective bargaining; and

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● *Whereas*, the members of the Board value the relationships that have been established through the years with members of the National Education Association-Las Cruces (NEA-LC) and the Classified School Employees Council-Las Cruces (CSEC-LC), and;

● *Whereas*, the majority of the employees of the Las Cruces school district are represented by one of these two unions that bargain within the spirit of the law, which is to "promote harmonious and cooperative relationships between public employers and public employees"; and

● *Whereas*, unions balance structures of power in the workplace, resulting in greater efficiency, and;

● *Whereas*, unions strengthen businesses and the economically vital middle class by giving workers a voice in both the workplace and our democracy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education embraces the collective bargaining unions as partners and acknowledges their place in history as proponents of public education

PROPOSED RESOLUTION #28

Submitted by: Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education

Title: A resolution in recognition of J. Paul Taylor on his 95th Birthday and for his many achievements and contributions.

● *Whereas*, J. Paul Taylor was born in Chamberino, New Mexico in 1920 and is a descendant of early Spanish families who colonized New Mexico in the late sixteenth century; and

● *Whereas*, Mr. Taylor attended Chamberino schools and graduated from Anthony Union High School in 1938; and

● *Whereas*, Mr. Taylor served in the U.S. Navy, married Mary Helen Daniels and had seven children; and

● *Whereas*, Mr. Taylor graduated from New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History in 1942 and a Master of Arts Degree in Educational Administration in 1954; and an Educational Specialist Degree in Curriculum & Instruction in 1963 from New Mexico State University; and

● *Whereas*, Mr. Taylor began his teaching career in 1951 with the Dona Ana County School District, which in 1954 was consolidated into the Las Cruces Public Schools;

● *Whereas*, Mr. Taylor began as a 6th grade elementary teacher at Mesilla Park School where he earned an annual salary of \$3,420; and, throughout his tenure, he worked for six superintendents as Principal at Dona Ana Elementary and Alameda Elementary; Curriculum Coordinator and Supervisor for Transportation & Attendance; Assistant Superintendent and Transportation Supervisor; Elementary Curriculum Coordinator; Director of Program Development; Director of Instruction; Assistant Superintendent for Instruction; and Associate Superintendent for Instruction; and

● *Whereas*, Mr. Taylor retired from the Las Cruces Public Schools in June 1985 and was quoted in the newspaper that he does not plan on a quiet retirement; and

● *Whereas*, Mr. Taylor kept his word by serving Dona Ana County as a State Representative from 1987 to 2004, passing numerous pieces of Legislation that benefitted public education, the state's youth, and the elderly citizens of New Mexico; and

2016 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS

● *Whereas*, Mr. Taylor continues to serve Mesilla, Las Cruces, Dona Ana County and the State of New Mexico as a historian, art collector and preservationist.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED in celebration of J. Paul Taylor's 95th birthday, the Las Cruces Board of Education, honors this pillar of the community for his incomparable achievements and contributions and for the legacy he leaves to the citizens of New Mexico.



2016 LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED BY LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS

SUMMARY LISTING

LOCAL CONTROL

1. Requests the State Legislature and Public Education Department support the authority of local school boards to make educational policy decisions and set education priorities for local school districts by focusing on what is best for students, allowing for local flexibility and judgement and providing adequate funding. *(Albuquerque)*
Approved
2. Opposes efforts by the Public Education Department to remove or reduce powers of local school boards by abolishing local alternative demonstration of competency graduation policies which will result in the failure of many students to graduate and cause irreparable harm. *(Ruidoso)*
Approved
3. Urges the Public Education Department to establish ways to collaborate with each local board of education in a formal mutually agreed upon process and provide insight and input into the development and modification of mandates and processes to ensure a successful education system. *(Las Cruces)*
Approved

FUNDING/FINANCIAL

- 4/5 Calls on the State Legislature to increase public education funding by a minimum of 1% of the overall state budget each year, until it is funded at a minimum of 51% of the overall state budget and that it never be funded less than 51% of the state's overall budget. *(Cloudcroft & Gadsden)*
Approved
6. Supports sufficient funding for the state equalization guarantee "above the line" to support public education resulting and increase the unit value. *(Albuquerque)*
Approved, already in Legislative program
7. Supports Increased funding for the State Equalization Guarantee to support student education. *(Bernalillo)*
Approved, already in Legislative program
8. Calls on the State Legislature to sufficiently fund the "above the line" budget so local school districts may meet the needs of their local students and communities. *(Socorro)*
Approved, already in Legislative program
9. Requests the State Legislature adopt a three year plan to increase level one teacher salaries to \$50,000 and level two and level three to appropriate levels utilizing general fund revenues. *(Deming)*
Approved as amended
10. Requests funding from the Public Education Department to compensate schools for the additional burden the new teacher and principal evaluation process has imposed on school districts. *(Deming)*
Table
11. Calls on the Public Education Department to provide adequate funding for school transportation by re-instating funding to 2014-15 levels. *(Gadsden)*
Approve as Amended to add legislature to fund school bus transportation at a higher level
12. Calls on the State Legislature to provide funding for all **state** mandated testing materials from sources other than the state equalization formula. *(Socorro)*
Approve as Amended to add state
13. Calls on the Public Education Department to establish defensible timelines to ensure that public school

districts and charter schools receive carryover authorization one month after the closing of the federal fiscal year on September 30 in order to maintain high levels of service to students and teachers as required by each federal program. **(Las Cruces)**

Approved and forward to PED

14. Calls on the State Legislature to place a mandatory cap for school districts that would limit any decreases in funding from year to year to a maximum of 1.5% in funding from the state equalization formula in order to meet budgetary requirements in uncertain times. **(Socorro)**

Table

TEACHER EVALUATION/RETENTION

15. Requests that the current teacher evaluation system be discarded, that the evaluation of teachers be returned to local control, implemented by the administrators under the purview of the local board of Education and the Public Education Department assist each school district, in an advisory capacity, as requested by the respective school districts. **(Carlsbad)**

Table with support of #16

16. Urges the Public Education Department not to tie licensure renewal and advancement to the teacher evaluation system; leave all personnel decisions at the local level: use only current student growth data in teacher evaluations; make local observations and evaluations at least 50% of the total teacher score; clearly and concisely explain how the VAM impacts teacher ratings; collaborate with districts statewide to eliminate possibilities of an unfair, inaccurate, and/or inequitable evaluations; establish a formal process for teachers to question and appeal their ratings and scores to an independent panel; and provide extensive professional development to evaluators, teachers, and all involved in or affected by the evaluation system. **(Quemado)**

Table with support of #15

17. Opposes efforts by the Public Education Department to reduce the power of the State Legislature and local school boards and calls for the teacher evaluation system to be amended to reflect a more appropriated percentage for standardized test scores in the overall rating **(Ruidoso)**

Approved

18. Requests the State Legislature establish a statewide effort to recruit and retain teachers and other educational personnel by adopting a fair and equitable three tiered licensure system for all certified professional personnel not currently included in the existing three-tiered salary structure and by allowing retired teachers and other critically needed certified professionals with less than the currently required twelve month waiting period to fill vacancies in high need areas. **(Las Cruces)**

Approved, already in Legislative program

TESTING

19. Supports the granting of a waiver from taking the PARRC test if a student takes the American College Testing (ACT) and meets college readiness benchmarks. **(Santa Fe)**

Table

20. Supports legislation to remove mandatory short-cycle assessment for grades 9 and 10. **(Los Alamos)**

Table

21. Calls on the Public Education Department to reduce the amount of standardized testing that is required for New Mexico's students. **(Las Cruces)**

Not Approved, already in Legislative program

SCHOOL BOARDS

22. Calls on the State Legislature to allow local superintendents to waive the School Nepotism Law and be able to hire relatives of local school board members for school district positions. **(Socorro)**

Table

23. Requests the State Legislature consider passing legislation that would prohibit an individual with a felony conviction related to physical or sexual abuse of a child or adult from being qualified to run for the office of school board member. **(Santa Fe)**
Not Approved

MISCELLANEOUS

24. Calls on the Public Education Department and the Governor to seek public comments from interested parties if the ESEA is not updated and the State of New Mexico determines a waiver from the punitive sanctions of No Child Left Behind is necessary. **(Santa Fe)**
Not Approved
25. Expresses continued support for the resolutions submitted in 2015 by the Las Cruces School Board addressing substance abuse, teacher and principal evaluation, PARCC testing, waivers for new and innovative programs; and increased funding from the Land Grant Permanent Fund. **(Las Cruces)**
No action necessary, already in Legislative program
26. Supports the New Mexico Safe Schools Initiative and All Families Matter Coalition to ensure transgender and gender non-conforming students are respected and protected in New Mexico's public schools through local policy. **(Santa Fe)**
Not approved, local issue
27. Embraces the collective bargaining unions as partners and acknowledges their place in history as proponents of public education. **(Las Cruces)**
No action necessary, local issue
28. Recognizes former State Representative J. Paul Taylor for his many accomplishments and achievements. **(Las Cruces)**
No action necessary, local issue