

2022-2023 Approved NMSSA/NMCEL Legislative Platform

Tools for recruiting and retaining quality educational personnel

- Sufficiently fund districts' ability to retain and compete for school personnel with other states in our region by maintaining and/or ensuring competitive salaries
- Provide flexible pathways to licensure for professionals with existing degrees and waiver of fees

Assure flexibility for local decision-making to align with each community's educational needs

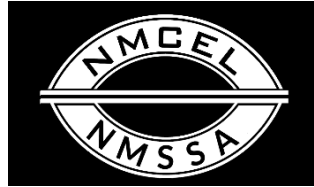
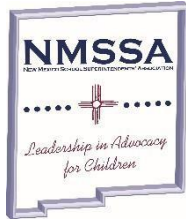
- Increase constituent voice in statewide educational oversight
- Allow districts to design and deploy the instructional program as best meets the needs of the local community including, but not limited to, the school calendar and instructional time within statutory parameters
- If districts choose to add instructional time, calculate such time on hours not days consistent with statutory minimum hours for regular calendar
- Review and amend "Portrait of the NM Graduate"
 - Update graduation requirements including assessments and courses/credits
 - Ensure classroom instruction, career preparation, and hands-on student engagement
- Attendance accountability
 - Amend Attendance for Success Act – remove the school board involvement in the required referral to CYFD for chronic absenteeism
 - Enhance parental responsibility
 - Create potential incentives for attendance

Our priority is meeting the needs of NM students via financial solvency

- Fully fund the cost of transporting eligible bus riders to and from school
- Fully fund the cost of instructional materials (SEG vs. Categorical)
- Fund REC operations at \$5M annually to help offset chronic underfunding of IDEA-B
- Protect operational reserves* to help districts navigate emerging/existing systemic challenges
- Partner with LEAs in covering the cost of any increases to the employer and employee cost of equitable health care for school personnel (impact of such increases led to essentially zero raise for some employees)
- Enhance and fund systems that support behavioral health for both students and staff
- Enhance and provide recurring funding for school safety
- Sufficiently fund co-curricular activities including vocational programs in Career and Technical Education
- Review and adjust the formula for At-risk impact/small rural schools funding
- Eliminate the PSCOC offset for FY23, FY24, FY25 (especially for investments in school safety, CTE, early childhood, teacher housing, and technology)
- Expand PSCOC funding to include replacement of instructional technology

Update Regulatory Practices

- Update regulatory practices with the legalization of marijuana related to packaging and availability to minimize student access



*NM School Superintendents Association Statement on the Need to PROTECT OPERATIONAL RESERVES

Even as the legislature seeks to address budget shortfalls, school operational reserves must be protected to help districts navigate unforeseen challenges. Key reasons include but are not limited to:

- Districts are required to make expenditures on federal and categorical grants and must wait on reimbursements, thus causing cash flow issues to cover payroll and other mandatory expenses.
- In some districts, operational reserves are not entirely comprised of state operational funds, therefore non-operational state dollars should not be subject to cash sweeps.
- Select districts have saved money for capital expenditures, thus a sweep will cause undue hardship.
- The fact that bond ratings are negatively impacted by low operational reserves.
- Districts opening new schools rely upon operational reserves to fund initial start-up costs.

All districts recognize that operational reserves are a prudent business practice to ensure a district can monetarily cover emergency costs and cover payroll in unexpected circumstances as was experienced in the 2008-2012 recession period.