



National Education Association - New Mexico

Great Public Schools Begin With Us!

Mary Parr-Sánchez
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Members,

The Public Education Department and the Governor's office contacted NEA-NM to ask for assistance in helping with grab and go meals which will be served during the school closure period. Each District has been asked to work out the logistics of the meal service with local unions. The goal is to provide meals for the entirety of the 3 weeks including on the weekends. Cafeterias will remain open in schools. Breakfast and lunch will be served in school cafeterias or other district designated places. NEA-NM leaders need to work with district leaders to problem solve how these meals will be handled. It is a chance for the leaders and members of the National Association of New Mexico to show who we are and what we are able to do when called upon. I challenge all of you to find a way to be of service to New Mexico families, while keeping yourself safe in the process. If you haven't reached out to Local Leaders, please do so immediately. Stand with them and guide them in making good decisions during this crisis.

School based health centers will be kept open during the closure. Find out if the health centers need volunteers. The PED is asking for our help with problem solving how to deliver behavioral health services during school closure. If any bright, innovative minds have solutions for how these services can be provided virtually or in person, [please let me know](#). Our state has declared a state of emergency. The crisis is serious, and it will take all of us to make sure we get through it. Essential staff, including food service and custodial staff will probably still have to work. Let's rally around our ESP staff and give support where we can. We need to work with our community partners to ensure students, families, and staff don't fall through the cracks during this time.

The PED will be waiving instructional hours requirements during this time. This means no make-up time will be mandated. Labor, wage and funding issues are very important to Governor Lujan-Grisham and Secretary Stewart. Districts will be paying all their workers during this time. "Continue to pay employees as if school were still in session, including contract workers," said Secretary Stewart. The Districts that have online instructional services, PED would encourage you to use them. Our hourly and contract employees will be paid just like regular work is happening. The Governor calling a State of Emergency, along with the Department of Health's guidelines should override any reasons districts might struggle with (anti-donation clause) to pay their staff. It is very important that staff are paid. There are some places around the state where it is not possible to provide food service during Spring Break. By close of Business on Friday, March 13, a memo is going out to Districts and NEA-NM about how they can get food to serve around the state.

Roadrunner food bank delivers fresh food to locations around the state. We are working to get the contact at each of these locations, so that we can make sure that families (and staff) still get boxed food to take home during this time. When I get these contacts, I will send you any that are in your area.

The Governor has waived co-pays and any medical costs associated with the treatment of this virus. It is also important that you tell your students and families that they must practice "social isolation", meaning that they are NOT supposed to be at the movies, mall or other places where students congregate.

There are 2 important numbers for you to know and give out to your members:

For all Health related services, call [1-855-600-3453](tel:1-855-600-3453)

For all Other questions: [1-833-551-0518](tel:1-833-551-0518) regarding employment support, medicaid or any government services.

I am available to all of you if you have questions. Please communicate this information with your building representatives and members. More information to follow as new information comes in.

Thank You,

Mary Parr-Sanchez

President, NEA-New Mexico

President, New Mexico Public Schools Insurance Authority

cell: 575.571.3293