

THE ADVOCATE'S VOICE

Forging The Path Together



“In the spirit of the PED guidance, NEA-NM and its local affiliates stand ready to collaborate with school districts in the best interests of students, the community, and school employees. We ask in return for districts to follow the guidance of the PED, the Governor’s health order, and provide the resources and personal protective equipment along with training to keep all of us safe and healthy.”

This message was delivered in a letter to all of NM’s Superintendents this week. Please read the letter [here](#). Our call is simple, WORK with US to face the uncertainties and challenges that lie ahead. Over these past weeks, many stakeholders and staff in education have demonstrated courage and urgency in their response to this pandemic. Similarly, to the healthcare community, educators are rising to meet these new challenges. From addressing the most immediate needs like providing food security to students and families and cleaning and disinfecting schools, we have entered a new space that challenges us to engage students continuously—therein lies the struggle. How do we meet the needs of all students, especially those with connectivity challenges and how do we define and implement that type of engagement? We continue to work with the PED and your District Administrations to ensure safety and continued compensation are the priorities. Please review the content of this Newsletter for ongoing updates and opportunities to strengthen our important work. Challenges are a norm for educators; these extraordinary times pose new barriers and opportunities to conquer.

Mary Parr-Sanchez
NEA-NM President

Remember to send us stories of humanity from your corner of the world and keep safe!

IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER, JOIN US NOW!
JOIN US TODAY!
Your Voice is as important as ever

Employee Rights Watch

Read more about questions regarding reemployment notification requirements and legal protections granted to school employees under the New Mexico School Personnel Act.

NEA-NM is planning a special alert letter dedicated solely to employee rights where our members will be able to find answers to the most urgent questions regarding the implementation of the Continuous Learning Plans and other work issues related to current situation. This special edition will be coming on Tuesday, April 7, 2020 and will provide additional information about what options exist when employees are asked to come in to work at their physical worksites/buildings.

Do you have employment concerns or questions? Fill out this [FORM](#) and NEA-NM will contact you as a result.

NEA-NM membership has benefits!

Find out answers to these questions and more. Click [here](#).

Policy Updates!

NEA worked tirelessly with legislators to pass the **CARES Act** providing New Mexico with an allotment close to 1.25 Billion in assistance. Public Education and Higher Ed will share 100 million that will flow to districts based on their Title 1 enrollment for Covid-19 expenditures. The governor will have approximately 22 million additional dollars of discretionary funding for public education and higher ed. There are additional CARES Act funds designated for Tribal lands. PED is currently reviewing the application process and preparing an expenditure formula in hopes that the funding will be allocated within 30 days of the passage of the CARES Act.

Digital Learning

[Register Now!](#)

Look out for recorded Webinars on Social Media and on our [Website](#)

“A Closer Look at Distance Learning” features an NEA-New Mexico member sharing how they connect with their students during this time of crisis.

Webinars take place on Thursdays at 4:00 pm.

Check out these great resources from the NM PED for distance learning:

[Families Distance Learning Toolkit](#)

[Educator Distance Learning Tool Kit](#)



CAPP

Center for the Advancement of Professional Practice

Digital Learning continued...

As educators across the country learn themselves how to work in this new setting, Digital Learning and Equity go hand-in-hand with decisions being made that affect all students. These groups include those with disabilities, those without technological capabilities and under-represented student populations. Given such critical issues, this document contains four important topics:



- Questions to Assess Decisions for Equity
- Special Education Considerations
- Internet Access and the Homework Gap
- Additional Digital Learning Resources



In order to respond responsibly to the COVID-19 outbreak we have compiled a **list of NEA Micro-credentials** that do not require student interactions or face to face contact with others.

It is our hope that your professional development continues to be meaningful and relevant.

How could a **micro-credential** from NEA help you?



Connect
more with
your students.



Strengthen
your knowledge
of the subjects
you teach.



Boost
your career.



Great Public Schools for Every Student

Get Involved

Grab and Go Lunches in NM: According to Voices for Children, **2019 KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK**, over 124,000 NM children live in poverty. Beyond education, school lunches are integral in the development and health of our youth. It is why most Districts in the state and country continue to provide lunches. Please check with your Local and District to see what is being done in your backyard and how you can help. The New Mexico PED website is also a good source to learn more about lunch distribution sites and times.

Volunteers Needed: Food distribution centers across the state continue to need volunteers to help. If interested, visit the website. At the bottom of the site, enter your zip code, and click "Find Locations." A location for a food bank will appear along with a contact number. Some of the numbers listed might not work if those schools/businesses are shut down, but this the best option right now for routing volunteers.

2020 CENSUS: School funding is informed by Census results and we need your help. By filling out your form online, you also minimize contact for canvassers! Click on the link below to check this box off from your "To-Do" list!

Time to Complete Your 2020 Census Form

Llene su formulario del Censo 2020

Join Us On Social Media

Like Us On Facebook

Follow Us On Twitter

Manage Your Membership On NEA 360

Download Our Mobile App For Apple

Download Our Mobile App For Android

Additional Resources

NM PED

NM Governor

World Health Organization

US Dept of Education

Resources, tips and more for distant learning

Stay Informed and get the latest news on COVID-19

For the latest news about COVID-19 and resources from the **National Education Association**

For the latest news about COVID-19 **cases in New Mexico**

For a national, **interactive map** of coronavirus and school closures

Información sobre como contener el Coronavirus

To learn more about how you can help **contain the spread of COVID-19**

The Johns Hopkins University and Medicine website is a great source for tracking the international spread of COVID-19 and offers other great **resources**