“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
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.

NEA-NM 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

“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

Register Now!

Look out for recorded Webinars on Social Media and on our Website.
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.
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
Member Benefits

Many of our benefit partners are offering support through the MAP Member Assistance Program to those affected negatively by the COVID-19 virus. You may be eligible to access resources to help in these difficult times. Click on the link above for a list of contact information for our partners and details on specific assistance they have available.

- Members Save up to 75% off at Office Depot/Office Max
- Office Depot Purchasing Card

California Casualty

Has your family income been adversely affected by this pandemic? You may be eligible for a skip-payment option. NEA-NM members that are customers of California Casualty can call CalCas customer service and look into the “Summer Skip” option.

To learn more about this assistance, call 1-866-477-7423

Don’t have CalCas Auto and Home? Now might also be a good time to see if you, as a member, can reduce household expenses by comparing California Casualty to your current carrier.

Simply call the same number above to get a quick quote!
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