In this fourth installment, we are excited to promote a ZOOM-Tele-Town Hall with the Secretary of Education, Dr. Stewart, and a message from special guest Lt. Governor, and fellow educator, Howie Morales! Join us on April 17th at 2 pm and get the latest news from the Governor’s Office and the PED. They are prepared to answer some of the most persistent and pressing questions, including: “what is considered ‘essential?’ and “what expectations come with ‘continuous learning’ workloads?”

In preparation for this event, we invite members to submit questions or thoughts by clicking on this [link](#). Help us spread the word to other members and invite them to participate. In these challenging times, we hope you are safe and take the time to replenish – see below for some tips and other important updates! Watch for information on joining the Tele-Town Hall in NEA-NM's Wednesday eAlert.

Mary Parr-Sanchez
NEA-NM President

Dr. Stewart
Secretary of Education

Howie Morales
Lt. Governor
If you are concerned about your health and safety regarding a workplace assignment, please follow this link to find sample telework requests for essential and non-essential employees during COVID-19 outbreak, these templates developed with our legal counsel will provide sample language guidance to request work at home assignments in lieu of going to a worksite. For additional assistance talk with your local president or NEA-NM Uniserv Director.

NEA’s efforts to share the impact of COVID 19 with members of Congress continues as they embark on the creation of the 4th COVID relief package. Earlier today NEA shared with Congress our big asks for the next package, not the least of these being $175 billion for education relief at the state and local level and $2 billion to address the equity issues specifically for communities of color and students in poverty created by the “homework gap” among other areas.

Policy Updates!

With COVID-19 cases still rising in New Mexico, Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham revised her public health emergency order on April 6th and announced the extension of related public health orders to encourage social distancing and preserve safety equipment for health care workers.
Please join us on Thursday, April 16th from 4:00-5:00 pm for our 3rd Webinar on Connecting to Engage Learners during COVID-19 presented by Cheryl Carreon, who teaches in the Developmentally Delayed Preschool Program in Las Cruces. Ms. Carreon was Las Cruces Public School’s 2017 Teacher of the Year, and the 2019 NEA-NM Teaching Excellence Awardee as well as a tireless advocate for students with special needs.

She will present strategies to help address the particular needs of our Special Education population and discuss the problems and possible solutions for families that may have difficulty connecting digitally during this crisis.

The bottom line is that **all** New Mexicans should be staying in their homes for all but the most essential activities and services.

Digital Learning

We use your stories as the primary lever for our advocacy efforts!

Share your story [here](#)!

Let's get the attention of Congress!

Register [Here](#)!  

Look out for recorded Webinars on Social Media and on our [Website](#)!
Amid the current COVID-19 crisis, and with social distancing protocols in place to help end the spread of the virus, the NEA-Las Cruces Educators Leadership and Learning Lab (EL3) team has worked to create a fantastic resource website for teachers.

The **website** is a resource hub that is organized by content area and grade level. The incredible NEA-LC EL3 team is a diverse group of outstanding educators. Serving as Pathway Directors are; Sylvia Bustillos, Pamela Cort, and Courtney Degler, and David Morales serving as Executive Director. They work tirelessly to provide educators with cutting edge professional learning opportunities and will continue to do so moving forward. Dive into this site and take advantage of these great online resources selected by educators, for educators!

Email NEA-NM State Organizer Marco Nunez at mnunez@neanm.org with the heading: Stories from Field!
Our physical and emotional well-being matter because everything we do, every emotion we feel, comes back full circle to that important concept. Our well-being directly shapes our actions and how we move forward in both good times and bad.

We all want to lead a higher quality of life and now, during our isolation, may be a really good time to take stock and examine our actions and reactions in order to optimize our health. Wellness is an endless cycle of the ability to balance all those changing circumstances that life continues to present. With that in mind, check [here](#) for a valuable free program through NMPSIA in Finding Your Peace Now.

**Are You Making Time for Fun?**

Virtual field trips are a great way to explore new places!

Click the icons to take a tour!
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 is 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

Additional Resources

NM PED
NM Governor
World Health Organization
US Dept of Education
Resources, tips and more for distant learning
Families Distance Learning Toolkit
Educator Distance Learning Tool Kit
This new article offers ideas on how to buy what you need most now, manage your expenses and access emergency funds if needed. It also includes links to several product pages and the Member Assistance Program page.

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

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 or visit their website for other relevant information.

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 cómo 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