

THE ADVOCATE'S VOICE

Forging The Path Together

Our membership has communicated a growing concern about the fiscal health of our state and its direct implications on their livelihoods. The precipitous drop in oil revenue, a major source of funding in NM for education, and then compounded by a severe slowing of the economy, has led to a call for a special session **to address a projected budget deficit of \$400 million for the 2019-2020 fiscal year and up to \$1.6 billion for the 2020-2021 fiscal year.** Murmurs of rescinding or scaling back the projected **4% pay raise** for education employees and other investments in education, approved in the last session, are growing and will only get louder. Budget cuts may be necessary, but education cannot continually be first on the chopping block. **Our schools haven't recovered from the drastic 2008 budget cuts, which led to staffing and programming shortfalls; Yazzie-Martinez is still an unfulfilled constitutional mandate and the rocket that promised a moonshot for education remains dormant on the launchpad.**

We deserve an honest accounting of the compromises and sacrifices public education has made over the decades and a transparent assessment of the state's budget. **We have \$1.9 billion in state reserves, \$700 million of which can be used to cover both the current and next year's budget deficit. In addition, NEA advocated successfully for a billion-dollar CARES package in federal coronavirus aid for our state.** This aid will be sent to school districts through Title I. This money has more flexibility than past Title funds and can be used to mitigate the damage wrought by the coronavirus (think social emotional learning, technology, access issues). In addition, NEA is working to get another federal stimulus package passed that will help state and local governments backfill their budgets to prevent severe cuts.

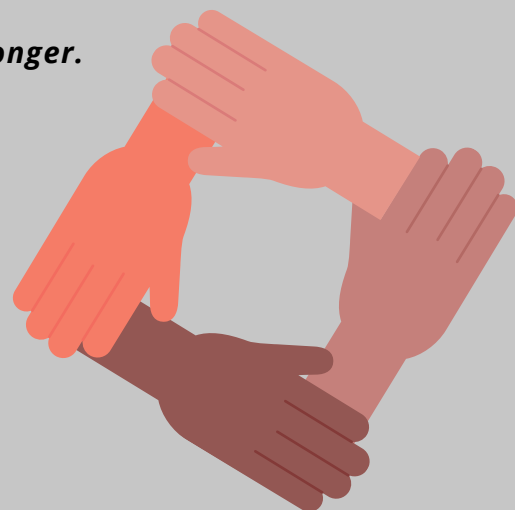
Educators do what they do because they see students as the seeds planted for the state's future. We know parents and community stand shoulder to shoulder with us. Overwhelmingly, 88% approve of the work done during this time, as cited by [a recent internal poll](#). In these trying times, we must stand united and defend NM students who would be most affected by cuts that don't heal.

I urge each of you to get involved: not a member? JOIN! If you already are, thank you; your membership strengthens this fight! We urge you to [get involved](#) and learn where your elected officials plan to stand when it comes to investing or divesting in education.

These are anxious times, but together, we are stronger.

Onward!

Mary Parr-Sanchez
NEA-NM President





Employee Rights Watch

Join us for our NEA-NM VIRTUAL Collective Bargaining Conference on Saturday, May 16th from 10am – 12pm. This invitation is being sent to NEA-NM Board, Local Presidents, participants of the February 29, 2020 Collective Bargaining Conference and staff.

[Register Here](#)

[FAQ](#) about COVID-19 and Employee Rights for NEA-NM Members

Do you have employment concerns or questions?

Fill out this [Form](#) and NEA-NM will contact you as a result.

Policy Watch!

Amid a collapse in state revenues caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the crash in oil prices, New Mexico is facing an alarming budget shortfall. In this upcoming special session legislators should keep public schools as a top priority. We know school budget cuts hurt profoundly and never heal.

That's why it is extremely important to exercise our power to vote in the primary elections. Let's send a message to our legislators and make sure they understand we stand with true public education champions.

[New Mexico](#)
[Voting](#)
[Information](#)



- Check your current status
- Register to vote
- Update your current voter registration
- Request an absentee ballot
- Find a voting location
- View important election dates
- Request a military or overseas ballot

And much more!

Digital Learning

Register now for our Weekly Webinar “A Closer Look at Distance Learning” featuring 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



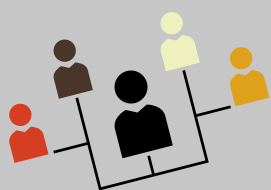
Look out for recorded Webinars on [Social Media](#) and on our [Website](#)



[Families Distance Learning Toolkit](#)

[Educator Distance Learning Tool Kit](#)

NEA & NEA-New Mexico Micro-credential Virtual Professional Learning Communities



NEA and NEA-New Mexico will be providing members an opportunity to participate in a virtual Professional Learning Community (PLC) to support successful completion of an NEA Micro-credential from start to finish. Educators who participate in a PLC to complete a micro-credential are more likely to earn their badge the first time. Registration closes April 30. PLCs start in early May and end in late June.

The virtual PLC will be hosted by a trained micro-credential facilitator and consist of weekly support meetings via zoom.



We are offering Micro-credentials in the following 3 areas.

- [Trauma-Informed Pedagogy](#)
- [ESP Reporting Standard](#)
- [National Board Certification Core Proposition 1](#)

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

List of NEA Micro-credentials

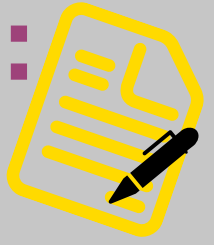
How could a **micro-credential** from NEA help you?

 Connect more with your students.	 Strengthen your knowledge of the subjects you teach.	 Boost your career.
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National Education Association
The Public Schools for Every Student

NEA-NM MEMBERS IN ACTION:

Stories from the Field



Rio Rancho School Employees Union Stepping Up and Helping to Keep Staff Safe

The severe shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) has meant that maintenance and custodial staff in Rio Rancho have been working with minimal protection during this outbreak. Thankfully, Rio Rancho School Employees Union (RRSEU) was able to obtain PPE for these important staff and Executive VP Gino Satriana was able to pass them out at each school site throughout the District! Billie Helean, the President of RRSEU, believes so strongly in representing people and providing for their needs that she's running for the NM House of Representatives in District 57. Take a moment to **listen to her message** so you can hear for yourself that representing others is what Billie is all about! She also happens to be one of NEA-NM's recommended candidates so please also spread the word to those you may know in her area!!

Billie Helean

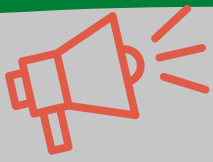


Cleveland
HS Staff



Rio Rancho
HS Staff





Get Involved

We aim to count everyone accurately while we support efforts to protect the health and safety of the American public and the Census Bureau team. Current times are unprecedented, but they also present an opportunity to reach families digitally across the nation and work towards keeping the 2020 Census in the conversation across channels and platforms. It has never been easier to respond to the census and to help promote the census from your own home.

For this reason we are encouraging all partners, influencers, community leaders, and trusted voices to join us during a Digital Action Weekend, May 1-3, 2020.

Please use #2020Census and/or #Censo2020

[Resource Guide](#)

Find out more about the U.S. Census through these NEA resources:

- [NEA.org U.S. Census Web Page](#)
- [Educators Continue Census Outreach, Despite COVID-19](#)
- [Time to Complete Your 2020 Census Form](#)
- [Llene su formulario del Censo 2020](#)

Do your part—fill out the U.S. Census for your household today!



NEA Limited Time Offers (LTOs)

With everyone feeling the pinch of the economic environment, NEA Limited Time Offers is the new online discount buying platform for NEA members and is a great way to stretch those dollars.

Check out these [featured LTOs and more!](#)

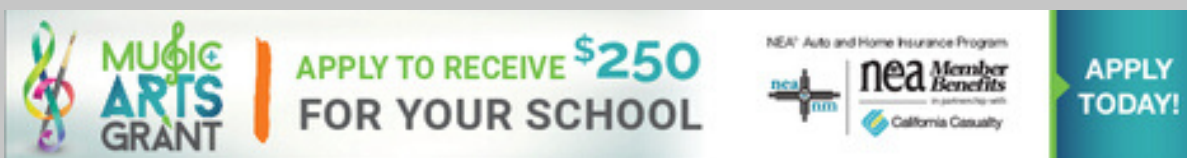
Member Benefits



It is more important than ever to take care of yourself as you take care of others that depend upon you. Educators always know the value of creating healthy habits for their students so please be sure to incorporate those same good intentions into your own well-being. These [5 Healthy Habits](#) can go a long way in doing just that!

California Casualty

Even during this disruptive time in our country, you can expect the same level of care and responsive service from California Casualty as you receive during more normal times. The fastest way for you to update your policy, file a claim, access your ID cards, and [more is online](#). If you have a question or don't see what you need, connect with them by sending a message and one of their highly trained US-based representatives will respond promptly. Or you can contact our own state-based representative, Brandon Watson, at 512-520-7248 and he will be happy to assist you.



Now is also a great time to see if you can secure some funds for your site and come back from this crisis a hero to those teachers that need the extra boost! Please apply today to receive a [\\$250.00 Music and Arts Grant courtesy of California Casualty!](#)

New Mexico Superintendent of Insurance Announces Premium Refunds

The official Press Release can be [read here](#) along with a link to the Office of the Superintendent of Insurance for any complaints.

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**

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Download Our Mobile App For [Android](#)

- [NM PED](#)
- [NM Governor](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [US Dept of Education](#)
- [Resources, tips and more for distant learning](#)