Welcome to our latest edition of the Advocate’s Voice for educators. I hope that you are safely finishing out this unprecedented school year (2019-2020) and, as the school year winds down, that you have more time to focus on yourselves and your families. From the outset of the shutdown, and the transition to distance learning, the integral role school employees play in lives students across the state is undeniable. We value your contributions to your communities and your membership in NEA-NM to continue strengthening public schools.

In the months ahead, we will work to provide both training and support systems for those embarking upon summer school activities, K-5+, and extended learning time. We will also need your expertise to guide us. At this time, the Public Education Department (PED) has NOT made definitive decisions about whether summer programming will happen. There are many moving parts: childhood hunger and well-being primary among them. To this end, different departments of federal and state government have been working with the PED to make sure that students and families get money for groceries during the summer months. Approximately $388.00 per student will be added to EBT and SNAP benefits to offset the breakfasts and lunches that students who qualify for free and reduced lunch now eat at school. This is new and I will keep you informed as it continues to develop.

We also know that many educators supplement their income during these months by working K-5+ or in some extended learning capacity. It is still unknown if those opportunities will be there. If there are offerings, they will most assuredly be done virtually. We know that virtual learning is problematic as many of the students most in need of these programs will NOT have the technology necessary to connect in any meaningful way with learning, which is the focus of the programs. We need you to keep informing us (and legislators) how we can safely reach out those students most in need of public education. Equity of educational opportunity and whole child well-being is our fight!

The state and the PED have set up discussion groups(task forces) to begin the difficult conversations around re-entry into schools. NEA-NM has taken a lead in advocating for strong member/educator voice in these discussions. We will also advocate for local communities to make decisions that are in the best interests of the students and staff in those same communities. If you are a local that engages in collective bargaining, school re-entry is a subject that can be discussed at the table. If you are not, start asking to have a local committee formed that will discuss school re-entry priorities. Parents, students and educators need to be talking together locally about what the protocols will be if COVID 19 breaks out in your district. There is no one size fits all solution. Be CLEAR on this: our priorities are student and staff safety, school funding, and job security. We are also extremely focused on any policy decision that impacts equity for all students (and staff).

NEA-NM is closely monitoring and engaging in all arenas of policy affecting public education in the state. Your participation is important. Please stay informed, visit our webpage and follow us on social media, to learn of opportunities to get involved. In the meantime, share important issues you feel we need to consider.

Mary Parr-Sanchez
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President, New Mexico Public Schools Insurance Authority
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COVID-19 is tough, but we’re tougher.

We’re here to help, with advice for engaging students online, strategies for maintaining support for the most vulnerable, words of encouragement, ways to alleviate stress and avoid burnout, and more.

Yazzie/Martinez Lawsuit: A Landmark Court Case in NM and its Unfulfilled Promise

Inspired by a vision of a better future for her child, Wilhelmina Yazzie has demonstrated courage and perseverance throughout her participation in the seminal court case that will define education in New Mexico for years to come. NEA-NM stands proudly with her and countless parents and educators as part of a statewide coalition in a call to the state to honor its Constitution. The platform for NM students’ rights to a sufficient education, affirmed by Judge Singleton’s findings, calls for substantive changes and increases in: multicultural curriculum and equity in education; social services and pre-K; attracting, retaining, and supporting educators; increasing funding; and building greater accountability. The decision is a living document that must be honored. We are called to demonstrate the same courage and perseverance that Wilhelmina and many others have already done. To learn more about her story and how to get involved, be sure to check out this powerful video by the Center on Law and Poverty!

Education Votes

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. Visit the one stop official site for all your NM voting information.

New Mexico Voting Information

Digital Learning

Click below for uploaded webinars which take place on Thursdays at 4:00 pm.

More Info
Micro-Credentials that Support Distance Learning

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.

LEARN MORE

2020 Census
Calling All NEA Members: Take the Census—Spread the Word!

- Fill out Form Here
- Statistics In Schools
- NEA Today

NEA-New Mexico

NEA- Member Benefits

California Casualty

Putting Kids First • Promoting Professional Excellence • Improving the Well-Being of School Employees

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