This pandemic has affirmed many things for us all. For me, as a 30-year educator and your State NEA-NM President, making our collective voices heard in all arenas is paramount. This sentiment was recently underscored by our new Secretary of Education, Dr. Miguel Cardona, during the National Safe School Reopening Summit held on March 24th. “Your voice and input MUST be part of the return to full in-person learning for all students seeking a return, adding, “…Work in partnership with unions, students, families, and external partners to develop the safest conditions in school. All voices need to be included for this tough and messy work...” Be sure to amplify your voice by helping to grow your union. Invite a colleague, any potential member, to stand with you and build NEA-NM in order to strengthen that collective action.

Students have not “lost learning,” they have adapted while surviving a global pandemic. It is extremely important that we connect to this sentiment, otherwise we will be looking at students through a deficit lens: mainly, that there must be something wrong with them. Students of all ages will return to the school building on a roller coaster of emotions: happiness, fear, anticipation, anxiety, acceptance, rejection, among others. I agree with many restorative practitioners that believe the school day or a period should begin with a mental health check-in of “How are we doing today?” It could be as simple as a thumbs up, sideways, or down to help students and their teachers learn to express and identify their feelings and emotions. As a long-time middle school teacher, doing a daily emotional check-in with students provided me with valuable information before embarking on the lessons of the day.

As we reopen our schools fully to in-person learning, let’s do it in a spirit of celebration of community that renews our commitment to each other and lifts us up, instead of focusing on what we all have lost. Let us be bold and embrace new paradigms that inform a thriving educational community, rather than dwell on old regimens and practices. Let us invest in and trust our educators and staff who know their students best and explore what is possible.

Mary Parr-Sánchez
President, NEA-New Mexico
From the Roundhouse to Your Schoolhouse

With the pandemic as a backdrop, the First Session of the 55th Legislature adjourned Sine Die Saturday noon. For 60 days, state legislators introduced, debated, amended and voted on 916 bills. Of those bills, we tracked 170 public school related bills or about 18% of the total. Of those 170 education related bills that we tracked, only 39 passed both chambers or 4% of all legislation introduced.

Please see the Summative Report for a complete breakdown of where important legislation stands now. This is a distinct example of how your NEA-NM membership brings a collective voice to the table during this critical process and helps create the future for both our treasured students and the thousands upon thousands of dedicated employees that work to change their world one day at a time.

View Updates

NEA-NM Hosts Virtual Townhall with NMPED, NMDOH and Special Counsel

In working diligently to keep our members apprised of relevant and current information, NEA-NM provided a tremendous opportunity to hear directly from NMPED Secretary Dr. Stewart and NM Secretary of Human Services Dr. David Scrase. This took place on Thursday, March 18th, in which more questions from our members were answered around school reentry. NEA-NM Counsel was also present to provide updated information on the important topic of Leave Accommodations. Please view the recorded conversation in its entirety if you were unable to participate.

Watch Webinar
Save The Date!

Join us for a re-imagined Read Across New Mexico! Celebrate READING that promotes our state’s great cultural and linguistic diversity, all from the comfort of your own home!

Who: All classified and certified members of NEA-NM

When: April 17th, 2021

Time: 9AM - 1PM

Where: Zoom Virtual Event

Join us for prizes and surprises, along with incredible professional learning opportunities that focus on ideas, plans, and lessons that will add culturally responsive literature to your library and teaching practice.

This half-day event is a must for all New Mexico Educators “to highlight diverse authors and books for an increasingly diverse student population across New Mexico and America.” In collaboration with NEA-NM, NEA-LC EL3 has aligned with NEA's Read Across America Advisory board's theme of “Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Readers.”

Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

NEA-LC EL3 Team
Valuable ADA Information

In the continuing conversation around ADA Accommodations, we are providing several key pieces of information related to this important topic. Request additional support if needed.

Additional Support

Professional Development Opportunities

Take a minute to review these valuable PD opportunities that provide cutting edge resources from NEA experts–our staff, affiliates, and members – on the skills and topics educators need to join, stay in, and advance our profession.

Learn More

Take Note of...

- April 1 - NEA-NM Early Enrollment
- Due April 2 - Veterans for Peace Essay Contest
- April 17, 2021 - Read Across America, NEA-New Mexico, “Celebrating a Nation of Diverse Readers.”
- Due May 28 - Keleher & McCleod Scholarship
- Virtual Jump Start - TBD

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

Published by the NEA-New Mexico, 2007 Botulph, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505.