More Funding for Our Schools - But Not More of the Same

These past two years have been incredibly hard on New Mexico’s schools, students, and educators. It may be tempting to believe that many of the issues we currently face are new problems or are solely the result of our current circumstances. As a middle school teacher for 25 years, a mother of four public-school-educated children, and now President of the organization tasked with representing educators across the state of New Mexico, I can tell you this is not the case.

While it’s true that schools across the country have struggled during this time, this crisis has revealed the particularly vulnerable condition that New Mexico’s public education system is in. For decades, our under-funded and under-staffed school system has been failing many of our students, their families, and their communities. As the dedicated voice that knows firsthand about our students, educators have been saying it for years: fund our school system, end the teacher shortage crisis, ensure staff have the time to offer students one-on-one attention and tailor-made supports. While a great deal of important work has been done under Governor Lujan-Grisham’s administration to make up for the years of financial and political neglect, even more remains to be done. We need to adopt an innovative and transformative new approach to ensuring all New Mexico’s students not only have what they need to survive, but also to thrive.

Just as other professionals should be heeded as experts in their line of work, so too must educators be treated as experts in their classrooms and be given a central role in shaping the future of education. NEA-NM has developed a list of 5 key issues that educators believe should be prioritized in future legislative sessions:
NEA-NM Recommendation

Ahead of the 2022 election cycle, the National Education Association – New Mexico (NEA-NM) announced that Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham is their recommended gubernatorial candidate.

After meeting NEA-NM’s standards and completing the Union’s recommendation process – submitting a gubernatorial questionnaire and attending a virtual Q&A forum with members - NEA-NM’s Education Political Action Committee and Board of Directors unanimously voted to recommend Governor Michelle Lujan-Grisham for a second term.

Press Release

Educators Speak Out. Take Bold Action!

In this upcoming 2022 legislative session, NM legislators will be working to transform our public schools by delivering the equitable and quality public education all students deserve. Legislation can—and should—include NEA-NM priorities. We know educators across the state have taken a beating during the pandemic and education policy must include better pay, affordable healthcare for educators, manageable class sizes, time for planning and above the line funding for Community schools.

*Let’s speak out and take bold action now!*
Tired of Student Debt Holding You Down?

Nearly 90% of New Mexico's K-12 educators teach in Title 1 schools, making you very likely to qualify for loan forgiveness! Why wait to see if you are eligible? Learn about NEA Member Benefits collaboration with student loan experts at Savi to help you navigate the complexities of federal student loan programs such as Teacher Loan Forgiveness (TLF), Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF), Income-Driven Repayment (IDR) plans and more. The session will cover changes via the CARES Act, Repayment Plans & Public Service Loan Forgiveness, and getting started with the Savi Tool! This exciting event is on October 14th from 5pm to 6pm.

RSVP Here

In the words of an NEA member that recently attended a valuable session:
"I am very happy with the help I received. I got my loans taken care of and got on a Program to start paying it back. I feel I couldn’t have gotten the help without the great team of SAVI. I just wanted to let you know how professional and caring they are. Wonderful job well done! Thank you all!"

Also, to learn more about the time-limited waivers issued by the Department of Education, check out this [great piece](#) by NPR.
2022 Elections

The NEA-New Mexico Elections Committee calls for nominations for offices to be elected in the 2022 All-Member Election. All online nomination forms must be received by the NEA-NM President by 5 PM, MT, Tuesday, October 20, 2021. The actual number of retired delegates and cluster delegates to be elected will be determined by the membership figures in each category as they exist on January 15, 2022. Student delegates to be elected will be determined by the membership figures in each category as they exist on March 15, 2022.

*If you want to be nominated or want to nominate someone, visit the NEA-NM website, www.nea-nm.org, and click on the “NEA-New Mexico Call for Nominations” picture to access the complete 2022 NEA-NM Elections information: The Elections Calendar, Call for Nominations, and online nomination form.*

Take Note Of..

October:
• 11 - Indigenous People's Day
• 20 - Nomination Deadline
• 31 - Halloween
  ° Higher Education Month
  ° National Bully Prevention Month
  ° LGBTQ+ History Month

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

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