



## RESOLUTION ON 2019 KEY LEGISLATIVE FUNDING PRIORITIES

PROVIDING THAT THE LAS CRUCES PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION SUPPORTS SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR NEW MEXICO'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**WHEREAS**, Article XII of the New Mexico Constitution requires "A uniform system of free public schools sufficient for the education of, and open to, all the children of school age in New Mexico shall be established and maintained"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education cites the recent court ruling in *Yazzie v. State of New Mexico* and *Martinez v. State of New Mexico* in which the plaintiffs sued the State of New Mexico for violating the rights of at-risk students by failing to provide adequate support for public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, in her ruling, First Judicial District Court Judge Sarah Singleton affirmed the plaintiffs' claims, stating:

"Therefore, the Defendants will be given until April 15, 2019 to take immediate steps to ensure that New Mexico schools have the resources necessary to give at-risk students the opportunity to obtain a uniform and sufficient education that prepares them for college and career. Reforms to the current system of financing public education and managing schools should address the shortcoming of the current system by ensuring, as part of that process, that every public school in New Mexico would have the resources necessary for providing the opportunity for a sufficient education for all at-risk students."

**WHEREAS**, public school districts are having to use large amounts of funding to create safer learning environments for students and staff.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education requests that the New Mexico School Boards Association support legislation that prioritizes *increased and sufficient funding for public education* as required by Article XII of the New Mexico Constitution and as mandated by the recent court ruling; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education supports increased funding for and *legislation that calls for a state-funded organizational framework designed to create a network of community-based services* to address the mental health needs and school safety of our children; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education supports *legislation that funds the expansion of high-quality Pre-K programs* statewide; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education supports *legislation that retains the FY 18 participation percentages for PSCOC funding* of all new and proposed building projects; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education *opposes any legislation that diverts public dollars to fund non-public education* in any manner; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education supports *legislation which specifies that when state mandates place additional burdens on school boards and districts, funds should be allocated to compensate for expenses incurred*. Therefore, it should be the policy of the Public Education Department to adopt fiscal notes and request funding from the legislature, prior to the passage of all new and existing mandates placed on local school districts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education calls on the New Mexico School Boards Association to *adopt a platform that calls on Congress to fund federal programs (IDEA, Bilingual, and other ESEA requirements) at sufficient levels* to prevent local districts from having to shift local resources to meet the demands of federal education policies; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education encourages the New Mexico School Boards Association to support *legislation that ensures the continuation of federal Medicaid Service* to provide and expand health services to Medicaid-eligible students; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Las Cruces Public Schools Board of Education calls on the New Mexico School Boards Association to support *legislation that provides funding for the Technology for Education Act 22-15A-8 NMSA 1978* and restore funding to the Educational Technology Fund to allow districts to upgrade technology resources that benefit students.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the New Mexico School Boards Association; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Chair of the Senate Education Committee and the Chair of the House Education Committee in the New Mexico Legislature, and the Director of the New Mexico Legislative Education Study Committee.

Adopted in open session on September 4, 2018



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Mr. Ed Frank  
President, Las Cruces Board of Education