



New Mexico Charter School News

Families First Coronavirus Response Act

If you encounter a situation where an employee falls ill or has an immediate family member taken ill with COVID-19, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act protects employees under certain circumstances. Will Hawkins, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources at Hobbs Municipal Schools, shared these resources with his district and with NMPED.

[Sample forms and resources in English and Spanish can be found in this shared Google Drive Folder](#)

The New Mexico Public Education Department Reentry Guidance

Requirements for Reentry

NMPED's Reentry Guidance provides considerations, recommendations, and best practices to encourage a safe and successful school year. The following are important minimum requirements for all reentry.

The eight minimum requirements for reentry are:

1. To begin, all districts and schools across the state will be able to operate strictly according to hybrid guidelines. The Department of Health and Medical Advisory Team will regularly assess rates of the spread of COVID-19. Districts and schools will then follow the appropriate guidelines based on the designated safe reentry category.
2. Schools must participate in a surveillance and rapid response testing program for all staff.
3. Schools must adhere to the social distancing requirements of their designated category.
4. Schools should avoid large group gatherings.
5. Face coverings are required for all students and staff except while eating, drinking and exercising, with limited exceptions for students or staff who have medical reasons for not being able to wear a mask or face shield.
6. All staff must be screened on a daily basis, including a temperature check and review of potential symptoms. All sites must work with state and local health officials to have a plan for contact tracing. While not required, this is also recommended for students.
7. For transportation, all staff and students must wear face shields or masks. In addition:
 - a. A maximum of two students may sit together on a bus seat.
 - b. Schools in the hybrid phase should take all reasonable steps to limit bus seats to one student to the best of their ability.
8. Meals must be provided to students during in-person instruction and remote learning.

[The complete Reentry Guide can be found on the PED Website](#)

Each school is now required to have an Originating agency Identifier (ORI) number before hiring staff. Does yours?

Each school/LEA is required to obtain its own ORI Number for requesting/obtaining pre-employment background check results, if it does not currently have one. The process for obtaining an ORI Number is time intensive and vital to ensure compliance with the Background Check requirements. State charter schools will be asked to provide the school's ORI number or evidence that they have applied for one as part of the 2019-2020 annual report in Web-EPSS [indicator VI-A.02 (4c) in pre-2018 contracts and indicator II-4e in 2018+ contracts].

In addition, in light of the 2019 approved legislation, the school should review its Background Check policy to ensure alignment with the revised requirements. The Governing Board may want to consult with the school's attorney regarding this matter. The PED team encourages the school to review the two memorandums provided by the NM PED Licensure Bureau titled "Background Guidance B431" dated 13 AUG 2019 and "Background Guidance-HB431" dated 29 JUL 2019.

Information Needed

NMPED needs to know the contact information for the person who will be your district's or charter school's Frontline Manager. The manager will have full access to activating and archiving teacher and administrator accounts. The manager will also be responsible for tying the educator's evaluation data with the correct license number and the correct observation plan. Important new Frontline training will be required of each manager at the start of the SY2021.

Please take a moment to complete [this form](#) prior to July 3, 2020, so that we can train the correct people on the new system or you may forward this form to your Frontline Manager for them to fill out.

The Following Governing Boards Completed All Required Trainings for FY20 Based On Data Provided to the Charter Schools Division as of July 1, 2020

Albuquerque Bilingual Academy	Roots & Wings Community School
Albuquerque Collegiate	Sandoval Academy of Bilingual Education
Albuquerque Institute of Math and Science	Southwest Aeronautics, Mathematics, and Science Academy
Albuquerque School of Excellence	Southwest Preparatory Learning Center
Albuquerque Sign Language Academy	Southwest Secondary Learning Center
Aldo Leopold Charter School	Taos Academy Charter School
Alma d'Arte Charter High School	Taos Integrated School of the Arts
Altura Preparatory School	Taos International School
Amy Biehl Charter High School	Tierra Adentro of New Mexico
Cesar Chavez Community School	Tierra Encantada Charter School
Dzil Ditt'oóí School of Empowerment, Action and Perseverance	Turquoise Trail Charter School
Estancia Valley Classical Academy	21 st Century Public Academy
The GREAT Academy	ACE Leadership High School
Horizon Academy West	Albuquerque Charter Academy
J. Paul Taylor Academy	Anansi Charter School
La Academia Dolores Huerta	Cien Aguas International School
Las Montañas Charter High School	Cottonwood Classical Preparatory School
The MASTERS Program	Gilbert L. Sena Charter High School
McCurdy Charter School	Moreno Valley High School
Middle College High School	Mountain Mahogany Community School
Mission Achievement and Success	New Mexico International School
The Montessori Elementary & Middle School	Public Academy for Performing Arts
New America Las Cruces	Pecos Connections Academy
North Valley Academy	Siembra Leadership High School
Raices del Saber Xinachtli Community School	
Red River Valley Charter School	

Summer School Health Education Institute

It is time to save the date! This year's (virtual) Summer School Health Education Institute (SHEI) is taking place on **July 27 & 28**. Sessions will provide information and resources regarding student and staff physical, emotional, and behavioral health in efforts to support the re-entry transition back to school.

Registration to attend is capped and a limited number of stipends are available to teachers, counselors, social workers and administrators. If you are interested in receiving registration information, please express fill out the [Virtual SHEI-Interest Form](#).

Please note that the registration form will only be sent to those that complete the [Virtual SHEI-Interest Form](#).

If you have any questions or issues with the form, please contact SHEI@kessjones.com or call (505)266-3451. If you have questions regarding the institute, please contact Jimmie Thompson at jimmie.thompson@state.nm.us.