

New Mexico Charter School News



Volunteer Your School Gym for Surveillance Testing

The NM Department of Health is asking superintendents and charter directors to consider hosting DOH staff in your school gyms in order to conduct surveillance testing for your local communities.

One advantage is that your staff will be able to access testing on site. The days and times are flexible; DOH typically conducts testing 2-3 hours a day for several days a week.

If you are interested, please contact Breanna Henley at Breanna.Henley@state.nm.us to discuss options.



FOCUS On Young Children's Learning provides early childhood program personnel with the criteria, tools, and resources they need to improve the quality of their programs. It includes graduated program standards that are closely tied to the NM Early Learning Guidelines. FOCUS involves 5 STAR levels that ascend in essential quality elements and continuous quality improvement.

The following charter schools and teachers have verified Five Star PreK programs:

1. Raelynn Martinez and Christina Robertson, **Albuquerque Bilingual Academy**
2. Chris Ortiz, **Horizon Academy West**
3. Karol Werner, **North Valley Academy**

CONGRATULATIONS!

Structured Literacy Plans

The window for school districts and charter schools to submit Literacy Plans will be **Nov. 13 to Jan. 29**. As a reminder, the PED has developed a comprehensive support structure and guidance for school districts and charter schools as they implement requirements specified in §22-13-32 NMSA 1978 on structured literacy and dyslexia.

Here is a [link to the original memo](#) that went out Aug. 11 and another link for [information about how to get technical assistance from PED in completing your plan](#). To receive the funding allocated via the State Equalization Guarantee, LEAs are required to submit a literacy plan with assurances signature by Jan. 29.

Please use these templates: [Number 1](#) and [Number 2](#), [as well as this survey link](#) to submit these plans. If you have questions, please contact Severo Martinez: Severo.Martinez@state.nm.us or Holly Duffy Holly.Duffy@state.nm.us.

Distance Learning Grants

During the last week of October, we received approval from the US Department of Education to use CSP Grant funds to award need-based distance learning grants to local and state charter schools. Once the final details are reviewed and approved, the request for applications will be posted on the PED website and a notice will be included in the weekly updates from PED. Please watch for application details and deadlines coming soon!

Governing Board Member Training

November

11/7

Fiscal #1&2 10am-12pm

11/10

Equity & Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Practices 12pm-1pm

11/12

Fiscal #3 12pm-1pm

11/17

Open Governance, Legal & Organizational Performance Requirements 12pm-1pm

11/18

Academic Understanding 4pm-6pm

11/24

Ethics and Responsibilities 12pm-1pm

To register or inquire about training, please email Charter.schools@state.nm.us



The State Seal of Bilingualism-Biliteracy (SSBB) is the capstone of culturally and linguistically responsive education that the New Mexico Public Education Department envisions for NM Students.

The Seal of Bilingualism-Biliteracy is an award given by a school or district in recognition of students who have studied and, by high school graduation, attained proficiency in a language other than English. The Seal of Bilingualism-Biliteracy emblem appears on the diploma of the graduating senior (including a notation on the student's transcript) and encourages students to pursue biliteracy, honors the skills students attain, and can be evidence of skills that are attractive to future employers and college admissions offices

Since the State of New Mexico adopted the SSBB in 2015, twenty-five (25) school districts and four (4) state charter schools have adopted the SSBB. To ensure that all students are secure in their identity and are holistically prepared for college, career and life, the Language and Culture Division at NMPED will continue to highlight the importance of the SSBB and provide guidance to districts and charter schools.

If your board is interested in adopting and implementing the State Seal of Bilingualism-Biliteracy, please review the non-regulatory guidance handbook at https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/2018-Seal-Handbook-Final-11_9_18.pdf

More information may also be found using the following link:

<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/languageandculture/seal-of-bilingualism->

Conducting Governing Council Meetings

Based on the Open Government Division of the New Mexico Attorney General's Office guidance (described below), PED is advising school boards and governing councils to convene virtual meetings. For board and council members who lack internet access, PED is recommending that the board member participate telephonically. In the event some board members need to be on school premises to access the technology necessary to participate in a public meeting, they are permitted to do so within the parameters of the mass gatherings definition on page 5 of the Public Health Order.

Below are some specific pieces of guidance from The Open Government Division of the New Mexico Attorney General's Office

- At the start of the meeting, the chair (president) should announce the names of those members of the public body participating remotely.
- All members of the public body participating remotely must identify themselves whenever they speak and must be clearly audible to the other members of the public body and to the public.
- Members of the public should be afforded remote access, via live stream or other similar technology, if possible, or call-in number for listening by phone.
- Chair (president) should suspend discussion if the audio or video is interrupted.
- All votes of the public body must be by roll call vote.
- The public body should produce and maintain a recording of the open session of the meeting.