



Exciting News!

## Expansion of In-Person Learning has been approved!

***We need your input! Please take a moment to complete a short survey.***

***We are in the beginning stages of planning the 2021 New Mexico Charter Schools Conference and seek your input! Click [here](#) to complete a short survey.***

**THANK YOU IN  
ADVANCE!**



Beginning February 8, 2021, all schools — elementary and secondary — in all counties will be **eligible** to enter the hybrid mode of instruction per the guidelines outlined in the current PED Reentry Guidance Document and updated Rapid Response Toolkit. In addition, districts and schools with fewer than 100 students may bring back all students in a 5:1 ratio with no more than six people per enclosed indoor space.

Schools who have decided to open for hybrid in-person learning must email Michael Grossman [michael.grossman@state.nm.us](mailto:michael.grossman@state.nm.us) with a signed copy of the assurances (Safety Plan Checklist on page 21 of the NMPED Toolkit) and a target date for opening. That date should be two weeks out in order to set up a certification site visit.

Please visit PEDs [Reentry District and School Guidance](#) page. Here you will find valuable information, including but not limited to:

- [NMPED COVID-19 RESPONSE TOOLKIT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS](#)
- [NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REENTRY GUIDANCE](#)
- [NMPED REENTRY FAQs](#)

**Superintendents and Charter School Leaders**, please be sure you are reading and disseminating the information provided in Judy Robinson, PED's Director of Communications, weekly updates. These biweekly updates contain pertinent information to events and information as it unfolds at the PED. If you are not receiving these email blasts and would like to be added to the list, please contact [Judy.Robinson@state.nm.us](mailto:Judy.Robinson@state.nm.us) with your name, school, and email address.

### Renewal Training Begins Soon!!

- February 8, 2021
  - March 8, 2021
  - April 12, 2021
- Renewal training sessions are not repeat sessions each session builds off the last. To request Zoom training link please email: [Charter.Schools@State.NM.US](mailto:Charter.Schools@State.NM.US)

**KUDOS are in ORDER!!!!**

## GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS:

You have exactly five (5) months to complete the required governing board training!

Reminder that the CSD Technical Assistance and Training Team continues to provide all 8 required hours of training, monthly through May, 2021.

February Sessions:

February 3<sup>rd</sup> Fiscal I

February 9<sup>th</sup> Fiscal II

February 11<sup>th</sup> Fiscal III

February 17<sup>th</sup> Ethics & Responsibilities

February 20<sup>th</sup> Academic Understanding

February 23<sup>rd</sup> Open Gov. Legal & Org.

February 25<sup>th</sup> Equity CLR

To register, please email: [charter.schools@state.nm.us](mailto:charter.schools@state.nm.us)

Include name, email, and school, as well as the session(s) you would like to attend.



The National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators (NAESPA) is pleased to announce that [Explore Academy](#) from Albuquerque, New Mexico has been named a [National ESEA Distinguished School](#) by the state education agency in New Mexico. Explore Academy is one of up to 100 schools throughout the country that is being nationally recognized for exceptional student achievement in 2020, specifically in the area of “excellence in serving special populations of students (e.g. homeless, migrant, English learners, etc.)”. Click [here](#) to read the school’s detailed profile. CONGRATULATIONS to EXPLORE Academy!!!! WELL DONE!



## Garbage to Gas

Monte del Sol wins prize in Governor's STEM Challenge for a biodigester project to turn cafeteria food scraps into fuel

[Monte del Sol Charter School](#) students won \$4,500 in December in the New Mexico Governor’s STEM Challenge for their “garbage to gas” biodigester project. CONGRATULATIONS to the school and the students who invested their time and efforts into this project! [Read the full story](#) in the Santa Fe Reporter!

## 5 ways schools are addressing pandemic-induced mental health issues

Schools are strengthening student-parent-school relationships and improving mental health response coordination in reaction to COVID-19's toll on students and staff.

With dire statistics about how COVID-19 is already impacting the mental well-being of students and school staff, as well as the lingering duration of the public health crisis, administrators and school psychologists are assessing their approaches and planning for more supports where needed. They’re also finding confidence in their growing capacity to respond to the trauma their communities are experiencing.

Read the rest of this article [here](#).