

New Mexico Charter School News

EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

ATTENTION! ALL BOARD MEMBERS! Check your board training hours ANYTIME, ANYPLACE!

This year CSD will utilize Google Docs for tracking all governing board training. Your school's board will receive access to a Google Doc Training Tracker which will give them unlimited access to their recorded board training hours. District Charter School Boards, please be sure that CSD has your most recent, up-to-date board membership as well as their emails, as this is how we will give your board access to their Google Training Tracker document. Any changes to your board should be emailed to charter.schools@state.nm.us

Below is a schedule of governing board trainings which will be conducted this month. You can find the link for the full year's list of trainings [here](#).

August 2021		
Weds. 8/4	4 pm - 5 pm	Equity & Culturally & Linguistically Responsive Practices
Sat. 8/7	10 am - 12 pm	Academic Understanding
Weds. 8/11	4 pm - 5 pm	Fiscal #1
Tues. 8/17	12 pm - 1 pm	Ethics & Responsibilities
Thurs. 8/19	4 pm - 5 pm	Open Governance, Legal & Organizational Performance Requirements
Weds 8/25	4 pm - 5 pm	Fiscal # 2
Tues. 8/31	12 pm - 1 pm	Fiscal #3

NM STUDENT CONNECT - EMERGENCY CONNECTIVITY FUND - ACT NOW!

FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR THE PURCHASE OF HOME TECHNOLOGY AND INTERNET SERVICES. This is not determined by free and reduced lunch, but by need.

1. Who is this for?

All Charters, Schools, and Libraries officially recognized by the Education Department.

Surveys determining need must be used to establish purchase numbers (see attached document).

2. What is it?

The Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) part of the American Rescue Plan Money for the purchase of Laptops and Tablets (\$400), \$250 dollars for Hotspots, Modems, Routers, Fixed internet connections (anything that needs to be used at home).

No limit on amount, however an audit may be required and purchase totals over 60,000 dollars will require an RFP.

3. When is the deadline to apply?

August 13th, 2021. Act now! For more information, [click here!](#)

4. Where can I get help with filing?

Ivan Rushfield: 973.224.3934

Ed Hosler: 201.400.1901

Chris Martinez: 505.843.6272

Patrick Mulhearn, CTC: 202.780.3208

New Beginnings

CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham announced that secretary Ryan Stewart is stepping down from his position and will stay on until August 20th to help ensure a smooth transition in leadership to former Los Alamos Superintendent, Kurt Steinhaus.

New Education Secretary Steinhaus emphasized that his administration would focus on elements of learning such as teacher and student well-being and mental health, amid a surge in coronavirus infections.

Secretary Steinhaus has shared ambitious educational goals declaring that this upcoming school year would be a “year of literacy,” adding that his three-year plan was for New Mexico to lead the nation in academic growth.

The new Education Secretary of New Mexico further plans that districts should focus their federal stimulus funding (approximately \$1 billion in federal funds) on increasing learning by providing before-school and after school programs teaching and learning, such as tutoring, and, even, home visits to students’ families.



WARM WELCOMES!

Options for Parents and Families would like to give a warm welcome to new local charter, Voz Collegiate, and new state charter, Explore Academy - Las Cruces. Best of luck in starting your 2021/2022 school year!

We'd also like to introduce OPFD's two new authorizing administrators, James Cantu and Samantha Samoiel. Welcome to the team!

THE WEEK AHEAD

The new education administration will release an updated Covid-19 Toolkit, stay tuned for the most recent recommendations.

Interested in learning more about the safe school's toolkit? [Click here](#) and search for the June 4th session, "Navigating Safe Schools Plan Cycle."

VIRTUAL CONSORTIUM

CSD is pleased to report that seven districts and charter schools in New Mexico are now a part of the [New Mexico Virtual Course Consortium](#). The consortium allows students from anywhere in the state to enroll in virtual courses offered at participating schools. Please click the link above for more information.