

1 **PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMISSION**

2 **RULES OF PROCEDURE**

3
4 **I. COMMISSION: ESTABLISHMENT AND AUTHORITY**

- 5
6 **A.** Constitutional Framework: The Public Education Commission (the “Commission”
7 or “PEC”) is an elected body established pursuant to Article XII, Section 6 of the
8 New Mexico Constitution. It is an independent agency of the State of New Mexico.
9
10 **B.** Creation Authority, Committees: The Commission may establish committees,
11 standing or ad-hoc, as it shall from time to time deem necessary to carry on its
12 work. Standing committees may only be created by the Commission as a whole
13 upon a majority vote during a regularly scheduled meeting of the body. Ad-hoc
14 committees may be formed at discretion of the Chairperson or by a majority vote of
15 the Commission. Committee members shall be appointed by the Chairperson. The
16 Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. If a committee
17 consists of 6 or more members, then, that committee meeting shall comply with the
18 Open Meetings Act.
19
20 **C.** Effective Dates: These Rules shall become effective upon their adoption by the
21 Commission. Rules of Procedure shall be presented to and adopted by the
22 Commission at the annual meeting of each year. Rules of Procedure adopted by
23 the Commission shall remain in effect unless suspended by a two-thirds vote of
24 the Commission during a scheduled meeting or the adoption of new Rules at the
25 annual meeting of the year or as otherwise amended at the discretion of the
26 Commission during a properly noticed open meeting.
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28 **II. MEMBERS: DUTIES AND CONDUCT**

- 29
30 **A.** Duties of Commission Members (“Commissioners”):
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32 **1.** It is the policy of the Commission to encourage the active participation of all
33 Commissioners in all aspects of the Commission’s activities, including
34 active service in the leadership. Commissioners are expected to attend all
35 regular, special, and emergency Commission meetings.
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37 **2.** Commissioners are expected to educate themselves regarding issues and
38 requirements concerning education in New Mexico. Commissioners are
39 further expected to avail themselves of educational opportunities to keep
40 abreast of such issues, including training conducted by the Public
41 Education Department (the “Department” or “PED”) and trainings for local
42 school board members.

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3. It is expected that Commissioners will express themselves both as individuals and as representatives of the Commission. When a Commissioner expresses an opinion or articulates a position on an issue related to Commission business, the Commissioner shall clearly state whether he, she or they is/are speaking as an individual or as a representative of the Commission. Unless otherwise delegated by the Commission, the Chairperson shall act as the default representative of the Commission. However, in legislative affairs or meetings with the PED Secretary, the Chairperson must be clear in all communications when the Chairperson is speaking for the Commission, as representative of at least a majority of the Commissioners. Otherwise, the Chairperson shall indicate that any opinions stated are personal opinions.

B. Code of Conduct:

1. The Commission, and each Commissioner, is expected to conduct business in a professional manner with respect between and among individual Commissioners. The expectation of respectful behavior extends to interactions with members of the public and staff.

Each Commissioner should answer questions from his, her or their constituents or assist in resolving problems arising within his, her or their district in conformity with Commission guidance. Commissioners who receive inquiries from constituents other than their own shall refer the matter to the Commissioner from which the constituent resides. Responses to inquiries addressed to or affecting the Commission, as a whole, may be coordinated by the Chairperson, as needed.

C. Conflict of Interest:

No Commissioner shall engage in any activity which gives rise to a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest with the performance of his, her or their duties as a Commissioner. In addition to other statutory requirements, Commissioners are subject to the provisions of the Governmental Conduct Act (Section 10-16-1 et seq. NMSA 1978); and the Financial Disclosure Act (Section 10-16A-1 et seq. NMSA 1978). It is unlawful for a public officer or employee to take an official act for the primary purpose of enhancing his, her or their own financial interest or financial position, nor shall a Commissioner vote on a question in which the member has a financial interest not common to other members of the Commission.

D. Ethical Conduct

1 Each Commissioner shall respect the ethical duties of holding a
2 publicly elected office. The New Mexico State Ethics Commission
3 oversees and enforces ethical conduct of elected officials, including
4 PEC Commissioners.
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6 **III. OFFICERS: SELECTION AND DUTIES**

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8 **A. Officers:**

9
10 **1. Chairperson.**

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12 **a.** The Chairperson shall call to order and preside at
13 Commission meetings pursuant to the Commission's
14 adopted parliamentary rules and all applicable
15 regulations. To address the Commission, a
16 Commissioner or member of the public must be
17 recognized by the Chairperson. The Chairperson
18 shall rule on motions, moderate the floor during
19 debate, and conduct meetings in a manner to
20 maintain decorum and discussion.

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22 **b.** When the Chairperson wishes to speak, except in
23 cases of providing order, the Chairperson joins the
24 queue and then takes his, her or their turn as
25 appropriate.
26

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28 **2. Vice-Chairperson.** The Vice-Chairperson, in the absence of
29 the Chairperson or at the request of the Chairperson in his,
30 her or their place, shall serve in the interim as Chairperson
31 and assume such powers and duties thereof.
32

33 **3. Secretary of the Commission ("Secretary").**

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35 **a.** The Secretary will call the role, including roll call
36 votes, at each Commission meeting and perform
37 other duties as otherwise established or agreed upon
38 with the Chairperson.
39

40 **b.** The Secretary, in the absence of the Chairperson
41 and Vice-Chairperson or at the request of the
42 Chairperson, shall serve in the interim as
43 Chairperson and assume such powers and duties
44 thereof.
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46 **B. Selection of Officers:**

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48 **1.** Officers shall be elected at the annual meeting of the
49 calendar year. Officers shall be elected for a term of one (1)
50 year and will serve until the annual election the subsequent

1 calendar year, except in the case of resignation or removal
2 from office. The acting Chairperson shall preside over the
3 election unless the duty is delegated to another officer. In the
4 event the acting Chairperson accepts a nomination, he, she
5 or they shall delegate the duty to preside over the election of
6 the position in which the acting Chairperson is being
7 considered for.
8

- 9 **2.** The Chairperson shall be elected first, followed by the Vice-
10 chairperson and Secretary. Nothing shall prohibit a member
11 from running for more than one officer position so long as no
12 member accepts or serves in more than one position at a
13 given time.
14
15 **3.** Each position requires a nomination. Nominations may either
16 be offered by another member of the commission or by self-
17 nomination. The nominated Commissioner shall either
18 accept or decline the nomination. No second is required for a
19 nomination. After nominations are closed, Commissioners
20 shall record their votes in a manner consistent with the Open
21 Meetings Act. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote. In
22 the event that no candidate receives a majority, a runoff vote
23 shall be conducted between the two (2) candidates receiving
24 the greatest number of votes. In the event that a tie persists
25 after three (3) ballot attempts to elect any officer, the winner
26 shall be decided by an equal game of chance, such as a roll
27 of dice, coin toss, or card draw. The results from this game
28 of chance shall be verified by a roll call attestation by the
29 Commission.
30
31 **4.** Officers elected at an annual meeting shall take office upon
32 the conclusion of the meeting. Officers elected at any other
33 meeting shall take office immediately upon election.
34
35 **5.** Any vacancies shall be filled pursuant to the rules above at
36 the next regular commission meeting so long as such notice
37 is provided pursuant to the Open Meetings Act.
38

39 **IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

- 40
41 **A.** Membership and Organization. The Executive Committee shall be
42 composed of the officers of the Commission.
43
44 **B.** Responsibilities. The Executive Committee will perform the
45 following, as directed by the Commission:
46
47 **1.** Perform governmental relation functions on behalf of the
48 Commission without prior discussion and direction of the
49 Commission.
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2. Assist the Commission in making policy recommendations to the Secretary of Public Education regarding legislative initiatives in support of public education. Recommendations to the Secretary must be discussed at a public meeting as an agenda item and approved by a majority of the Commission.
3. Meet with the Commission's assigned legal counsel to request and receive legal advice on behalf of the Commission. Any formal legal actions must be discussed at a public meeting as an agenda item and approved by a majority of the Commission.
4. Establish the proposed agenda for each Commission meeting, including work sessions, or study sessions.
5. Approve or deny contractor requests for reimbursement.
6. Any other function delegated to it by a majority vote of the Commission.

V. MEETINGS:

- A. Annual Meeting: The annual meeting shall be the first regular meeting of each calendar year. The Commission shall adopt Rules of Procedure and conduct officer elections at the annual meeting. If the Commission is unable to adopt new Rules of Procedure, the most recent Rules of Procedure shall be in effect until new rules are adopted at the Commission's earliest opportunity. If unable to conduct an election, the prior year's officers shall serve until an election can be conducted at the Commission's earliest opportunity.
- B. Regular Meetings: The regular meetings of the Commission shall be held each month, on the third Thursday and following Friday, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission or dictated by other events or religious holidays or observances. The Commission should establish the dates of the regular meetings, work sessions and study sessions for the year no later than the annual meeting. The Commission may change the calendar during the year as needed. Said changes must be posted. The Commission shall comply with minimum meeting requirements pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 9-24-9 (2004).
- C. Special Meetings: Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or upon the written request or vote of a majority of the Commission.
- D. Executive Session: The Commission may hold executive (closed) sessions as provided by the Open Meetings Act. The Commission will not enter Executive Session for discussion prior to vote on renewal/nonrenewal or initial application approval/denial or

1 revocation of charter schools unless the privacy rights of an
2 individual may be compromised.

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4 **E. Telephonic or Video Participation:**

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7 1. Telephonic or video attendance must be requested and
8 approved by the Chairperson in advance of a meeting.
9
10 2. Telephonic or video attendance must comply with the Open
11 Meetings Act and shall only be permitted when circumstances
12 have occurred that would make attendance in-person difficult
13 or impossible, or during a public health emergency order.
14
15 3. Video attendance means a Commissioner is participating by
16 simultaneous remote electronic means and is visually
17 present as confirmed by the Chair. Video attendance counts
18 as attendance for the purposes of establishing a quorum,
19 doing business, voting on a motion or the receipt of per diem.
20
21 4. Even if permitted by the Chairperson, telephonic or video
22 attendance shall not be permitted, if each member
23 participating by conference telephone cannot be identified
24 when speaking, all other attending Commissioners are not
25 able to hear each other at the same time, and members of
26 the public attending the meeting are not able to hear the
27 Commissioner(s) attending by telephone or video. If
28 technological malfunctions prevent all members from hearing
29 each other or from the public hearing the telephonically or
30 video attending member(s), then that attending member(s)
31 must be withdrawn from further participation until the
32 malfunction is corrected. The record of the Commission will
33 reflect these circumstances if they occur.
34

35 **F. Quorum:**

- 36
37 1. Per statute, a majority of the total membership of the
38 Commission shall constitute a quorum.
39
40 2. Commissioners may attend meetings as voting members by
41 telephone or video conference, and their attendance shall
42 count towards the quorum.
43
44 a. The Chairperson or designee shall provide PED with
45 as much advance notice as possible of any
46 Commissioners who will be attending an upcoming
47 meeting by telephonic or video attendance so that
48 appropriate arrangements may be made.
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G. Public Notice:

1. Open Meetings Act. The Commission shall comply with all requirements pursuant to the New Mexico Open Meetings Act.
2. Minutes. Minutes shall be kept of all Commission meetings in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. The Commission must formally approve all minutes before they become an official record of the body.
3. The Commission shall ensure that a certified transcript of a Regular monthly meeting or Special meeting is prepared. This certified transcript shall be the document provided at the next meeting to be approved as the minutes of the meeting and, once approved, shall be the official record of the meeting.
4. The Commission shall provide summary minutes of working sessions and provide a link to a recorded version of the working session in the summary minutes. The Commission shall also provide a link to a recorded version of the Regular monthly meeting or Special meeting as a convenience to the public and not for any other purpose.

H. Agenda:

1. The Executive Committee will be responsible for establishing the proposed-agenda for each meeting of the Commission.
2. Individual Commissioners may make a written request to the Executive Committee to include items on the next month's agenda that were not previously discussed at a Commission meeting. If at least two (2) Commissioners make a written request to the Executive Committee to include the same item on the next month's agenda, the item shall be included on

1 the agenda. Agenda requests must be received at least ten (10)
2 business days prior to the date of the meeting in which the agenda
3 item is requested to be heard. Alternatively, any two
4 Commissioners may propose an agenda item during the “New
5 Business” section of any regularly scheduled meeting of the PEC
6 and identify the PEC meeting date during which they would like the
7 agenda item heard.
8

- 9 **3.** An individual or representative of an organization seeking to
10 have the Commission consider an item as a noticed agenda
11 item may make a written request to the Executive Committee
12 at least ten (10) business days prior to the start of the
13 meeting. The decision to include the request on the next
14 meeting’s agenda shall be determined at the discretion of
15 the Executive Committee.
16
17 **4.** If the Executive Committee does not include on the next
18 meeting’s agenda, an item requested by an individual or
19 representative of an organization, that item may be
20 considered for inclusion on the subsequent meeting’s
21 agenda by a vote of a majority of the Commission.
22
23 **5.** At the beginning of each meeting, the proposed agenda will
24 be voted on, and may be amended, by a majority of the
25 Commission.
26

27 **I. Public Comment:**

- 28
29 **1.** The Commission shall include an opportunity for public
30 comment during each regular meeting at the beginning of
31 each meeting or during the discussion on each noticed
32 agenda item. Public comment shall be limited to three (3)
33 minutes per person or decreased to no less than two (2)
34 minutes at the discretion of the Chairperson dependent on
35 the number of signed in participants. At the discretion of the
36 Chairperson time may be extended.
37
38 **2.** The Chairperson may allow for public comments under the
39 following parameters:
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41 **a.** maintain consistent time limitations for presentation;
42
43 **b.** at the discretion of the Chair, discourage, and, if
44 necessary, rule multiple or repetitious presentations
45 out of order; and
46
47 **c.** rule out of order presentations that are a matter of
48 pending litigation, disruptive to the conduct of the
49 meeting, outside the Commission’s scope of
50 business or authority, or contain information that is

1 confidential under applicable law.

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3 d. The Chairperson shall read the rules of engagement
4 in Public Forum prior to beginning.

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6 **J. Action by the Commission; Voting:**
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8 **1. Recusal and Abstention.** A Commissioner shall, before the
9 consideration of any agenda item, disclose whether he or
10 she has any financial interest in that agenda item, and
11 whether there are any facts which would give rise to undue
12 influence, or an appearance of undue influence, as
13 considered under the Governmental Conduct Act, Gift Act,
14 or Procurement Code with respect to that agenda item.

15
16 **a.** A Commissioner shall recuse himself, herself or
17 themselves from the discussion, consideration and
18 voting on any issue in which he, she or they has/have
19 a financial interest, a conflict of interest, the
20 appearance of a conflict of interest, undue influence,
21 or the appearance of undue influence.
22

23 **b.** In the event that a Commissioner, who has disclosed
24 a financial interest, or a conflict of interest or undue
25 influence, or the appearance of one, does not recuse
26 himself, herself or themselves, the Commission may,
27 by a vote of a majority of members present, require the
28 Commissioner making the disclosure to recuse
29 himself, herself or themselves.
30

31 **c.** A Commissioner should consider whether to recuse
32 himself, herself or themselves from a vote if the
33 Commissioner has entered into a discussion and
34 rendered an opinion outside of a PEC meeting with a
35 school about the topic that involves a pending
36 authorization, contract decision, or another vote that
37 may become before the Commission in the current
38 school year.
39

40 **d.** A Commissioner shall recuse from any matter in which
41 the Commissioner is unable to make a fair and
42 impartial decision. A Commissioner should consider
43 whether to recuse from any matter in which the
44 Commissioner has made a public statement or
45 communication outside of a PEC meeting that would
46 indicate the Commissioner has predetermined his, her
47 or their vote, or in which there is a reasonable doubt
48 about whether the Commissioner can make a fair and
49 impartial decision.
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e. A recused Commissioner shall not participate in the discussion or consideration with respect to that agenda item, shall not attend any portion of a closed session involving the agenda item, and shall not vote on such agenda item. A Commissioner must state his, her or their intent to recuse and his, her or their reason for the recusal prior to the agenda item discussion. A Commissioner may abstain from a vote but may participate in the discussion.

f. If a Commissioner refuses to recuse himself, herself or themselves a simple majority of the members attending the meeting at which the vote is conducted may require that Commissioner to recuse himself, herself or themselves.

2. Action. The Commission shall proceed by motion. Any Commissioner, including the Chairperson, may make a motion. Motions require a second by another Commissioner before debate or a vote, except as otherwise adopted by the Commission.

3. Debate.

a. After a motion is seconded, the Chairperson shall restate the motion and then open the floor for debate.

b. The Chairperson shall recognize all Commissioners who wish to engage in the debate in the order in which they indicate a desire to address the body.

c. The Chairperson is granted the discretion to continue debate and to disallow points off topic. After all Commissioners who wanted to speak have spoken at least once, any Commissioner may “call the question”, triggering a vote to end the debate.

4. Voting.

a. The Chairperson shall call for the negative vote, no matter how unanimous the affirmative vote may appear.

b. It is the duty of each Commissioner who has an opinion to express it by vote. Each Commissioner is entitled to one (1) vote and may not delegate voting rights to any other person.

c. A Commissioner who does not have adequate

1 information on which to judge the merits of a matter
2 or who is simply unable to make a decision in the
3 matter may abstain from voting.
4

5 i. Although a member cannot be compelled to vote,
6 abstentions generally should be the exception.
7

8 ii. Any abstention shall be noted to the body. An
9 abstention must be noted before any
10 Commissioners begin voting. An explanation for
11 the abstention shall be given at the time the
12 Commissioner indicates the abstention.
13

14 iii. Abstentions shall not be counted in the tally of the
15 vote unless the vote requires approval based on
16 the number of the entire body.
17

18 d. Roll Call Votes. When required, roll shall be called by
19 the Secretary or, in the absence of the Secretary, a
20 Commissioner as designated by the Chairperson, and
21 the vote of each Commissioner shall be announced
22 and noted in the record.
23

24 e. Division. Any member may verify a voice vote or vote
25 by a show of hands by calling "division" during or
26 immediately thereafter a vote.
27

28 **K. Inclement Weather Policy:**
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30 1. It shall be the policy of this Commission, with respect to
31 inclement weather delays and closures, to follow the schedule
32 of the local school district within which the meeting is being
33 held. For example, should a meeting be held in Santa Fe and
34 the Santa Fe Public School District be on a two-hour delay
35 due to inclement weather, the meeting of this Commission
36 shall also be on a two hour delay or shall start at 11 a.m.,
37 whichever is later.
38

39 2. However, in the event of a closure in the local school district
40 due to inclement weather the meeting of the Commission is
41 deemed canceled and shall be rescheduled to meet within
42 ten (10) business days and noticed in compliance with the
43 Open Meetings Act.
44

45 **VI. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY:**
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47 These Rules of Procedure are the rules by which the Commission conducts
48 its business. These rules may be revised twice annually, pursuant to the
49 rules below. For circumstances not covered by these rules, the Chair may
50 at his, her or their discretion employ any commonly known rules of

Amended by the PEC on 8/19/22

1 parliamentary order, such as Robert's Rules of Order to manage the
2 business of the Commission.

3
4 **VII. PER DIEM AND MILEAGE:**

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6 **A.** Commissioners shall be reimbursed as provided in the Per Diem
7 and Mileage Act for related expenses incurred in the discharge of
8 official duties, including attending noticed regular or special
9 meetings and working group meetings of the Commission.

10
11 **B.** For purposes of the Per Diem and Mileage Act reimbursement,
12 attendance as a Liaison on behalf of the Commission will be
13 reimbursed as long as:

14
15 1. The business is conducted for the purpose of fulfilling the
16 obligations of Commission.

17
18 2. A Liaison will only be reimbursed for travel if he, she or
19 they is/are the primary Liaison or he, she or they was/were
20 asked to attend a meeting on behalf of the primary Liaison.

21
22 3. A Liaison should only attend a meeting if information will be
23 transmitted or if business will be conducted that is
24 reasonably related to the business of the Commission.

25
26 4. A Liaison shall not be reimbursed for attending a
27 subcommittee meeting unless the prior authorization of the
28 Commission through the Executive Committee is received
29 in writing to support such reimbursement.

30
31 **C.** Any other reimbursable activity of a Commissioner requires prior
32 authorization by the Executive Committee. Reimbursement will
33 only be approved if attendance constitutes business of the
34 Commission as a whole.

35
36 **D.** Public funds shall be paid out under the Per Diem and Mileage Act
37 only in compliance with the Act's requirements. Commissioners
38 must provide a certification and receipts if required by the NM
39 Department of Finance and Administration (DFA).

40
41 **E.** Out-of-State Travel:

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43 1. Extent of out-of-state travel will be subject to budgetary
44 availability and approval of a simple majority of the
45 Commission, in advance.

46
47 **VIII. EFFECTIVE DATE, AMENDMENTS, AND REVISIONS:**

48
49 **A.** There will be an annual review of the Rules of Procedure in
50 February. The Executive Committee or any Commissioner may

Amended by the PEC on 8/19/22

1 initiate amendments or revisions to the Rules of Procedure by
2 recommending placement of the item on the agenda. The text of
3 such proposed amendments or revisions shall be provided in writing
4 to the Commissioners at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at
5 which the amendment or revision will be considered. Any
6 amendments or revisions will be on the agenda for two consecutive
7 meetings. A vote may be taken at the second meeting after the
8 second reading.
9

10 **B.** Amendments to the Rules of Procedure may be proposed by any
11 Commissioner for inclusion in the annual discussion on the Rules of
12 Order in January or for special consideration at the Commission's
13 June meeting. Upon receipt of such proposal, at least 30 days prior
14 to the January or June meeting, the Chairperson shall include notice
15 of the proposed changes on the January or June agenda, whichever
16 is next.
17

18 **C.** These rules may be amended by a simple majority of the members
19 attending the meeting at which the vote is conducted.
20

21 **D.** These Rules shall become effective upon adoption by the
22 Commission.
23

24 **E.** Amendments shall become effective upon adoption by the
25 Commission.