

**From:** [Anne](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 7, 2023 6:32:17 PM

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To the Secretary of PED:

I am a parent of a kindergartener and third grader at Acequia Madre Elementary in Santa Fe. I am submitting comments on the proposed rule change to extend the school year. I oppose the rule change due to the following:

1. the extension may only be 4 days for the kids, but does not take into account teacher trainings, conferences, professional development days, etc. This may effectively extend teacher work days up to one month. I strongly value our teachers and want you to value their time, too.
2. The studies are completely inconclusive as to whether extending school days is beneficial, and may indicate that there is no net benefit.
3. The studies show that extending the school year is incredibly costly.
4. A better approach would be to fund after school programs and summer programs that are not taught by teachers (unless they want to).
5. NM has already shown significant problems in teacher retention. Don't adopt a policy that forces more teachers out of the profession.

Sincerely,  
Anne Maurer  
970-946-9730

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** [A Felix](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Thursday, November 9, 2023 2:31:34 PM

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No to extended school year! No to over working teachers who are already burnt out. You will lose more teachers if you go through with this terrible idea of adding even more school days and putting PD and conferences on top. Bad idea. No one likes it. Vote it down!!

Booo!

A Felix

**From:** [A Felix](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: 6.10.5  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 6:59:32 AM

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Hi. I strongly oppose any more added time to the school calendar. There are many teachers in my school who also oppose this plan. Please fight for us as colleagues and union members.

A Felix

SFPS

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Reina Lafond](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 9:51:30 AM

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Good morning,

Ask almost any educator what we need to improve student outcomes and none will say "more instructional days", at least not before multiple other issues are corrected. How can we propose more instructional days when we do not have the staffing to provide adequate education for the current amount of instructional days? When we do not have mental, emotional, and physical health resources within every school? When there is no peer-reviewed research data supporting a decision that more instructional time (and more instructional time alone) improves student outcomes? Any data supporting the need for more instructional time is tied directly to quality educators and community resources.

The money that would be spent on adding instructional days could better be spent recruiting educators, subsidising efforts by educators to earn master's degrees and/or attend diverse professional development, and hire nurses/counselors/educational assistants/bus drivers/custodians so schools are adequately staffed. Expecting better student outcomes by having students spend more time in a building that is not adequately staffed with high quality professionals is like expecting a patient to recover inside a hospital without ever being seen by a doctor or nurse. Time inside a building does not lead to better outcomes- investing in the individuals inside that building does.

Thanks,

Reina Lafond, M.Ed  
*she/her/hers*  
5th Grade Teacher  
Wood Gormley Elementary School  
[relafond@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:relafond@sfps.k12.nm.us)

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**From:** [Claire Noonan](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 10:19:15 AM

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Hello,

I am a New Mexican parent and public school teacher. I am strongly against the mandate of adding 10 days of professional development in addition to the required 180 instructional days. This means teachers will likely end up working close to 190 days. Seems like a lot of money for more of the same educational system we have now. If the state is going to spend that money, we really need all kinds of *other* things to make a difference for our struggling students, not just more time.

Other things that would be helpful would **instead** include:

- Improved dynamics to allow teachers to best reach underserved student populations such as students who are Native or students learning English during scheduled instructional time
- Smaller class sizes to facilitate individualized attention and differentiated instructional strategies
- Social support for teachers and students, such as everyday lunchtime and breaks during the day
- Support for teachers to effectively use existing planning time to leverage high quality curriculum independently or in small, content-alike collaborative groups

Thank you.

-Claire Noonan

**From:** [Jennifer Young](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Strong Opposition to 10-Day Extension  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:16:17 AM

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed extension of the school year in New Mexico. As a high school science teacher in the Santa Fe public school district, I am already stretched thin trying to meet the demands of our current 180-day calendar. The majority of my students are English language learners (ELLs), many of whom are emerging English speakers. Providing quality instruction for these students requires extensive preparation and effort within our current schedule. Adding more instructional days will only exacerbate the intense pressure and stress that educators like myself face daily.

What our students truly need is not a longer calendar, but rather increased access to crucial resources and support. Smaller class sizes would allow me to give each ELL student the individualized attention they deserve. More funding for textbooks, classroom materials, and technology upgrades would actually enhance day-to-day learning, especially for emerging English speakers. Greater access to mental health services, homeless assistance, and attendance support would help address some of the most significant barriers to academic success.

Additionally, many of my ELL students struggle with chronic truancy issues, missing school days regularly. These students who are already at risk of underachievement will not benefit from an extended school year when attendance is their primary obstacle. Resources should be allocated to attendance support and outreach to get these students to school every day.

As an educator and a parent, I also rely on the summer break to reconnect with my own children and be the mother they deserve. The school year requires so much of my time and energy that summertime is precious for catching up on quality family time. Extending the school calendar imposes on that valued time with my family.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed calendar change, and instead explore avenues to reduce class sizes, upgrade materials, expand student access to essential services, provide bilingual resources, and support attendance outreach. Our ELL kids deserve a school environment focused on quality over quantity. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Young

[jnamayn@gmail.com](mailto:jnamayn@gmail.com)

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J. Young  
Environmental Science/Biology Teacher  
Capital High School

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**From:** [Nina Francesca Bunker Ruiz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No more time in the classroom! RE: NMAC 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:16:42 AM

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Greetings members of the Public Education Department,  
Why is the assumption always that *more* time in the classroom is the answer to all education issues? Why would we make students spend more time at desks when they could be learning in different and more stimulating ways? Why aren't we looking at ways of learning that are better for their mental and physical health?

It seems that we literally cannot see outside the box of the classroom! Please be innovative and brave rather than predictable and short-sighted.

Kids are understandably bored in their classes because we as a species are not designed to spend so much time sitting still inside. Your solution will exacerbate rather than improve the situation -- not to mention hastening the retirement of yet another wave of teachers!

--

teacher & parent SFPS  
Nina Bunker Ruiz  
(505) 316-1307



**From:** [Justin Lujan](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] instructional time  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:44:17 AM

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Hello PED,

I hope you are doing well. As long as kids have time to eat. And time can be allocated from advisory and/or other classes. Kids are so burnt out with these long classes. If we want to get them interested in their education, we have to have time for them to benefit from all factors.

Thank you.

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**From:** [Eric Brayden](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No on calendar extension, but...  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:51:20 AM

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Hello,

I am not in favor of extending the school calendar, but I would potentially be in favor of a balanced school year model, where summer break is shorter and other holidays are longer. Many school districts are experimenting with this, and even some are experimenting with 4 day school weeks, shorter vacations, and slightly longer school days, which results in the same amount of instructional time but more evenly spread throughout the year. Explore these options instead of extending the school year. Thanks for your time!

Eric Brayden  
Social Studies  
Capital High School

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**From:** [GERON SPRAY](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:54:06 AM

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Hello,

My name is Geron Spray, and I teach history at Capital High School. I am writing in opposition to the proposal to expand the school calendar.

Please pardon my cynicism, but it's difficult to believe that adding more time would make any difference in student outcomes. I've been teaching for 24 years now, and since I started, the school days have gotten longer and the school year has gotten longer, and it's never helped. Forcing the kids to spend more time in a place they don't want to be would be unproductive, at best. They, and teachers and admin, would end the year more frustrated and burned out than they already do on the current calendar.

The secret to student achievement is not keeping kids in the building longer. It never has worked and never will.

Thank you,  
Geron J. Spray, M.A.  
History Teacher  
Capital High School  
[gspray@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:gspray@sfps.k12.nm.us)

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**From:** [Cristina Sherman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] More PD days  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:20:31 PM

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Hello,

I'm writing in support of more PD days for teachers so that we can receive the proper amount of review and training for new materials (Reading, for instance). Needing more PD days does not necessarily mean more student contact days is warranted. However, I would be in favor of additional school days to replace our longer days.

Thank you,  
Cristina Sherman  
Acequia Madre teacher

--

Cristina Sherman  
Reading Interventionist  
STC  
Acequia Madre Elementary

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**From:** [Scott Shuker](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Say NO to amendment 6.10.5- NMAC  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:46:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [6.10.5-NMAC\\_PreApproved-for-Web\\_RR-Tracked.docx](#)

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**Good Day:**

**As an NM public school educator, I wish to express my very strong opposition to this amendment (see attached). The NEA and teachers everywhere have struggled hard to get pay raises in sync with the cost of living as well as keep our work week and year within reasonable limits. This amendment will disrespect those gains and cause us to fall behind yet again.**

**Why does the NMPED and district leaders continue to think that more instructional time and PD will bridge the "learning gap?" It won't. How do I know? I am in the classroom daily and more classtime means more days for students to skip classes, disregard content, and fail even more. It's that simple. We won't tolerate losing our hard-fought gains for trifling band-aid fixes to a very broad problem. Look at the *quality* of education as a fix, not the *quantity*. And consider taking responsibility again for fixing the attendance gap.**

--

**Regards,  
Scott Shuker  
11th Grade ELA Teacher/Yearbook Advisor  
Capital High School, Rm. 207  
ph. 505-467-1117**



**Integration of Art into Language Arts Instruction**      **Integration of Art into Formative and Summative Assessments**

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**From:** [Cody Fielder](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Instructional Time Requirement Increase to 190 Days  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:52:28 PM

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PED,

My name is Cody Fielder and I am a high school science/medical teacher in Santa Fe. I am also a parent to three children, two of which are enrolled in public schools here in Santa Fe County.

I love my job and appreciate the opportunity to work with youth in our community every day.

Regarding your proposed change to increase teacher contract time to 190 days I want to provide my feedback:

**Increasing instructional and PD time for teachers is not the answer for our childrens' academic woes. There are many ongoing issues with academics throughout New Mexico, and this solution does nothing to tackle any of them. I have students who are absent dozens of days every quarter, and it is those students who are most likely to need our help. Increasing academic time for everyone while not providing a solution for chronic absenteeism in the state is the definition of missing the point. Students who are missing class, and their families, need to be held accountable for not coming. Requiring that everyone come more often will not fix the issue because the students who need the help will continue to not show up, with no way to hold them accountable.**

**Moreover, this fix will burden our schools even further because it will exacerbate the shortage of real teachers in classrooms. Many of our teachers choose this profession because of the work, and because of the traditional time off during the summer to be with our family. If more and more of that benefit to this work is taken away, educated professionals will continue to walk away from the profession, and our teacher shortage will only get worse, especially in STEM fields where there is ample opportunity elsewhere.**

**Please consider these arguments as you make your decision. Our schools need help but these problems need real solutions and not bureaucratic answers from people who fail to see the dynamics involved.**

**Thank you,  
Cody Fielder**

--

Cody Fielder  
Biomedical Science Teacher  
Medical Science Academy  
Capital HS, Santa Fe, NM

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**From:** [Lyndon Ritchie](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed calendar increase (against)  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 12:56:40 PM

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Hello,

I am a teacher at Capital High. I have proudly served this district for the past seven years. I believe it needs to be addressed that adding more days to our instructional days will not correct the learning needs of our students. Our students are exhausted from the current schedules as they are and so are staff. Lengthening the school year will not benefit PED in retaining teachers or meeting student learning goals.

I hope this message is heard and understood that with our already low attendance rates and burnout among remaining staff, this could be detrimental to our school's moral.

--

[Lyndon C. Ritchie](#)  
[E.S.S. Co-teacher](#)  
[Capital High School](#)



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**From:** [Davita Ritchie](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Urgent Appeal Against Extending the School Year  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 1:07:57 PM

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Good afternoon,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you as a dedicated educator with a deep commitment to the well-being and success of both teachers and students. I must express my strong opposition to the proposed extension of the school year.

Prolonging the academic calendar has proven to be counterproductive, leading to teacher burnout and student fatigue. It exacerbates existing challenges rather than addressing them. The toll this takes on the quality of education is undeniable.

Should this initiative proceed, I, along with several colleagues, will be compelled to explore alternative career opportunities. The teacher shortage in New Mexico will not be alleviated by overburdening those already in service. If our essential time off is compromised, it only makes sense to seek fulfilling employment elsewhere.

Our summers and breaks are crucial for rejuvenation and professional development, essential components for effective teaching. If the aim is to retain and attract quality educators, preserving these periods is imperative.

If the extension is implemented, it is only fair that compensatory measures be put in place. Adequate additional sick leave and a commensurate salary raise are necessary to offset the increased demands on educators.

I implore you to reconsider this proposal earnestly. Maintaining the sanctity of our time off is not just a plea but a fundamental requirement for sustaining a motivated and capable teaching force.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Sincerely,

--

**Davita Ritchie M. Ed.**

[\(she/her\)](#)

ELA/ELD 9 & ELA I Teacher

Capital High School

[dritchie@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:dritchie@sfps.k12.nm.us)

Santa Fe Public Schools



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**From:** [Sarah Holmes](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Upcoming PED Proposal  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 1:40:52 PM

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I have just been made aware of an upcoming proposal (see below) to extend the faculty year from 180 to 190 days. I am curious as to why PED is making this adjustment.

Please forward the research and decision-making rationale that guided PED through this process. I would be very interested in reviewing the scholarship surrounding this subject. From what I understand, the long-term and short-term benefits of extending the school year (increasing positive learning outcomes) are marginal at best.

Thank you.

"...a proposal by the PED to extend the Instructional calendar for students to **180** days and increase staff PD for another 10 days which means our work calendar will be a **minimum of 190 days.**"

Best,  
[Sarah Holmes](#)  
Sarah W. Holmes, Ph.D.  
she/her/hers ([Why this is important.](#))  
History Teacher, TEFL Certified  
Capital High School  
[saholmes@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:saholmes@sfps.k12.nm.us)  
(P) 505-467-1163



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**From:** [Cecilia Jourdain](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 190 days on school calendar  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 1:45:07 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I am appalled by the way this district is trying to make the public/community think that they are doing more for the students, when they basically are adding to the teachers' load. As an exceptional students' teacher at the high school level, I have seen more teachers leave than any year because of the working conditions that have been imposed by this district. The lack of pedagogical freedom to teach is another of the reasons cited, but above all the overload of hours and bureaucratic work that we have to produce is getting people to flee to other districts.

I would like to bring to your attention that everytime the district has added time to the schedule or school year, the teachers have had more hours but the students keep on having less hours.

The false pretense of having more educational time needs to stop!

Furthermore, High School teachers this year have more hours than the elementary and middle school teachers and we are not compensated for it.

Our contracts this year did not mention any starting or end time for our day. This is outrageous, and if I didn't need that job to eat and keep a roof over my head I would quit it.

The district claims that they want qualified teachers to stay in the district but they keep on driving them away.

I speak for many of my colleagues and myself included when I state that no amount of self-care will save us from what the district keeps throwing at us. We are professionals and we care deeply for our students, but we are not superhumans, we can only handle so much overload.

Please, stop adding to teachers' plates! They are already overfilled. Instead of adding time for Professional Development which teachers can request or be asked to complete by administrators when a need is identified, make sure our students are in school. Work toward glorifying education with the community instead of miscommunicating with them and letting them think that "grades do not matter".

Thank you for hearing us,

--

**Cecilia Jourdain (Ms. CJ)**

[cjourdain@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:cjourdain@sfps.k12.nm.us)

505-467-1114 ( int. 1-1114)

*Believe, Achieve, and Succeed, everyday, no excuses*



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**From:** [Alexandra Blossom](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Amendment to School Instructional Time Requirements- Opposed  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 1:48:24 PM

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Good afternoon,

I am emailing in opposition to the proposed amendment to the School Instructional Time Requirements, which if passed, would require at least 190 days in our school calendar.

Over the years, more and more time has been added to the calendar and to the school year yet educational outcomes have not changed significantly and teacher burnout has only increased.

If anything, year-round schooling, rather than adding days, would better increase student retention, reduce learning loss, and give teachers more regular breaks to decrease burnout. However, this new amendment does not achieve either.

Please do not pass this amendment.

--

**Alex Blossom**

*Master of Science in Secondary Education*

*World History Teacher*

*Capital High School*

**Phone:** 505-437-1554 (text and voicemail only)

**Email:** [ablossom@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:ablossom@sfps.k12.nm.us)



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**From:** [Rhiannon Crespin](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Changes to 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:18:35 PM

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### **6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements**

I am an employee of Socorro Consolidated Schools (a 4 day District) and the mother of 2 daughters who attend 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the District. I would like to share my perspective from both roles.

I have been with the school district for over 7 years and was here when we transitioned from a 5 day week to a 4 day week. I have seen an increase in staff morale overall, and although we have been affected by the teacher shortage and have had to be creative in our staffing I feel like we are able to entice people to come work in our small community that we would not be able to get we were forced to go back to the 5 day week or transition to a year-round calendar. Our students will benefit more from learning from a certified teacher for 4 days a week vs. 5 days a week with a long-term substitute.

As a mother, I feel that my children are less stressed and ready to go back to school on Monday ready to learn. I have to ask is more school really the answer or would PED's resources be better used enforcing attendance. We, as well as other Districts across the state, struggle to get students to attend the days we currently have. The current attendance laws have very little consequences for the parents and put most of the responsibility on the District. We send letters, call and request meetings with parents and still the students do not come to school. Adding more days is not going to fix what I consider to be the biggest problem with NM education, getting the kids to school.

Our District polled parents on whether they preferred a 4 day or 5 day week; over 70% of our parents voted in favor of the 4 day week. Following COVID we have already lost students to online school, this proposed change will push more students out of our District. As you know, this will affect our funding and not allow us to compete with other Districts when it comes to teacher salaries. This proposed change is going to be detrimental to small Districts and our children deserve better.

--

Thank you,

**Rhiannon Crespin**

Executive Director of Finance and Personnel

**From:** [Michael Buhl](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:23:40 PM

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I am worried that by increasing the time children are in school, it will increase the burnout on both students and teachers. We do not want to be in a situation where the addition time in school is having the effect of turning more kids away from school and therefore worsening educational outcomes.

**From:** [Kristen M. Griego](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school weeks help rural schools retain teachers  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:30:38 PM

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To whom it may concern,

Socorro is a small town and they have had trouble hiring and retaining teachers. By switching to a 4-day school week, they were able to attract teachers from a greater radius. This has helped fill the classrooms with teachers, resulting in a better education for our youth.

Personally, I commute to work in Socorro and I would not work here if there was not a 4-day school week. Having Fridays off makes the daily commute manageable. If NM creates a rule requiring the school to get rid of the 4 day school week, Socorro will lose many of the counselors, teachers, and admin who commute, and the school/students will suffer.

Please reconsider requiring 5 day school weeks with 180 days.

Thank you,

--

Kristen M. Griego  
GEAR UP Program Coordinator  
Socorro Consolidated Schools  
575-418-2219  
<https://www.socorroschools.org/page/gearup>

**From:** [Sharla Rusk](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for 6.10.5  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 3:50:13 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-kklwl5rk.png](#)

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## **6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements**

Policy and Legislative Affairs Division,

Maintaining a four-day school week can offer benefits such as reduced operational costs and increased teacher and student satisfaction at districts. Reduced operational costs are desperately needed for smaller schools to maintain their budget. The decision should consider the specific needs and circumstances of the community and prioritize the quality of education provided. Requiring 50% of the weeks of the school year be five days is a huge change for current four-day schools and is taking away from the autonomy of individual school districts and their ability to make decisions based on their community. Requiring schools to increase the number of five-day weeks could possibly result in lower attendance during those weeks, due to parents continuing to keep their child home. Also, several four-day school districts are excelling academically with high student proficiencies and a large portion of four-day schools' academic achievement is the same as five-day districts.

I hope you consider the impact this change could have on rural four-day school districts.

Thank you,

*Sharla Rusk Principal San Jon Municipal Schools*



**Phone:** 575-576-2466  
**Fax:** 575-576-2772  
**Website:** [www.sanjonschools.com](http://www.sanjonschools.com)  
**Address:** PO Box 5 San Jon, NM 88434

**From:** [Nicole Keeney](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School calendar rules  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 5:36:23 PM

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I truly do believe that a five day school week and that certain hours in the day are important for our kids. However, they need to be properly funded and supportive of the School staff. We are in a major crisis of educators leaving the field and so we need to support them better. One of the ways districts have been doing that with the limited options they have is to offer unique calendar options, giving us longer weekends and more time to recover mentally from the strain of day to day teaching. Forcing more restrictions on districts to create the calendars you want will only increase the problem of Staff leaving to find other work. Without that staff it won't really matter how long students are in school or not. Make a working environment less stressful and mentally taxing and the longer school year would probably not be an issue. You cannot have both a taxing environment that brings teachers to the edge and increase the number of days they have to do that in.

I truly hope that you consider multiple ways to fix our educational crisis instead of assuming one thing will fix it all. Student attendance has been lower than ever, parents support is harder and harder to achieve, standards are more and more challenging and given at inappropriate age levels, and testing is draining our students capacity to learn. All of these are very difficult tasks to hit and just changing a Calendar is not going to address all of them.



**From:** [Jill Madrid](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 7:46:29 AM

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We have a four day school week with my current school district. We are a small, remote town. Keeping staff and teachers has always been a problem. Since we've started the shorter week, we have been able to entice out of town staff. I am very afraid that if this is taken away from our district that we will be back to not having enough teachers and staff to fill our positions. Which will be a domino effect, trickling down to our students.

My son is fourteen, I mentioned the information on the proposed rulemaking for NM public schools. He was really bothered with the idea. He is currently taking a dual credit welding class on Friday mornings. He said that a lot of the students will not have that opportunity anymore and that most of his classmates are learning this trade to eventually find work in this particular field. He also said for the students that have to work to help their family's households will now be cut short on their hours.

Also, as a parent, I enjoy having the Friday's with my children, to use it for out of town appointments and errands and keep us both from missing work and school. It is also a great opportunity to give us more time to travel and explore.

Our society has changed. People rely on their children for help in the household with chores and finances. It will also be a very hard transition for students to revert back to a full week schedule.

--

*Jill Madrid- Angel*



*Socorro High School*

*Data Coordinator*

*575-838-2749*

<https://www.socorroschools.org/page/gearup>

**From:** [Michelle Culberson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5-day week  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 10:12:30 AM

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Good morning.

I am writing to you regarding the proposed 5-day week. I live and teach in Lordsburg, NM and we are a small community. We moved to a 4-day week in 2018 and it has been a blessing. Because we are so small, most citizens need to drive elsewhere for appointments, shopping, maintenance, etc., and we use our 5th day of the week to do this. It would be terrible to go back to a 5-day week.

If this proposal is because a politician believes it will help our students have more success in the classroom, that is a false hope. Throwing more time and more money into our schools is an absolute waste of resources. Success will happen when we hold our students and their parents accountable for their education. Students need to attend school; their parents need to ensure they are there. Students need to behave in class; their parents need to ensure correct behavior is happening in the classroom. Students need to do the required assignments to learn the material; parents need to support their children in their learning. Only then can teachers determine if a student is learning the content and be able to help with interventions and/or enrich their education.

Most Sincerely,  
Michelle E. Culberson  
New Mexico Middle and High School Educator

**From:** [Connie Garza](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Change  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 10:13:36 AM

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I vote no

I believe our students have been more productive in the classrooms and with their school work on the 4 day a week calender

**From:** [Gretchen Baldrige](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed 5 day school week  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 10:29:16 AM

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To Whom it May Concern:

I don't agree with this proposed rule for the following reasons:

Our school district is rural, and a small community. Our calendar was originally a five day week. We changed to a four day week in the interest of saving the district money by having the campuses closed.

As an Educational Assistant, I work a certain number of contact hours for an agreed upon salary. If the scheduled days are increased starting in January, how would that affect my income? Would a new contract be signed with an increase in pay? Would I be compensated for my extra time in a separate payment?

Please consider New Mexico's rural and low income districts in this decision.

Thank you,  
Gretchen Baldrige, EA  
Lordsburg Municipal Schools  
Lordsburg, New Mexico

**From:** [Brenda Richardson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mandatory 5 day week by PED  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 10:55:19 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I have been involved in 2 different school districts for the past 18 years that are using the 4 day week school schedule. Being very rural it is very advantageous to utilize the Friday (no school) day for sports, academic and many other activities so that students do not miss the invaluable in-class instruction. Our students travel very, very long distances to compete in academic and sport competitions. Whether it be Mock Trial, or any one of the many sport events provided by the New Mexico Activities Association.

Being small school districts, many extra curricular activities are the first to be cut because of lack of state funding. Please allow our students to continue to thrive by allowing them to compete by keeping the 4 day school week.

Sincerely,

**Brenda Richardson**

Technology Specialist

Lordsburg Municipal Schools

Cell: 575.590.0657

**From:** [Shari Cross](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; LESC@nmlegis.gov](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Change for School and PD Days  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:20:38 AM

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I am writing in regard to the proposed change in days to 180 school days for students and ten extra PD days for staff.

I am a National Board Certified teacher and I have been teaching for SFPS for fourteen years. I come from a family of educators. My father, Bill Beacham was a teacher and then was a principal for SFPS for over thirty five years. My mother, Mary Beacham, was also a teacher for SFPS for over thirty five years.

In all of my experience as an educator and with education, I am well aware that there are issues New Mexico faces with education. However, these issues are NOT going to be fixed by adding more school days and they are especially NOT going to be fixed by adding more PD for teachers. By increasing the days this way, what you will create is fatigue and student and teacher burnout.

We work a highly demanding job. We need the time we have off to mentally recover and take care of our social emotional needs before jumping into another school year. I can guarantee, if you pass this, many teachers will quit, and it's not because we don't want to work. We do work. We work incredibly hard. Yet more and more keeps piling on top of us. We will eventually break under it all. Many of us are already close to it. We don't just educate our students, we help them with their own social and emotional learning. We teach curriculum and standards and then we help a child work through a divorce or death in the family. We feed them when they haven't eaten. We absorb their emotions, their needs. They become our children in many ways. The emotional toll on teachers is incredibly high and we are not even close to being compensated enough for it. Yet, instead of feeling like we are being respected for everything we do, we constantly feel as though the community blames us for every problem our students' face.

Research has shown, time and time again, that if a child does not have early literacy skills (at age 3-4), such as attempts to read and write (i.e. holding a book and saying words to act like they're reading), draw lines and shapes to form letters, begin to form letters, identifying familiar signs and labels, and participate in rhyming; then they have a much higher correlation to becoming struggling readers in primary grades. Our city needs more funded preschools so early literacy gaps are addressed by providing families with access to a preschool for their child. Our schools need more support for teachers: resources, aligned curriculum that follows the Science of Reading which we were trained in through LETRS, more support, more respect. We do not need more training. To insinuate that that is what is needed by adding 10 more PD days is insulting and it feels like it is putting the blame on teachers.

No one would be a teacher if we didn't care about students and about doing what's best for our students. We teach because we love teaching. We teach because we love our students. We don't need more PD's. We need more support. We need better assessments and curriculum. We need our individual time to recover and take care of our mental health and our own children. Please do not take this time away from us. Help us through ways that will actually help. These extra days will not help. They will create a much bigger problem when you don't have enough teachers to fill the classrooms for those 180 instructional days, when you have teachers suffering with their mental health even more than we already are, when you basically tell the community, "teachers need more training so we're giving them ten more PD days to address our educational deficits."

I sincerely hope you do not go through with this plan. Instead, champion for children and their education by providing more free preschools for families, more family support; by helping take care of basic needs for families such as food, shelter, and clothing; by treating teachers like the professionals we are and showing that our opinions and knowledge is respected; by providing us with resources and support; by respecting our mental health and protecting our time we have off to help us maintain that mental health.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shari Cross

**\*I DO NOT GIVE PERMISSION FOR ANY OF MY ABOVE STATEMENTS TO BE PUBLISHED IN ANY NEWSPAPER OR ARTICLE\***

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Shari Cross  
National Board Certified Teacher  
Carlos Gilbert Elementary  
Santa Fe Public Schools

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**From:** [Priscilla Hazen](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed changes  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:39:28 AM

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Your proposed changes will force rural teachers to decide if their job is worth staying. I work in a small town and live there for 4 days a week. On the weekends, I return home to my family. If these changes become the new rules, I will leave my teaching career behind. My salary can be replaced in numerous ways from my home. I have over 20 years of teaching experience that students will not benefit from if I leave. Please consider the devastating effects this proposal will have on rural New Mexico.



**From:** [Heather Worley](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PED Calendar Changes  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:43:18 AM

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I am very opposed to the proposed calendar interference by PED. Longer class times and longer school years will not improve the outcome for our kids. Adding days will not address chronically absent students. We will in fact lose even more of our educators if this is pushed through. Students will not benefit from having a long term substitute teacher or an EA for an academic year.

[Heather Worley](#)  
District Administrative Assistant  
Socorro Consolidated Schools  
575.838.3127

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" - Nelson Mandela

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**From:** [Anastasia Wooldridge](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] VOTE NO  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:51:58 AM

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Hello,

My name is Anastasia Wooldridge. I teach at Atalaya Elementary School and was informed today that the PED was going to change a policy to add more instructional days and PD Days to our calendars without having to go through legislation. This would really be a hardship for me and my fellow teachers (as well as families). This job is so difficult and so many are already ready to quit given how much more has been added to our plate since COVID-19, not to mention the lack of respect we receive from the public these days. Adding more days would make this profession unsustainable and we would lose much of our workforce which consists of veteran, experienced teachers. Please do not vote this though and stand up for teachers, families, and community stakeholders who all should have their voices heard on this issue.

Thank you,  
Anastasia Wooldridge

--

Anastasia Wooldridge  
Atalaya Elementary  
3rd Grade Language Arts & Social Studies  
[awooldridge@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:awooldridge@sfps.k12.nm.us)

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**From:** [Pamela Vega](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed rule change  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 11:54:59 AM

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I would like to submit feedback regarding the proposed rule change regarding the 5 day school week. As a teacher in a small school, and a resident of a rural area, I would like to speak in favor of the 4 day school week. We cannot always find teachers in our district and must hire from outside our area. The 4 day week works to help get those people in here because they do not have to commute for 5 days. Teachers appreciate having that extra day off for lesson planning, grading papers and to destress. I have personally spoken with many who will retire if we move back to a 5 day week. This move, for our district, will mean the loss of many teachers. Other more rural areas will have even more trouble getting teachers into their districts.

ThaNk you for your time and consideration,  
Pamela VegA

**From:** [Martin Romine](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5.8 (H)  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:02:14 PM

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Section 6.10.5.8(H) states that up to 60 hours of professional development for primary grades and 30 hours of professional development for secondary grades can be counted towards instructional hours. Most school districts present the same professional development for all teachers regardless of grade level taught. This PD is important to inform the teaching staff of new and/or updated programs and training needed to accomplish the instructional plan of the district. It is nonsensical to not allow the same number of professional development hours to count as instructional time for all grades. What this rule does is provide an additional increment to fund all of the professional development for primary grades and only 50% for secondary grades thus becoming an unfunded mandate. Uniformity of standards equals uniformity of funding. As written, this rule basically states that primary grade educators need more professional development than secondary grades which is not true. It needs to be changed to create uniformity so that districts and charters can create professional development to be used district or school wide.

"Connect, Educate, Inspire"

Martin G. Romine  
Director of Finance - SFO, CPO  
Zuni Public School District  
505-782-5511 X6301 Office  
505-879-1335 Cell  
[martin.romine@zpsd.org](mailto:martin.romine@zpsd.org)



**From:** [Denise Cannon](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Local control for school calendars  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 2:29:38 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

Thank you for asking for public comment on this very important topic. I am currently working in a 4-day school week with Socorro Consolidated Schools and it has been the reason we have been able to staff positions that are challenging to fill. We will undoubtedly lose staff if the district is forced into a 5-day school week. Without staff, no one is learning. The language of the proposed amendment states that at least 50% of the weeks in the school calendar must be 5-day weeks, which implies that half of the weeks can be 4-day. This would be inconsistent and confusing for students, parents, and staff to toggle between 4 and 5-day weeks.

The 180-day requirement is going to change entire communities who have built their work schedules, family schedules, and lives on a 4-day school week. The 4-day school week still allows students to meet the same instructional hours as a 5-day school week—but in a way that was determined by the wishes of the communities and local school boards. New Mexico is filled with a wide variety of communities with their own unique needs and challenges, and what may be ideal for one town may not be for another. Rural districts where students spend over an hour on the bus each way to and from school would prefer a longer school day with fewer days in the week to be transported to/from school. And it appears that the majority of districts who saw graduation rates increase this year, were rural districts.

The national teacher shortage is a real thing. We are feeling it hard in our districts and schools. Increasing instructional days is not going to attract more people to the teaching field, and will most likely have the opposite effect. Efforts in recruitment and training would yield bigger results in student achievement than increasing the number of school days—especially if the students are being taught by substitutes.

As an educator of 32 years, I have taught in year-round schools, 5-day week traditional schools, and 4-day week districts. All calendars have their merits as well as their challenges for varying communities. Allowing communities to decide what the best fit for them seems to be the most logical approach. Just as we differentiate our instruction to meet the specific needs of students, school calendars should be differentiated to meet the specific needs of communities.

Denise Cannon  
Assistant Superintendent  
Socorro Consolidated Schools

**From:** [J. Andrew Rivera-Cordova](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 4:32:02 PM

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If we want students to have quality instruction then teachers need time to plan. One hour preparation per day is simply to keep up with administrative requirements and communications. Having 1 day per week allows teachers that opportunity without feeling like they are being punished for the profession they choose. Having to lesson plan most of the day during the weekend makes teachers feel exhausted and not ready to teach come Monday morning.

Sincerely,

J. Andrew Cordova  
Raymond Sarracino Middle School  
Socorro, New Mexico

**From:** [Jeannine WestPaull](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Not an effective option  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 5:08:20 PM

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In my experience working with many teachers in many buildings as a new teacher mentor and coach, I know how many vacancies we continue to have in our district---and the positions that remain unfilled continuously---we need to FIRST address high quality teacher preparation, teacher pay and retention before you lengthen our contract year (yet again). It doesn't make sense to extend a school year when there are still classrooms without teachers (long term subs?..not highly qualified!) Why do we not yet have a quality teacher preparation program in SFPS?---The version of 'alternative licensure' used in NM is a joke--and does not promote high quality instruction or retention. DO SOMETHING!!

As we move closer to a year round contract, more and more teachers will consider higher paying options and you will be left with more vacancies, more unqualified teachers in classrooms, and fewer veteran teachers who could serve as mentors IF we could get our act together and create a high quality teacher preparation program!

A longer school year does not equate to higher student performance unless you are willing to address teacher quality and PAY us like other professions with M.A.s and beyond. I moved here six years ago, took a \$20K cut in pay, and I'm still not making what I made when I left Colorado.

DO SOMETHING!!

**Jeannine West Paull**

*El Dorado Community School*

*Math/Science - Grade 5*

[jwestpaull@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:jwestpaull@sfps.k12.nm.us)

*Teachers are craftsmen, artisans, artists, whatever you want to call them, not theoreticians. And just as the good craftsmen of the Renaissance expressed themselves through the work they did and not through writing books about it (or research monographs) so teachers express themselves through the work that they do, through the human beings who have been their pupils...*

*--David Hawkins: The Informed Vision*

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**From:** [Colette Wills](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New Proposal Comment  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 5:22:27 PM

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To Whom it may concern,

I hope this message finds you well. I'd like to discuss several critical aspects of our educational system that deserve our attention and immediate action: the proposed changes to our school schedule, the importance of holding families accountable for student attendance and support at home, and two alternative approaches to improving our education system - the importance of targeted interventions and the need to revamp our special education guidelines for early intervention.

**1. Proposed Changes to the School Schedule:**

While the goal of ensuring a minimum number of instructional hours is commendable, it's vital to consider the potential adverse effects on staff and student well-being. Lengthening school days without addressing the underlying issues may lead to burnout and exhaustion among both students and educators. Recognizing the role of families in a student's education is essential. We must encourage and support families in taking an active role in their child's learning journey. By fostering strong communication and collaboration between schools and families, we can ensure that students receive the necessary support both in and out of the classroom. To further emphasize family accountability, we could explore innovative approaches, such as tying welfare benefits to student attendance, as a means to incentivize and motivate families to prioritize their child's education.

**2. The Role of Specialized Interventionists:**

One alternative approach involves incorporating specialized interventionists within our educational system. Currently, interventions are often provided by individuals without specialized training, limiting their effectiveness. By incorporating specialized interventionists, particularly in subjects like reading and math, we can provide targeted support to students who require additional assistance. These specialists can offer tailored expertise, collaborate closely with teachers and families, monitor progress, and address a diverse range of student needs.

**3. Revamping Special Education Guidelines for Early Intervention:**

Another alternative approach focuses on the need to revise our special education guidelines to facilitate early intervention for students with learning disabilities. Currently, our special education guidelines often require students to be significantly behind in their academic progress before they qualify for the support they need. This approach, while well-intentioned, may lead to missed opportunities to help students who could benefit from early intervention. By revising these guidelines to catch learning disabilities before students fall too far behind, we can provide timely and targeted support to help students reach their full potential.

In summary, I believe that by exploring these three alternative approaches, we can create an educational system that is more inclusive, responsive, and effective for all students. We should consider ensuring a sufficient number of instructional hours while considering the potential adverse effects on staff and student well-being, implementing targeted interventions by specialized professionals, holding families accountable for student attendance and support at



home, and revising special education guidelines to facilitate early intervention.

Your attention to these matters is greatly appreciated, and I'm eager to engage in further conversations to enhance our educational system.

Warm regards,

Colette Wills  
STEAM Teacher  
Socorro Consolidated School District  
[cwills@socorroschools.org](mailto:cwills@socorroschools.org)

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**From:** [Kate Geier Shultz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: NMAC 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 7:59:52 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed rule change, NMAC 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements.

In my position as a teacher and parent, it is glaringly obvious that our students and teachers do not need more days in school but higher quality instruction in the existing calendared days through policies like smaller class size.

Teachers do not have the stamina for more days, more work, and more expectations without a vast improvement in their working conditions. More days of work will NOT lead to better results for teachers or for our children.

Please do what is right for children and reject this change.

Thank you,  
Kate Shultz  
Parent and Teacher  
[Kategshultz@gmail.com](mailto:Kategshultz@gmail.com) (personal email)

**From:** [Reid Burgess](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 8:23:20 PM

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I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed rule changes that add instructional days to the calendar and increase the number of required "professional development" days for teachers.

I oppose the proposed changes as both a parent and a teacher. Adding instructional days to the calendar and depriving students and staff of the necessary time to recharge does nothing to address any of the factors that contribute to New Mexico's staggering record of educating its young. If the PED were serious about improving outcomes in New Mexico, it might consider implementing changes that addressed truancy and student accountability.

If the PED implements these proposed changes there will be unintended negative consequences. Chief among them will be further educational staff and student burnout. Little by little, districts and the state are eroding the buy-in of teachers and students through imprudent attempts at reform.

Thank you,  
Reid Burgess

**From:** [Marty Carvlin](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] voicing concern; newly proposed Rule (NMAC 6.10.5)  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 9:56:03 PM

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Greetings.

I am writing as a Santa Fe PS teacher, a parent, a grandparent, and concerned citizen/resident. I am totally opposed to the the Legislative Education Study Committee's (LESC) interpretation of the newly proposed Rule (NMAC 6.10.5). I urge the committee to abandon any effort to implement 180 instructional days for students PLUS extra days for PD and teacher prep.

Currently we SFPS high schools have an odious schedule which includes 2-hour block classes four mornings a week and 105 minute classes for the rest except one period. Students under perform when subjected to great stretches of instructional time and when they skip a class, and they do often, they lose two full class periods. They fall behind, which means it's harder for them to come back to class and recoup the lessons and learning they have missed. However, there is beaucoup magical thinking on the part of policy makers surrounding exactly how we can just catch students. They repeat the Standards-based grading mantra for teachers' grading; Fair, Accurate, Specific, and Timely . FAST is the belief that teachers can immediately provide constructive feedback for a wide array of learners and with our superpowers, provide and regrade multiple retake assignments until every single learner gets the concepts and shows some level of mastery. It just does not add up timewise for high school teachers whose assignments take longer to create, assign, grade, provide meaningful feedback for and then absorb retakes for all kinds of assessments.

No matter how hard PED beats teachers over the head with mandatory PLCs, repetitive Professional Development, and PD provided by high-cost consultants from out of state who do not speak our students' languages, students will not show growth in learning without serious and systematic approaches to improving the grave truancy issues. Seriously, last week we had a workshop for an hour in which we analyzed a 6th grade math problem and the only novelty provided on the handouts (yes, our highly skilled math instructors had already attended the training) was something about columns. We teachers wondered how much the district paid for the copyrighted handouts and the training.

I never thought I'd hear myself say that Susana Martinez's PED admin was on to something by proposing that third graders must demonstrate some level of reading skills before being promoted to the next level. I see some wisdom in the attempt now. Currently we *graduate* students who have rock bottom skills. We need to put some of the pressue on the parents and the

students. With this note I ask you to move toward really making classroom time count, hold students and families accountable as well as coaches and other community members. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I will respond as quickly as I am able.

Regards,

*Ms. Marty Carvlin*  
505 920 4583

**From:** [Jennifer Warren](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [lesc@nmlegis.gov](mailto:lesc@nmlegis.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 2:00:03 AM

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I am a first grade teacher at Nina Otero Community School and an NEASF school representative. I am here today, 11-17-23 to express my strong opposition to the PED proposed Rule change (NMAC 6.10.5) which will mandate 180 school days for students EXCLUSIVE of teacher Professional Development days and teacher prep, which is in contradiction to a state statute, passed last session, that included those hours within the total instructional hours.

With a near 40% truancy rate statewide, forcing local school districts to add days isn't going to bring students back to school! This rule also would work against teacher retention, already a problem in NM, and does nothing to address poor student academic outcomes, which are connected to low attendance rates.

It is beyond frustrating as a professional educator to learn of this proposed rule change at the 11th hour, with no attempt having been made to gain teacher and family input. Adding days was already tried and it is not the solution! As a fellow teacher says: "The problem is a lack of resources and a lack of income that drives people away from the profession. NM has some of the lowest teacher salaries and EA's make half that."

What WOULD help are the following, all of which are supported by SF teachers:

1.  
Lower class sizes, particularly in title one schools. At our school,  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the first grade are emergent English Language Learners and having smaller numbers - not more than 18 - would allow me more 1-on-1 time to support the diverse needs of my class
2.  
Having Educational Assistants in grades 1 through 3, not just in preK and K
3.  
Providing innovative summer programming, taught by teachers who WANT to teach during the summer - not ones who are forced to within the formal school structure

4. Getting teacher input BEFORE any proposed rule changes come to this body
5. Raising salaries in a real way - the recent increases were negligible, as days and hours were added to the year

Thank you for your time, Jennifer Warren

**From:** [Molly Mysliwicz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No to Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 3:24:09 AM

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Dear NMPED administrators,

With a near 40% truancy rate statewide, forcing local school districts to add days isn't going to bring those students back to school. It is just going to ensure that more teachers leave the profession. In my school, we have vacancies for a 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade teacher this late in the year. Classes are overloaded, teachers are very stressed and no relief is in sight.

Please vote no to Rule NMAC 6.10.5.

Sincerely,

Molly Mysliwicz, Santa Fe Public School teacher



**From:** [Chad Watson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Days  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 4:24:31 AM

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Covid is the reason for this. It put schools behind two years academically. The extra days will not cure the problem. If teachers and students are given the 180 days, teachers should get paid their daily rate for each extra day. Chad Watson San Jon I.S.D.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Z Flip3 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [Tinas](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule NMAC 6.10.5 r  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 5:06:26 AM

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To:  
Fr: Christine Trujillo, Bilingual Teacher  
Las Cruces Public Schools  
RE: Proposed Rule NMAC 6.10.5

To whom it may concern,

As a fellow educator working in the trenches and in an all year round school district (Las Cruces start date July 15th) I am very concerned about the proposed Rule NMAC 6.10.5. This recommendation that there will be “180 instructional days for students PLUS extra days for PD and teacher prep” is outrageous! This is in contradiction of state statute, passed last session (the one that put us at our current number of hours), that intentionally included those hours within the total instructional hours.

Also, with a near 40% truancy rate statewide, forcing local school districts to add days isn't going to bring those students back to school. Along with many school buildings that are not equipped with up to date HVAC & safe water systems causing a brutal learning environment that cause children to go home because of heat exhaustion & dehydration.

Please reconsider this disservice to both children and educators.

Respectfully,

Christine Trujillo

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Teddy Medina](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Don't change  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 6:25:12 AM

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If we go back to 5 day work week I will look for another job that offers a 4 day work week.

**From:** [Magdalena Jaeger](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Increase of school days  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 7:10:16 AM

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I oppose PED proposed Rule change which will mandate 180 school days for students EXCLUSIVE of teacher Professional Development days and teacher prep. The Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) interpretation of the newly proposed Rule (NMAC 6.10.5) is that there will be 180 instructional days for students PLUS extra days for PD and teacher prep. This is in contradiction of state statute, passed last session (the one that put us at our current number of hours), that intentionally included those hours within the total instructional hours.

Our district has elected to do the extended school year days, which parents already view as optional. Increasing the number of days won't stop parents who take a vacation in the middle of the school year because of a shorter summer or for hunting season. A great alternative is to stop all the state mandated training during the school day and focus staying in the classroom and teach. With a near 40% truancy rate statewide, forcing local school districts to add days isn't going to bring those students back to school.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Davita Ritchie](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Urgent Appeal Against Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 8:04:34 AM

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Good afternoon,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you as a dedicated educator with a deep commitment to the well-being and success of both teachers and students. I must express my strong opposition to the proposed extension of the school year with Rule NMAC 6.10.5.

Prolonging the academic calendar has proven to be counterproductive, leading to teacher burnout and student fatigue. It exacerbates existing challenges rather than addressing them. The toll this takes on the quality of education is undeniable.

Should this initiative proceed, I, along with several colleagues, will be compelled to explore alternative career opportunities. It will not alleviate the teacher shortage in New Mexico by overburdening those already in service. If our essential time off is compromised, it only makes sense to seek fulfilling employment elsewhere.

Our summers and breaks are crucial for rejuvenation and professional development, essential components for effective teaching. If the aim is to retain and attract quality educators, preserving these periods is imperative.

If the extension is implemented, it is only fair that compensatory measures be put in place. Adequate additional sick leave and a commensurate salary raise are necessary to offset the increased demands on educators.

I implore you to reconsider this proposal earnestly. Maintaining the sanctity of our time off is not just a plea but a fundamental requirement for sustaining a motivated and capable teaching force.

Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Davita Ritchie

ELA/ELD 9 Teacher  
Capital High School  
Santa Fe, NM

**From:** [Rebecca Benavidez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 8:14:41 AM

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Hello,

I am writing in regards to the proposed calendar requirement changes for schools.

I am opposed to (as well as many of my colleagues) to any change that would lead to increased contract days (even though the hours are met). Teachers are extremely burnt out with the profession. Any additional days added to the schedule would lead to more teachers leaving education. As it is currently, we have a teacher shortage. Teachers that remain are picking up the slack for the vacant positions which is contributing to the burnout.

I feel the legislature should be looking at ways to promote teacher retention and recruiting to help the short staffed schools.

These proposed changes work in opposition of teacher retention and recruitment.

Thank you for your time,  
Rebecca Benavidez  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade teacher

**From:** [Trish Doherty](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] proposed Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 8:16:30 AM

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Good morning,

Teachers are already up in arms over the hours that have been added to our workload without any additional compensation. We're currently experiencing an unprecedented teacher shortage. If Rule NMAC 6.10.5 passes, you will see a mass exodus of teachers leaving the profession, and this will leave schools in a vulnerable place. Other states are already enacting desperate measures to get more teachers, like allowing people who are only **just enrolled** in teaching programs to take on fulltime teaching positions. Do we really want to head in that direction? Would our students receive a better education if they are getting more hours from inexperienced teachers? If this rule passes, that would be your best-case scenario. The worst-case scenario is schools that are drastically understaffed, which creates safety issues, large classroom sizes, overworked and stressed staff, and students that are **not** receiving a good education. The research shows that more hours do not increase learning. Therefore, it makes no sense to increase hours and create more problems, rather than solve them.

Be smart and **DO NOT PASS Rule NMAC 6.10.5**. Such a thing would be a grave mistake that would lead to the deterioration of education in New Mexico. Please make the right choice and rebuild trust with New Mexico's dedicated educators so that we can build a strong future for our students together.

Sincerely,

Patricia Doherty

Teacher - Harrison Schmitt Elementary - Silver City, NM

**From:** [Judy Walker](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 8:30:49 AM

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To All Legislators,

This email is in protest to the PEDs proposed extension of the school year to go beyond 180 days, exclusive of teacher professional development days. I am an educator, a Librarian, and a parent, so I know what I am talking about through daily experience.

Firstly, what is the PEDs proof that extending the school year will improve our children's education? Are there third party conclusive studies of our population and how more days will improve our children's scores? If there is, that has not been shared. What will occur if more days are added is that teachers will leave the state, other teachers will just add more recess time, and some will use up or exceed all their PTO time; there won't be more education.

Secondly, in the US, the three consistently top educators are New Jersey, New York, and Massachusetts (with Connecticut coming in close) according to *US World News and Report*; these states have a 180 day school year. This proves that more days to the year do not equate to a better education. Use these states as models, instead of constantly forcing a new curriculum into our schools each year. Once a teacher gets used to a program, the PED then changes it up, and introduces yet another program—all because of money and graft.

There is a teacher crisis in the US right now, and especially in New Mexico; adding additional days to the year will only create a more dire crisis.

Teachers have become nurses, counselors, referees, parking lot valets, cafeteria monitors, crossing guards, punching bags, and a host of other so-called duties all for "the sake of the children." That needs to stop, and the idea that adding more days is going to fix all of New Mexico's shortcomings in education is one of fantasy and delusion.

--

*kindest Regards,*

*Judy Walker*

Teacher Librarian  
Nina Otero Community School  
505.467.4291

[jwalker@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:jwalker@sfps.k12.nm.us)

Safe Zone





**From:** [Daniel Liegey](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Additinal PD time.  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 8:40:13 AM

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The rate of increased teacher PD seems to mirror the rate of student decline in student truancy. Cell Phone lockers and a "normal" high school education is needed. We can't take a community that does not value education and force them to into "Think Tank" style classrooms, especially when they have little chance at procuring board room jobs of Chicago or the Non-Profits of Silicon Valley or Brooklyn.

[Arguments are to be avoided; they are always vulgar and often convincing.](#)

**Oscar Wilde**

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**From:** [Lillian Tincher](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 8:45:39 AM

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Why is my comment not being posted? I sent mine in at 1:45 yesterday, and the last comments I see, were emailed at 2:45.

Lillian Tincher, M.A. (She/her/hers)  
3rd Grade Teacher  
Wood Gormley Elementary School  
141 E. Booth Street  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
[ltincher@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:ltincher@sfps.k12.nm.us)  
505-467-4800

On Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 1:45 PM Lillian Tincher <[ltincher@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:ltincher@sfps.k12.nm.us)> wrote:

### **6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements**

I am writing in regards to the PED new rule 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements, specifically the added time.

I am saddened that educators have not been informed of this by the PED nor by the union until 11/15/23, the day it was being presented. It is also concerning that the day and time that the rule is open for comment is scheduled, 11/17/23 at 12:30, at a time that educators cannot attend without coverage, and with the lack of substitute teachers, makes it possible for the majority. Educators are unaware of the new rule although it directly affects their students and their families; therefore, it is imperative that teachers are informed and have a voice in the outcome of the new rule.

I have been an educator with SFPS for 8 years, and I feel that my profession has been completely disrespected due to the lack of educator voice in the matter, as we are the ones with well informed opinions on whether or not these policies will benefit our communities. There really is no credible evidence nor research that shows that simply adding days to the year is going to benefit student achievement. On the contrary, the research shows that adding time has not shown a substantial amount of academic growth; however, having smaller class sizes and more support in the classroom, such as educational assistants and full time counselors, would benefit students and educators immensely in every way. These are things that should be funded. The research that they did provide last legislative session actually debunked the theory of adding time, but they combed through and picked quotes that showed supporting evidence, although the article explained the opposite.

There are many other options if some of our community does want an extended learning program over the summer. For example, one option would be to send out surveys to gather information on the amount of educators, parents, and students that are interested in attending school a few more weeks out of the year instead of making it mandatory for all. If you are to make it mandatory, many educators are going to leave—those that are veterans and new talent that only have a couple of years invested. I am concerned that if this new rule is implemented, we will lose even more teachers, which leaves less support and us with bigger class sizes. Most of us are highly educated individuals, and more than capable of finding opportunities that are more lucrative. We teach because we love it, not because it pays the bills. Nevertheless, if we continue to be ignored and taken advantage of, many of our highly qualified educators will seek out other opportunities. We cannot afford to lose more

educators.

I am aware of what people begin to say about educators when we advocate for our time. We have heard and read the comments, “Teachers are lazy” and “Teachers just don’t want to work”. We heard all of it during COVID when we were trying to protect our families, and even before that. It has nothing to do with not wanting to work, and teachers are anything but lazy. Many of us work hours after the school day and over the weekend to grade, write out student feedback, type up our lesson plans, attend meetings, and participate in professional development. We work overtime every week that we are not paid for; therefore, we are putting in hours upon hours of volunteer work in order to be effective educators, because we love our profession, we love our students, and we love our communities. In addition, during the school day, we are wearing several different hats for 20+ kids every day. Educator, nurse, mediator, counselor, friend, protector, and whatever other that hat is needed at any moment. The notion that educators are lazy is complete nonsense. On top of that, many of us have another job in order to pay our bills. I am a level 3 teacher with a salary of 74,000, but I only net 43, 000 each year because of how much they take out of my check. That does not cover the cost of living. I could not even afford to buy my own home without another job. I know many of us already have jobs lined up for the summer so that we are financially stable. Extended time would postpone or make it impossible for educators to seek out the financial opportunities that we rely on every summer. I am aware that they intend on compensating us, but we make much more working our summer restaurant positions. Not an opportunity cost I can afford.

I work four night shifts on top of working after school and on weekends preparing for my students, and I have 2 year old to take care of when I get home. Therefore, I come to you as an educator and a parent. The majority of the people I work with in the evenings are parents, as well. They are in opposition of the new rule because summertime is the only quality time they have with their children. This is essential family bonding time. As for me, an educator that works both days and evenings, I do not see my daughter for five days and four nights. I am not willing to extend these circumstances for her. The thought utterly breaks my heart. She needs me, and I need her. I need to be able to be with my family, and that is only possible in the summertime when I am only working one job. I do not have the luxury of only working as an educator, it would be financially impossible if I want to own a home and provide my daughter the basic needs she deserves.

I am in agreement that something needs to be done to support all of our students and I think that educators, the ones that are in the classroom, should have a voice in what that should be. We know our profession, we know our students, and we know our communities. Our feedback and input not being required when developing new policies, is unacceptable. I have yet to meet an educator that agrees that extending the school year is beneficial. The educators that I have talked with that do not care either way, do not have the same circumstances as I do and the many other educators that empathize with me. We are the majority. I find it strange that these policies are being developed by individuals that have not been in the classroom, and therefore do not understand the circumstances that many educators face.

With all of that said, educators know that by the end of the year students are wiggly, unfocused, and lack motivation. They reach this point two or three weeks before school is even over. Anyone who has taught, knows this. To keep students in that environment for extended time is cruel. Motivation is everything, without it, nothing can be taught well nor learned well. Furthermore, summer vacation is a time that many spend time in camps and/or with family, which is just as valuable as being in the classroom—saying that they need to spend that time in school is devaluing their education outside of the classroom. Also, many educators are already overworked and underpaid—this is not news to anyone. We work overtime as educators on top of having weekend, evening, and/or summer jobs in order to

feel financially stable. Educators already feel that they are taken advantage of, we feel that more and more is required of us each year with very little compensation or none at all, and that many do not care what we have to say or how we feel. Frankly, it is exhausting. Now and in the future, please consider the voices of your educators, their experiences, their circumstances, and seek out their knowledge when developing and implementing new policies that affect them, their students, their families, and their communities as a whole.

Respectfully,

Lillian Tincher

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Lillian Tincher, M.A. (She/her/hers)  
3rd Grade Teacher  
Wood Gormley Elementary School  
141 E. Booth Street  
Santa Fe, New Mexico  
[ltincher@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:ltincher@sfps.k12.nm.us)  
505-467-4800

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**From:** [Megan McPeek](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 8:46:19 AM

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The proposed Rule NMAC 6.10.5 clearly did not involve teachers in the thought process, if it had it would have been understood that the truancy rate of close to 40% has nothing to do with teachers, but more with the availability of child care and parenting. Adding additional PD days for teachers is certainly not the answer.

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Megan McPeek, MA, MA  
Special Education Teacher  
TESOL  
NEA Representative  
Nina Otero Community School

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**From:** [Paul McLaughlin](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 40% Truancy Rate / NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 9:02:49 AM

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Law makers need to bring back and fund some kind of truancy court again. Many parents are not taking school attendance seriously or prioritizing attendance and teachers are left to pick up the pieces and catch those students up in learning.

Want to increase attendance? get as many students as possible in organized and well-funded music programs. Kids will WANT to come to school...

Dr. McLaughlin  
Lynn MS  
Las Cruces

**From:** [Kim Griffis](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC 6.10.5 Interpretation  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 9:47:01 AM

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Dear PED reps,

I am writing about the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) interpretation of the newly proposed Rule (NMAC 6.10.5) is that there will be 180 instructional days for students PLUS extra days for PD and teacher prep. I believe that this is in contradiction of state statute, passed last session.

With a near 40% truancy rate statewide, forcing local school districts to add days isn't going to bring those students back to school. This issue is about Quality over Quantity.

Please reconsider this interpretation. Thanks for your time.

peace,kim griffis.

(they/them) Monte del Sol Social Studies Teacher

**From:** [John Christian Love](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC Opposition to the Proposed Extension of the School Year  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 9:53:56 AM

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Dear PED,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to you as a concerned parent and spouse of a dedicated teacher within our school district. I wish to express my opposition to the proposed amendment to extend the school year, as outlined in the recent draft of 6.10.5 NMAC.

First and foremost, I believe this proposal overlooks the significant impact such a change would have on both students and teachers. As a parent, I have observed firsthand how the current school calendar allows my children to have a well-deserved break during the summer, a time which is crucial for their mental and physical rejuvenation. Extending the school year, in my opinion, would not necessarily equate to an improvement in educational outcomes but rather could lead to increased student burnout and decreased engagement.

From a teacher's perspective, and as someone closely connected to one, I can attest to the already demanding schedules our educators endure. Many teachers, including my spouse, juggle multiple responsibilities, including additional jobs and mandatory professional development training sessions required by the Public Education Department (PED). Reducing their summer break would not only limit their time for these essential trainings but also significantly reduce the precious time they spend with their own families, which is vital for their wellbeing and effectiveness as educators.

Furthermore, I firmly believe that placing the burden of rectifying educational shortcomings on the length of the school year is a misguided approach. The idea of extending the school year seems to imply that students are failing because of the amount of instructional time they receive. However, this perspective fails to recognize that education is a collaborative effort involving not just schools but also families and communities. Rather than extending the school year, I propose we explore initiatives that more deeply involve parents and guardians in the educational process. This could include parent-teacher workshops, community educational programs, or even home-based learning supports.

In conclusion, while I appreciate the efforts to enhance our educational system, I strongly urge you to reconsider this proposal. An extension of the school year, in my view, is not the solution we need. Instead, let us focus on strengthening the quality of education through community and family engagement, and by supporting our teachers in ways that respect their time and contributions.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important matter. I look forward to



a resolution that prioritizes the wellbeing of our students and educators alike.

Sincerely,

John Christian Love



**John Christian Love** | Actor / Filmmaker / Thinker

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**From:** [Justin Doubt](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PED proposed Rule  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 10:09:32 AM

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As a teacher in NM I've noticed the more time in school does not equate to better performance. More support when it comes to getting more licensed teachers, more support in classrooms, and just more funding in general all have more effect on children's education. With the full 180 days last implemented has been rough in my district in terms of how kids are not able to easily take that much education, and are falling asleep by the end of the day. Some of this can be relieved other ways like a block schedule but the amount of time for these kids are not having a positive effect, and might need less time, or a change of what counts as "time in school"

**From:** [Bess Rusk](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [bess.rusk@carlsbadschools.net](mailto:bess.rusk@carlsbadschools.net)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 10:43:29 AM

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Subject: Rule NMAC 6.10.5

Good morning, I have just been made aware of the PED proposed Rule change which will mandate 180 school days for students exclusive of teacher Professional Development days and teacher prep. This message expresses my strong opposition to the proposed **Rule NMAC 6.10.5**.

As a concerned educator, parent, and union member, in Carlsbad, NM, I believe that the implementation of this rule would have negative consequences and the opposite intended impact on students, parents, and faculty and staff of public schools.

With a near 40% truancy rate statewide, forcing local school districts to add days isn't going to bring those students back to school.

The Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) interpretation of the newly proposed Rule (NMAC 6.10.5) is that there will be 180 instructional days for students plus extra days for PD and teacher prep. This is in contradiction of state statute, passed last session that intentionally included those hours within the total instructional hours. More hours does not equate to more "learning." In addition to the added strain on time for educators and families, monetary constraints and funding may not be sustainable in all districts. Burnout, apathy, and fatigue have affected many ( including me, who is contemplating leaving my beloved profession) and we still have no prediction of long term consequences.

I strongly urge the LESC and team to reconsider the implications of this proposed rule on all communities and to explore alternative solutions that address the underlying issues without causing unnecessary harm. I request that all educators, staff and guardians have input as we are the resources in the "trenches".

I appreciate your attention to this matter, validating my concerns, and look forward to a thoughtful reconsideration of the proposed rule. I believe that by working together, we can find a solution that balances the needs of stakeholders involved while minimizing the potential negative impact yet holding us all accountable.

In regards,

Bess L. Rusk, MA

**From:** [phyllis trujillo](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 11:18:11 AM

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In all truth to the truancy and absences, the additional days will not make students come to school more, it will lengthen or add to the percentage. Students will only have more days to become absent or tardy with the idea that they have more time. Time that teachers will have to allow make-up and missed work. Many already execute this opportunity because they have become conditioned to be chance after chance with no deadline.

This was already passed, there needs to be time for it to work prior to creating another change. We may even lose students to online learning or to GED programs.

**From:** [Carlos](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Extending school year. PED feedback on Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 11:26:54 AM

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As an SFPS teacher and parent I wanted to note that I am against adding school days to the year. We keep trying to fix socioeconomic issue that impact learning through more school time. Teacher and student burn out is real. We lose quality teachers every year. Quality teaching is key but that won't fix societal ills. However I also see this rule change and inevitably. So the most important thing PED needs to know and consider is that HS and Elementary schools are very different. AP exams start in May. Students and teachers have been grinding we are done after that. If days hours are added it must be at the beginning of the year and not then end.

Carlos Caldwell

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [melissa medina](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule NMAC 6.10.5 --concerns  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 12:07:14 PM

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I am writing this in response to the PED proposed Rule change which will mandate 180 school days for students EXCLUSIVE of teacher Professional Development days and teacher prep. The Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) interpretation of the newly proposed Rule (NMAC 6.10.5) is that there will be 180 instructional days for students PLUS extra days for PD and teacher prep. This is in contradiction of state statute, passed last session (the one that put us at our current number of hours), that intentionally included those hours within the total instructional hours. With a near 40% truancy rate statewide, forcing local school districts to add days isn't going to bring those students back to school.

Proposed Rule NMAC 6.10.5 will not help our students or teachers here in NM, it will lead to MORE teacher burn-out, early retirement, less in-coming new educators to our districts, and a larger--unnecessary workload for already burdened educators. Teachers are leaving the workforce in ever growing numbers currently, and Proposed Rule NMAC 6.10.5 will only add fuel to the fire.

Please consider the proposition and outcome for both students and teachers, is it going to give NM the results it wants, or leave us worse off than before? This is detrimental for Both students and educators in the long run.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Goetsch-Medina  
K-12 Visual Arts Instructor  
Raton Public Schools

**From:** [Sarah Mohr](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] To whom it may concern  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 12:48:12 PM

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I am writing in opposition to the new rule presented by the PED as a concerned parent. I feel that many individuals' circumstances are being overlooked by this decision. For example, I am a single mother who works at night. Therefore, I am only able to spend limited quality time with my my son in the evening time. I only see him for a few minutes several days a week. The summer break is a crucial period of time for him to decompress and bond with his family. Adding more and more time to the school year, which it feels like we continue to do, takes time away from other rich learning opportunities I can provide. I value the experiences that he enjoys outside of school. Instead of taking more break time away from our kids, would it not be possible to fund smaller class sizes in order for teachers to have more time with individual students that are struggling and/or provide families with educational supports at home? I fear that this decision will have many negative impacts on several families. I have noticed that there is a lot of opposition, and I hope that you reconsider this amendment to the school calendar.

Sincerely,

Sarah Mohr



**From:** [sarah demosthenous](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 12:59:41 PM

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Whom It May Concern,

My name is Sarah Demosthenous and I have been an educator for the past 20 years in the Santa Fe Public School district. Not only am I teacher, but a mom of a SFPS student.

I was recently made aware that the PED is trying to add more calendar days to the school year. I am writing to you to voice my strong opposition.

**Adding more instructional days is a band aide fit to the real issue in helping our students succeed. If the goal is increasing student achievement, it is simple, reduce elementary class size and recruit/train more highly effective teachers. We cannot simply do more of the same.**

The proposal to add more days, without equally increasing pay, will drive teachers to leave the profession and/or the state. Please do not allow the PED to make rash decisions in order to make up for the reasons for the current state of education in New Mexico.

Again, from an educator with over 24 years of experience, if we want to improve student outcomes, we must first look at class sizes and teacher effectiveness.

Thank you.

-Sarah Demosthenous

**From:** [Travis Simpson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 1:13:38 PM

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As an educator in a title one school I am concerned with the proposed changes that NMAC 6.10.5 will bring to the school calendar. I have seen truancy increase with the past changes of additional time and days made to the calendar. It's my opinion that if you want to decrease truancy you need to shorten the year or maybe go to a four day week to allow families to have quality time with each other. This will also provide incentive for the recruitment of new teachers to fill the many vacancies we are now experiencing.

T. Travis Simpson  
Visual Art Teacher  
Dennis Chavez Elementary

**From:** [Mara Raden](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: NMAC 6.10.5 calendar issue  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 1:14:30 PM

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Hello,

Teachers are overworked. They're underpaid. They've made clear what they need, whether it's libraries (our kids are not learning literacy online, they need books), classroom assistants, special Ed assistance, more teaching time less admin time, supplies, full time counselors, full time nurses, smaller class sizes, more time teaching- less time teaching to tests, snacks for kids, field trips, any and everything.

Education is in crisis. What teachers don't need, is to work more outside of the classroom learning things that aren't necessarily relevant to their individual classrooms. It's expensive, and wasn't asked for. Give them what they're actually asking for.

Thanks,  
Mara Raden

Note: When submitting feedback, we kindly request that you specify which rule(s) you are submitting feedback for. This is especially helpful when the Department is accepting feedback for multiple proposed rules at the same time.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Katherine MacDermott](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 190 day mandatory calendar  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 1:33:52 PM

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Shame on you for thinking that extending our teaching and PD days is going to solve the Attendance and Lack of School Work issues in our district. Do you really think that students with chronic absenteeism are going to attend school more because there are more days for them to attend? Do you really think that adding school days to the calendar will keep teachers from leaving the profession because they will want to work more to get paid not much more? Do you really think that adding school days to the calendar will make students more productive because they will want to do more work and have less of a summer break? This issue will cause many teachers to move to other school districts and our attendance rates to go down even more because there will be more days for them to miss. We need to come up with ways to solve these problems that are more than adding days to our calendar and time to our school days. Thank you

Have a Wonderful Day :)  
K.MacDermott (science teacher)

"All That We See Or Seem  
Is But A Dream Within A Dream" Edgar Allan Poe

*"Communicate Anyway Anyhow" Oasis*

"for when you gaze long into the abyss...  
the abyss also gazes into you."

Frederich  
Nietzsche

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**From:** [Carol Luttrell](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to the proposed PED rule change  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 1:37:07 PM

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Hello. My name is Carol Luttrell. I'm a 5th-grade teacher at El Dorado Community School here in Santa Fe. I am a National Board Certified Teacher with TESOL and Gifted Endorsements. I have been teaching in Santa Fe for 18 years, and I am opposed to the proposed rule changes regarding increased instructional time.

Most current studies on the effect of additional instructional time on student achievement begin with a statement like this: More instructional time leads to better student performance *if* .... Or Research on the causal effect of time in school on academic achievement suggests that increased time *could* be beneficial *if* .... And the important part of those studies is always in the details after the if. This proposed rule stops before the if. The research seems pretty clear that simply adding time to the school calendar is NOT the answer.

Our reality in NM (and in many other states) is that we have a critical teacher shortage with an aging cohort of teachers. In my hallway alone at El Dorado, almost every teacher is within 5 years or less of retirement - three grade levels, plus art, and special education. And that's just my hallway. There is no full pipeline of newly trained teachers ready to take our places. The solution is not - and has never been - to continue adding to the teachers' plates or to continue to add days to the school year. Unless your goal is to shut down public education altogether - which many of us are beginning to believe is your goal - this is NOT the answer.

Where should you focus your money, energy, and intentions?

- How about teacher retention, new teacher support, and promoting teacher education programs (especially in special ed which is a critical need today)?
- How about increasing public awareness of family responsibilities to children's education - including the importance of reading at home from an early age, regular attendance at school, teaching accountability and respect at home, and stressing learning as a family priority?
- How about refocusing our educational system on the acquisition of knowledge and skills over another set of test data? If we lessen (not eliminate, but lessen) the chokehold that testing has on our system and allow teachers to teach

throughout the year, you could gain those extra instructional hours back without adding to the current calendars, and then put the money you'd save back into the schools (perhaps to pay bus drivers and support staff a living wage) instead of continuing to line the pockets of the multi-million dollar educational testing industry.

We need you all to start listening to the professionals who do this work every day. This proposal will not improve the educational situation in NM and is likely to cause more teachers to leave the profession. Something our state cannot afford. Please hear us. Thank you for your time.

**From:** [JULIA MONTOYA](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 2:22:47 PM

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To the Secretary of of PED:

As a teacher in New Mexico the proposed calendar changes are disturbing to me. Instead of looking beyond the calendar you are assuming that the solution remains in further EXTENDING the school year. Perhaps you should reflect upon the educational standard within other higher performing states and countries that say the exact opposite of your proposition. You are also NOT taking into account the extra strain placed on teachers. Most of us do not receive enough paid time off to cover our own illnesses in the current school year, let alone if you have children who also fall ill during the school year. Teachers and school staff are also not being appropriately compensated for our levels of education and time spent at work under the existing calendars and yet you would ask us to work even more for no increase in base pay. I personally would not work any longer without a minimum 10% increase in pay. Your calendar plans also fail to account for students who already miss an inappropriate amount of school, extending the school year under no circumstances guarantees that those students will suddenly start showing up to school. The attendance laws in New Mexico simply are too lax. Teachers are stressed, burning out, and leaving the educational field in alarming numbers and yet it would appear your goal is to further drive teachers away. If your goal is to simply have technology run classrooms without ever seeing a teacher physically enter the classroom then this is the way to achieve that goal. Making laws about school calendars without the input of the people is also government infiltration in our right to vote and have input in our PUBLIC schools as a community. I strongly suggest you reconsider unjust treatment of educational staff and students within the state of New Mexico considering we have seen NO statistically significant changes in our education within the last 10 years.

Thank you,  
Ms. Montoya

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**From:** [ninaervin82](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 2:40:24 PM

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I am writing to offer and opinion as an educator, at a public school in Valencia County, about Rule NMAC 6.10.5.

I do not understand how a rule, like this one, can be met without a school, district or charter having some flexibility to meet the rule expectations.

Example: How does the time a student spends in Art, Counselor, Library, Music, or P.E. count as instructional minutes, IF, it doesn't simultaneously count as Professional Hours/Development time for the Homeroom Teacher during the school day?

The verbiage of "Calendar Day" versus School Day is unnecessary, unless School Days are supposed to also mean Saturday and Sunday (also calendar days).

K-12+ should be an option for a school, district, or charter - not a requirement.

The rule appears problematic if effective January 2024. In my opinion, the change would be premature and chaotic without allowing schools, districts, and charters an opportunity to scrutinize the expectations and fashion a response that considers many logistics and possible exceptions.

Thank you,  
Celina Cordova



**From:** [JENNIFER SETTLE](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC (School Calendar Requirements)  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 2:55:00 PM

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To the Secretary of PED:

I am a Kindergarten teacher at The Arts Academy at Bella Vista in Clovis, NM 88101. I am submitting comments on the proposed rule change to extend the school year. I oppose the rule change due to the following:

1. The extension may only be 4 days for the kids, but does not take into account teacher training, conferences, professional development days, etc. This may effectively extend teacher work days up to one month. I strongly want you to value the teachers who stay in New Mexico and teach as well as my time with family, too.
2. The studies are completely inconclusive as to whether extending school days is beneficial, and may indicate that there is no net benefit.
3. The studies show that extending the school year is incredibly costly.
4. A better approach would be to fund after school programs and summer programs that are not taught by teachers (unless they want to).
5. NM has already shown significant problems in teacher retention. Don't adopt a policy that forces more teachers out of the profession. I personally know many who would leave the profession if their time with their family was decreased by this rule change.
4. Studies have proven that attendance, engagement, effective teachers and family inclusion are vital to the educational process. Until we address the inability to ensure students are in school, their education suffers, schools are held at a disadvantage.

Jennifer Settle  
Kindergarten teacher/ EL case manager  
Arts Academy at Bella Vista  
575-769-4435

"[Kids] don't remember what you try to teach them. They remember what you are."

— Jim Henson

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**From:** [VIVIAN MONTALVO-CORDOVA](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 3:50:34 PM

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RE: Opposition to the expansion of the school calendar year.

Greetings, PED!

I would much rather see a shift from 5 days a week to 4 with a slightly longer school day. Additional Financial resources should be allocated as follows: preschool services at age 3 for all students, other SEL services for all students, and improving the retention and recruitment of needed school personnel, particularly bilingual evaluators such as SLPs and Diagnosticians.

Vivian Montalvo  
Bilingual Certified Educational Diagnostician; Lead  
Gattis Office E 210  
Clovis Municipal Schools  
Phone-575-769-4490 Ext. 3512  
Fax-575-769-4330

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*'I became an educational diagnostician because improving a child's life is a joyful privilege.'*

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**From:** [Amanda Kraft](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School calendar requirements  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 4:08:34 PM

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I am a teacher at New Mexico International School. I am writing in response to the NMPED proposing amendments to [NMAC 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements](#). Last year our school calendar changed and increased its hours to 1,140 per year. Now, I see that even more changes to increase hours and to change requirements are being pushed forward via governing by decree and a proposed rule adopted, and not by the legislative process.

I'm concerned because we have not even finished the current year with the new legislative requirements, and we are already being pushed to add more hours. Why don't we slow down and look at data first to see if student engagement and achievement is consistent with our current plan?

As a teacher and a parent I dislike having governing officials who are outside of our realm make decisions for us and our students. Before any more changes are made into law, I urge you to ask for input from school leadership and parents on the current required number of hours. Being a teacher and a parent is a physically and emotionally taxing role. Adding more hours and more requirements may lead to burn out of our current teachers. My 1st grader is exhausted at the end of the day, and I do not see adding more minutes to his day to be in his best academic interest.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts. Thank you for your time.

--

**Amanda Kraft**  
**(she, her, ella) NBCT**  
**New Mexico International School**  
An International Baccalaureate World School  
[My Website](#)

**From:** [Block, John](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 4:19:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-k1u54ksy.png](#)

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Dear Secretary Romero and Public Education Department personnel,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed rule change to “[6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements](#),” which will adversely affect our educators, students, and families, especially across rural New Mexico.

As we heard in the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) on Friday, November 17, 2023, over 18 educators and stakeholders testified during the Committee’s public comment section about the stresses that these proposed rules will have, especially increasing instructional school days to 180 exclusive of professional development and preparation time.

I share their concerns, as more instructional time does not equate to better results. It could have the opposite effect on our students by burning them out while stretching teachers — who already work very hard — even thinner.

This rule will force teachers to leave New Mexico for states that offer less mandated time in the classroom. Some of the highest-ranked states regarding K-12 education, such as Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Wisconsin, and Virginia, have fewer instructional hours than New Mexico (ranked 51<sup>st</sup> behind all states and the District of Columbia) but perform dramatically better. States that rank near the bottom of the list alongside us, such as Oklahoma, have similarly high instructional hours in the classroom. More instructional hours and days added do not increase performance; they thwart it.

Also, the verbiage of the proposed rule directly contradicts state statute, with the language passed in 2023’s [H.B. 130](#), which explicitly reads, “**Up to sixty instructional hours** per school year for elementary grades and thirty instructional hours for middle and high school grades **may be used for professional work hours**, which may be embedded during the course of a normal school day.”

The proposed rule, in conflict with the statute, asserts that “all public school calendars shall include at least 180 instructional days per school year, **exclusive** of teacher professional work hours.”

Furthermore, banning four-day school weeks disproportionately affects rural communities, which require long-distance travel to and from school, and other factors

that make this rule especially punitive to them.

I oppose this rulemaking change and request the PED swiftly reject it.

Sincerely,

**Rep. John Block**

House District 51



**From:** [Nomi Gallo](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please NO  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 4:23:06 PM

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## Talking points on what's wrong with PED's plan to change NMAC 6.10.5.

### First of all....

## More is not better. It is just MORE

Without addressing the abundant reasons that children underperform, simply putting them through more is counter intuitive. Keeping kids in school longer does not address GUNS, family violence, shortfalls of CYFD, drug abuse, neighborhood violence, pollution in places of poverty, healthy foods deserts, poor teeth and overall health, homelessness and the inability to walk to school because of the above factors, and a general lack of healthy choices.

1. It is abundantly clear that **the intent of the legislature is for districts and charters to count hours, not days**. In fact, in 2011 the legislature actually changed 22-2-8.1 to stop counting school days but rather to count school hours. The PED's plan to count days in addition to hours clearly goes against the well-documented intent of the law.
2. Requiring time for lunch outside of time for lunch recess shows a complete disconnect between our PED and the day-to-day operation of a school. **If we want to mandate length of time for lunches then count them as instructional.**
3. Recesses are considered instructional. **What makes a "lunch recess" different from other recesses to make it non instructional?** Why are passing periods instructional, but not if they are to and from lunch?
4. Successful schools such as NMIS
  - Ranked in the highest level in NM VISTAS by the PED for the past two consecutive years

Recipient of Bilingual Excellence Award 3 consecutive years

o

Recognized by NM House of Representatives for its quality program **have early release Wednesdays so we can better deliver our award-winning instructional program.** How can you simultaneously give accolades to schools like NMIS for doing so well and then at the same time criticize its calendar as being insufficient? By every PED-inspired measure, our program is high achieving. Having an early release Wednesday is a student-focused component of a program. Making them only count as 0.5 days de-incentivizes this key feature, and may actually decrease our student performance.

5.

**Upon what data are these decisions based?** *We have not even finished the current year with the new legislative requirements.* Why are we adding requirements now before we've even seen how this year has played out?

6.

The length of a school calendar, length of day and instructional minimums are the purview of the duly elected NM Legislature, not appointed executives. **The PED is seeking to overstep its role by passing rules that should be submitted through the legislative process.** Enough of this "governing by decree" that the executive branch is doing time and again. Either we're a democracy or we're not.

**From:** [Joely Morales Villela](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regarding PED's plan to change NMAC 6.10.5.  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 4:24:37 PM

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### [PROPOSED AMENDMENT](#)

There are several issues with the language PED is suggesting. Here are some talking points:

- **In Section 8.C:** The PED wants to **add a requirement that school calendars are also at least 180 student days *excluding professional work hours***. This is in addition to the 1,140 instructional hours required by law. It is abundantly clear that the intent of the legislature is for districts and charters to count hours, not days. In fact, in 2011 the legislature actually changed 22-2-8.1 to stop counting school days but rather to count school hours. The PED's plan to count days in addition to hours clearly goes against the well-documented intent of the law.
- **In Section 8.D:** The PED wants to **define an "instructional day" based on length**. A "full day" would have to be at least 5.5 instructional hours long (which excludes lunch). And a "half-day" would have to be at least 3.5 instructional hours long. This would mean that each early-release Wednesday we have would only count as 0.5 days towards the new 180-day minimum. We currently have 38 "short days" which would now only count as 19 days, even though we're here working for the benefit of our students for all 38 of those days. When else would we do our required MLSS meetings, staff meetings, planning with colleagues, etc.? By discouraging and decreasing the opportunity for meetings, planning and/or teacher's collaboration, the PED is basically creating a work-educational environment that will negatively impact children's education. Most teachers already work extra time, including weekends doing school related things, such as grading or preparing materials, there is time invested behind every instructional hour that hasn't been considered
- **Have early release Wednesdays so we can better deliver our instructional program.** How can you simultaneously give accolades to schools like NMIS for doing so well and then at the same time criticize its calendar as being insufficient? By every PED-inspired measure, our program is high achieving. Having an early release Wednesday is a student-focused component of a program. Making them only count as 0.5 days de-incentivizes this key feature, and may actually decrease our student performance.
- **In Section 8.E:** The PED wants to require lunch to be 30 minutes, and it wants to continue to exclude lunch from the instructional hour total, but also **exclude lunch recess and passing periods to and from lunch**. Our current calendar excludes lunch (30 min/day) from our instructional hour total, but we'd now have to make lunch 30 minutes *and if we wanted to keep a lunch recess, that too would be not counted, nor would any scheduled passing periods to/from lunch*. This would make our current calendar 127 hours short from the required minimum.
- Requiring time for lunch outside of time for lunch recess shows a complete disconnect between our PED and the day-to-day operation of a school. If we want to mandate



length of time for lunches then count them as instructional.

- **Upon what data are these decisions based?** *We have not even finished the current year with the new legislative requirements.* Why are we adding requirements now before we've even seen how this year has played out?

Putting aside the teacher-worker perspective, has the PED even considered how this incise on time would impact students? How bad does the legislation want to expand the burn-out effect to students by making developing children stay more days-time inside of a classroom? Whatever quota we're trying to meet with these changes, it will backfire with poor-low performance (from students and teachers) in the long run, and it's a matter of common sense.

Respectfully,

--

**Joely Morales Villela**

4th Grade Teacher

**New Mexico International School**

An International Baccalaureate World School

7215 Montgomery Blvd. NE

Albuquerque, NM 87109 USA

(505)503-7670

[www.nmis.org](http://www.nmis.org)

**From:** [Wendy Leighton](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule NMAC 6.10.5/NO!  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 4:52:06 PM

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AS AN EDUCATOR OF 33 YEARS I AM WRITING TO SAY NO! TO THIS PROPOSED  
RULE AND POTENTIAL VIOLATION OF THE CURRENT STATE STATUTE

Professional Educators need the resources to do their job. We need books, art supplies, time to meet with parents/families and planning time uninterrupted. Forcing all school districts in the state to mandate 180 days and make teachers work extra days without a salary increase is a form of discrimination. Truancy rates will NOT improve by extending the school year and removing professional development days. We change lives. Teachers. We have a teacher shortage. We have to deal with violence, school shootings, attacks from the media and government officials, book bans and a low salary as a few examples. The PED and Secretary must stand up for us and support us. We deserved to be respected for one of the hardest and most stressful professions in our society.

Wendy Leighton  
Educator/Santa Fe

**From:** [lasciastare61@yahoo.com](mailto:lasciastare61@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Against proposed rule change NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Saturday, November 18, 2023 6:57:41 AM

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I am a resident of Santa Fe and a taxpayer. I am against the proposed rule change because it will not positively impact the quality of education in our state.

In fact, the proposed rule change is a step backwards.

Respectfully,

David DePolo

**From:** [Regan Renee](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] from REGAN TUTTLE, SPFS  
**Date:** Saturday, November 18, 2023 10:03:38 AM

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My name is Regan Tuttle. I teach at El Dorado Community School, 7th and 8th grade, English Language Arts. I've been teaching on and off the last 21 years.

I went to a teacher college, Northeastern State University, in Tahlequah Oklahoma. I have a master's degree, was a PhD candidate in English at Texas Tech University and have done AP (Advanced Placement) training. I am a Level 3 teacher for the state of New Mexico.

I'm completely opposed to changing PED rules and extending the school year.

The chaos of the last few years has been a lot to navigate. That includes teaching both online and in-person for the COVID pandemic, the SFPS District implementing standards-based grading, and the escalating social-emotional needs of today's youth.

My students don't need 10 extra days of the school year, and neither do my fellow colleagues. We need highly-qualified special ed teachers on site to support learning differences. We need more educational assistants supporting teachers in classrooms — and better pay for those positions. We need sign-on bonuses for new teachers, especially those with a degree in the field of education. We need parenting classes and more family engagement. We need to adopt Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies (PBIS) across the board, so that students see school as a loving, safe place. We also need real action and follow-through regarding truancy and tardiness. We need bus drivers and competitive pay for those positions. We need to teach new teachers about classroom management, so that students are not walking out in the middle of class without permission and unaccounted for in other schools. We need smaller class sizes — and this is truly the key to building relationships with students and creating a successful learning environment. We need to get kids off their phones and social media and to incentivize reading and STEM. We also need snow

days — not remote days — for inclement weather.

I'm very good at what I do. I'm also exhausted. There are many corporate jobs I — like other teachers — are qualified to do, but I — like other teachers who keep showing up — do it for kids. Unfortunately, I feel there will come a time, way before my retirement eligibility, where I will likely choose an easier career path. It's proposed rulings like this that invite me to question my future as a teacher.

Although I feel very valued by my site administrators, I don't feel valued by my district or my state. In fact, I feel like a machine, one that is disposable, one that keeps getting programmed with top-down directives like standards-based grading, canned curriculums, and more.

I urge you to listen to teachers and to not extend the school year.

Regan Tuttle, EDCS teacher and owner/editor of San Miguel Basin Forum

**From:** [Sandy Essary-Hoyt](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule  
**Date:** Saturday, November 18, 2023 1:19:54 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am very concerned about the rule to do away with the four day school week. In rural districts this is a major tool to assist in recruitment and retention of teachers.

More time does not equate to better results. As a teacher currently teaching in a school with a four day week, I have more stamina rigorous days, and my students are more excited about school and learning. I drive 35 miles each way to school. The fuel cost and extra driving time would not be worth it to me. Burnout can have an adverse effect on outcomes.

Please dismiss this ruling. If we want to improve outcomes, there are better ways to do that. Motivation and engagement top the list. More time to a disengaged and unmotivated student body can be disastrous. Trauma, low SES, and stress lead the list of causes for poorer outcomes. Let's start there and put some teeth into resources for families to improve life outside of school, so students have a brain that has the capacity and readiness to learn while at school. It is scientific fact that a brain under trauma cannot learn under any circumstance. I can guarantee poor outcomes are more due to those factors than any other.

Sincerely,

Sandra Johnson.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Alexandra Blossom](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule (NMAC 6.10.5)  
**Date:** Saturday, November 18, 2023 4:00:14 PM

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Good afternoon,

I am emailing in opposition to the proposed amendment to the School Instructional Time Requirements, which if passed, would require at least 190 days in our school calendar.

Over the years, more and more time has been added to the calendar and to the school year yet educational outcomes have not changed significantly and teacher burnout has only increased. Chronic absenteeism in New Mexico's schools are the issue, not the amount of school days. Make students attend school rather than adding days they will not attend. Please see [this Santa Fe New Mexican article](#) discussing the issue. I work at Capital High where, as reported in the article, 86% of students regularly miss classes.

If anything, year-round schooling, rather than adding days, would better increase student retention, reduce learning loss, and give teachers more regular breaks to decrease burnout. However, this new amendment does not achieve either.

Please do not pass this amendment.

--

**Alex Blossom**

*Master of Science in Secondary Education*

*World History Teacher*

*Capital High School*

**Phone:** 505-437-1554 (text and voicemail only)

**Email:** [ablossom@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:ablossom@sfps.k12.nm.us)



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**From:** [Warren Johnson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback  
**Date:** Saturday, November 18, 2023 8:38:54 PM

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Once again. PED and others ri g their respective hands-over the HS school drop out rate with no solution!

Really well if our Third Graders cannot read at grade level and are sent along and continue to fall behind. The rational well the teachers can pick up the reading issue. Gone are real teachers with reading strategies to work with teachers- oh yes 30 plus students. Well NEA where are the smaller classes- a failure of the organization.

The culture of middle school Why work I will go to GA any way. Reading classes well thats the teachers job. Well five sections of 30 plus lots of time.

EAL well full emersion no real EAL class instruction. Try that if you do not speak English. Where are the classes to help the none English speaking parents. Ho not the PED issue? Ut the grail-of 180 days of instruction.

High School well all-must take the College Track. But most are not interested where are the trades a purpose!!!!!! And the dropout rate would fall.

What is proposed does bot help the student. This is another proposal driven by statistics not reality or understanding NM ,its families the needs of-our workforce, or the student who wants a job. Who asks the teacher who walks among those faced with the issue of learning student, parent, teacher.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Colleen Hogan](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for:  
**Date:** Sunday, November 19, 2023 5:37:48 AM

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Note: When submitting feedback, we kindly request that you specify which rule(s) you are submitting feedback for. This is especially helpful when the Department is accepting feedback for multiple proposed rules at the same time.

**In regards to the following rule:  
6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements**

As I understand, the proposed change would increase instructional hours significantly. I do not believe that increasing the amount of time students are in school each day will benefit students or teachers. All students, but especially elementary students have a limited capacity for being in the classroom and need ample outside/movement time including frequent recess breaks. They also need time away from school to experience different things and come back refreshed. Teachers also need time to plan, reflect and adjust for ever changing classroom dynamics.

Rather than increasing the number of days/hours in the school day or year, I think summer vacation time should be spread throughout the year. Having more frequent longer breaks would increase learning and moral and decrease learning loss and mid-behaviors.

Thank you  
COLLEEN HOGAN

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**From:** [Jennifer Warren](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; lesc@nmlegis.gov](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed rule change NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Sunday, November 19, 2023 8:04:48 AM

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**Greetings,**

**I was at the LESC Public Forum on Friday, November 17, along with at least 25 fellow SFPS teachers.**

**The message we delivered was loud and clear: adding more days is not only not a solution, but if instituted, would cause harm.**

**PLEASE listen to educators and try NEW ways to address our educational system in New Mexico!**

**We do not need more hours or days; what we do need:**

- 1. smaller classes**
- 2. more qualified EAs in our classrooms - definitely up through 3rd grade**
- 3. Qualified substitutes for when we cannot be there**
- 4. funding for trainings that WE choose!**
- 5. Higher salaries - the raises for 23/24 were negligible since hours and days were added to the year and health insurance premiums went up**

**Please consider creating a task force that includes teachers to address the situations in NM schools - we care, and we have ideas!**

**Thank you for your time.**

**Sincerely,**

**Jennifer Warren**

Nina Otero, Grade 1 teacher

Level 3/TESOL/Nat Geo Certified Educator

NEASF AR

**From:** [BRENDI CABELDUE](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule 6.10.5  
**Date:** Sunday, November 19, 2023 9:36:54 AM

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I am writing in regards to the proposed rule of increasing the educational school year. I am vehemently against this action. Our NM schools do not need more of the same. We do not need the same overwhelmed teachers being more overwhelmed. We do not need the same chronic absent student to be absent for even more days. We do not need the same bored student to continue to be bored for more days. All you are proposing is to pour more trouble onto an already troubled system. Please, I urge you to go back and rethink what will really help our students achieve success such as team building practices for school personnel, accountability for absenteeism paired with school based outreach for parents, and more funding of inspirational programs like the science fair, the living museum, and play productions for example.

Again, I urge you to please be reasonable and truly think about the peoples lives you are affecting. Make the responsible choice of voting no to a longer school year.

--

Brendi Cabeldue  
2nd Grade Teacher  
Highland Elementary

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**From:** [Elizabeth Tidrick](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No way on NMAC6.10.5  
**Date:** Sunday, November 19, 2023 9:42:34 AM

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Dear PED,

Just STOP! Every teacher I know is very clear that more school hours in the year is doing absolutely NOTHING to change student outcomes. The absolute only thing that will work is smaller class sizes and better parent involvement. School year 24/25 is likely my last because administrators and legislators have done nothing but double the job I must do every day. You are literally driving teachers to illness, both mental and physical. Listen to teachers because we actually know what we are talking about. Just stop!

Elizabeth Tidrick

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [Marion Markham](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Long enough & Hard enough without reasonable pay!  
**Date:** Sunday, November 19, 2023 11:27:09 AM

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To whom it may concern,

Teachers work long enough and hard enough without reasonable pay and are not treated as the professionals we are already! There is already a problem retaining existing staff and recruiting new staff. Making this job have longer contract days on top of the increased contract hours from the past few years will drive even more skilled professionals away and reduce the number of new recruits. Teachers need the summer to decompress! This is a very difficult job that is undervalued and under-respected, That people who have no knowledge of the challenges we face as teachers think these extra burdens are the solution to the broken educational system speaks volumes to the disconnect between the boots on the ground and the people in power. Come substitute and spend a day in the life of a teacher. Better yet take on a long term substitute position and really get a feel for the job before making changes that add to our responsibilities. We just finally got a small raise that had been promised years ago and repealed during the pandemic. With that raise came an increase in the cost of our health benefits and added hours. Now you want to add days? Seriously? It is a wonder anyone agrees to do this job and your solution is to increase the burden by adding more contract days??

Respectfully disappointed and frustrated,  
Marion Markham

--

Marion Markham  
She/Her/Hers  
7/8 Science Teacher  
El Dorado Community School  
467-4960

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**From:** [Dayni Staddon](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] proposal to extend school year  
**Date:** Sunday, November 19, 2023 3:11:47 PM

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As a public school teacher, I can confidently say that attempting to solve problems in public education by doing more of the same is insanity. Why is the PED not speaking to people working on the ground with students what we need to help students succeed?

Support systems for families so that we can get to the root of why students are not attending school is imperative to solving our attendance challenges.  
Secondly, smaller class room sizes so that teachers can spend time helping individual students. Putting a higher burden on teachers is only going to result in more teachers leaving the profession, and if families are having difficulty sending students to school now, what makes you think adding more days will solve this problem?

I urge you to spend time meeting with educators if the goal is actually to improve education in New Mexico.

**From:** [Robert Stitt](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Sunday, November 19, 2023 3:23:04 PM

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As a teacher I am in favor of this proposed rule change. But PD hours outside of current school hours need to be properly compensated. I also disagree with planning and prep time being sacrificed for mandated PD, which is ineffective and pointless.

Rob Stitt  
Ramirez Thomas Elementary School.

**From:** [Zoe Gierman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback on 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, November 19, 2023 4:25:08 PM

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There is an ongoing teacher crisis in our public schools. Vacancies have risen across the state and veteran teachers are retiring. At my school alone, seven of the fifteen classroom teachers are approaching retirement. With this proposal, they are closer than ever to making that decision. Several teachers I have spoken to have said they **will** retire if PED passes this proposal. Others, who are younger, have said they will move to another state- one that has chosen to invest in research-based practices like smaller class sizes and increasing support staff. New Mexico students deserve these same investments. This is not a Santa Fe Public Schools issue, though. According to a report out of New Mexico State University, the total number of educator vacancies in public schools across New Mexico **grew** by about 9% from last year to 1,471. That is 1,471 classrooms in our state who don't have a certified teacher in them right now. Is the connection being made that vacancy rates grew when hours were added to our schools last year? New Mexico students cannot afford to lose one more teacher.

So, I leave you with this. How will New Mexico students be served by extra hours when you don't have teachers?

--

Zoe Gierman  
Second Grade Teacher  
Wood Gormley Elementary School  
[zgierman@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:zgierman@sfps.k12.nm.us)  
505-467-4846

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**From:** [Roni Rohr](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback : Additional School days  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 7:29:36 AM

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Hello,

My name is Roni Rohr, I teach art , preschool-8th at El Dorado Community School .For 18 years I have taught and listened to different proposals on how to help our students and have concluded that like Einstein ,” “No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it.” I am writing opposing an additional two weeks added to the school calendar.

Two weeks will not turn this around. Listen and trust in your teacher’s suggestions. There are better solutions including adjusting the calendar with the days we have now. Less broken up weeks, take a full week off at Thanksgiving and you’re going to see a lot less absences on the two days before. Analyze student absences and adjust the calendar and I bet we find a lot we can adjust.

Small class sizes will make the biggest difference in student learning and teaching. We know this through countless studies and we continue to enlarge classes. We continue to let go of teachers when school #'s go down. This is ridiculous. Less ratio of student to teachers will address student engagement , understanding and make a teacher’s job about content teaching, standards and less about classroom management.

More choices and autonomy. More outdoor time, music and art and technology classes. Lighten up, less testing, play more. Add authenticity to the days not more days done in the same manner.

Thank you for time and consideration,

Roni Rohr  
NBCT , Early and Middle Art Education  
Golden Apple Fellow  
Scholastic Art Advisor  
New Mexico Art Educator of the Year 2011  
New Mexico Middle School Art Educator 2015

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**From:** [Zoe Gierman](#)  
**To:** [June Luzarraga](#)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Advice from the Front Line  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 7:29:49 AM

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Hello PED,

Can we please ensure that this is posted on the website under 6.10.5's public comment?

Thank you.

On Fri, Nov 10, 2023 at 7:58 PM June Luzarraga <[jluzarraga@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:jluzarraga@sfps.k12.nm.us)> wrote:

Hello,

We need more teachers.

Staffing is spread too thin, especially when it comes to fulfilling the demands of an ever increasing special ed population in NM public schools.

Many educators will throw in the towel if new legislation adds 2-3 extra weeks of school next year.

Teachers need manpower and support, not an additional workload.

The approach should not be to squeeze blood from a turnip, but to supply the manpower to successfully fulfill the commitments and demands placed on public schools.

I would venture to say a majority of educators do not have the expertise/experience to advise legislators on improving their effectiveness in the Roundhouse.

Likewise, legislators are not in a position to advise educators about what is needed to improve education in New Mexico. Even if you consulted with Aunt Clara, a retired teacher who taught school for 20 years, respectfully, that advice is outdated and anecdotal.

Please, respect experience and heed the advice from the front line.

Sincerely,  
June Luzarraga

--

Ms. June Luzarraga  
Kindergarten Teacher  
Wood Gormley Elementary School  
141 E. Booth  
Santa Fe Public Schools  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

--

Zoe Gierman  
Second Grade Teacher  
Wood Gormley Elementary School  
[zgierman@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:zgierman@sfps.k12.nm.us)  
505-467-4846

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**From:** [SARAH HOOKS](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Response to NM 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 8:29:10 AM

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To the Secretary of the PED:

I am writing to you as a parent, educator, and Clovis community member. The new proposed legislation NM 6.10.5 NMAC (School Calendar Requirements) should not pass because extending the school year to 180 days will not benefit students, families, or the community because it's not in the best interests of our mental & physical health, it won't improve student behavior, and our current 170 day system is successful.

To start, I've seen the teacher shortage first hand as a substitute, and adding extra days will strain an already pressured system. The pandemic has changed education, and we can't expect human beings to emotionally and physically push themselves further than what is necessary. With how many teachers and students are getting sick more frequently, the extra 10 days would be costly.

Next, extending the school year 10 days will not necessarily improve student behavior. Students already struggle with attending on a consistent basis, and interventions have been put in place to try to increase their attendance with our current schedule. Highly qualified teachers, rigorous instruction, and in depth learning materials are the ingredients for student success.

Last, extending the school year is not necessary because the current 170 day school schedule is already producing positive results. The local school board has proved that their guidance is sound. Students are being successful.

To conclude, please hear the concerns of your New Mexicans for their teacher's, student's, and family's mental & physical well being. Let us continue with the schedule we created. We need to do what's best for our children.

Sarah Hooks  
8067242853

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**From:** [Jasen Herrera](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed 5 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 9:57:25 AM

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Dear writers,

As someone who is a teacher / coach at a current NM school that has a 4 day week. I believe that the proposed 5 day mandatory week would not be beneficial towards our students, parents, and staff. We have been a 4 day week school for 12 years and have seen tons of success amongst our academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities. Our kids are well rested, which allows them to focus more on school and other school activities with better precision. 4 day school weeks have been a huge blessing to our community and school. Do not change this.

**From:** [Colter Figg](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed 5 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 9:59:18 AM

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Good morning, to whom it may concern. I am a teacher at Texico Junior High and am very against this. Texico has been a 4 day week school for many years and have seen success through our students, teachers, and community. Proposing a longer school year is not the correct answer. Texico has been one of the top schools not only in athletics but in our academics as well for many years. I believe that the cons out weigh the pros of this proposal. **DO NOT LET THIS PROPOSAL GO THROUGH!!!** You will not only be hurting the students but the teachers and the state as a whole.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Marisol Torres](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:01:18 AM

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Hello, I heard that you want to change a few things. My kids go to Texico Schools. We are very happy with the number of days they go to school. And we are satisfied when they get out of school and also when they go back in in August.

We would like to for all of this to stay the same!

**From:** [Claudia Cordova](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback/response  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:01:52 AM

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This is our children's lives being affected by this change! Please do not pass this bill as our children will be subjected to attend longer times at school increasing drop out rates. If we push children to attending school longer and having shorter vacation time I truly believe it will increase the drop out rates as they should be allowed a significant vacation time to unwind. 12+ years of school and adding more time to that would be a mistake!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)



**From:** [Lauren Douma](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed rules NMPED  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:02:06 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I am emailing today in reference to the proposed rule changes that the state is wanting to implement on all public schools.

We are currently a 4 day school week school. We have been for over 12 years, and have had tremendous success doing so. We have strong academic values, as well as strong athletic teams that compete well into state almost every year. Not only that, we are a farming community, with many of our students competing in FFA and making high achievements doing so.

Changing our school instructional hours to 180 days would not fit our 4 day school week. It would also take away much of the break our students and staff have in the summer. Not only is this unhealthy but completely detrimental to our way of life here in Texico, NM.

I am a parent and a substitute at the school, and my husband is on staff. We highly and aggressively oppose these changes.

Thank you,

Lauren McMullen

**From:** [Dana Harris](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4day week school calendar  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:03:22 AM

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I strongly disagree with NM legislators trying to infringe on our rights as school districts to force us to change our calendars from 4 day week to 5 day weeks. We already go more additional hours than are required and currently have 2 schools in excellence and one that is a spotlight school. We have had extreme success with our students performing at high levels for the past 12 years. The saying “if it isn’t broken don’t fix” it definitely applies here. I don’t believe schools that are performing at a high level of excellence should be punished for those who are not. You should let school districts determine what is best for their communities “one size does not fit all”. Rural communities don’t have the same needs as urban. Stop trying to make rules just for urban communities let each district decide what is best for them.  
Texico School District

**From:** [Kiana Moses](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:05:35 AM

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I do not agree with this opinion! Our school system and routine have been thriving for over 12 years. With our routine we have received The Blue Ribbon Award multiple times, our test scores have been consistently high. Therefore our system is solid the way it is.  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [DEBORAH WESTBROOK](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: 6.10.5 NMAC Comment  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:06:43 AM

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Good morning,

I am writing to oppose the extended days of the school calendar for all school districts in New Mexico. I am not in favor of this proposal because we already deal with attendance issues with the current school calendar we have in place, and research does not show that students will attend more days if the school calendar is extended. Instead, research does show that longer days or additional days could result in attention deficit or fatigue, making extra class time ineffective. Students who are too tired at the end of a long day struggle to concentrate, making the last hour of the day non-productive. Research does not indicate that more time spent in school will increase test scores. Instead, the research clearly shows the quality of education improves test scores over the quantity of time in a classroom. Teachers can provide a high-quality education in the time allowed in the current school calendar. The focus needs to be on quality, not quantity. Extended days could also affect teacher retention if teachers are required to work longer or extended days on the newly proposed calendar. The art of teaching is unique in that a teacher is on task, going full speed ahead all day to ensure that students have the differentiation, intervention, enrichment, and care it takes to help them succeed. Teachers have incredible stamina and are willing to give it their all, but now this proposal asks them to give even more of themselves each year. Some teachers love to work the extended year programs, including summer school, school camps, or tutoring programs, but this is their choice, and if they need the time to regroup, they can take a much needed break with the time allowed in our current school calendar. Extending the school day may look like the simple answer to our education concerns, but in fact, these issues may be solved with a more targeted approach to the quality of education we are providing with the time we currently have.

Yours in education,  
Debbie Westbrook

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**From:** [Kami](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Concerns Regarding Mandated 5-Day School Week and 180-Day Calendar Year  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:14:10 AM

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Dear New Mexico Public Education Department,

As a deeply invested parent within the educational system, I am writing to express my concern and disagreement regarding the proposed mandate to enforce a 5-day school week and a 180-day calendar year across all school districts. This change will significantly impact not just our district but our entire way of life.

For over 12 years, our school has successfully operated on a 4-day week, achieving remarkable success both academically and athletically. Contrary to the common perception that fewer days equate to lower performance, our school stands as a testament to the fact that quality education isn't solely defined by the number of days spent in a classroom.

We take pride in our robust educational values, the excellence of our academic programs, and the consistently high achievements of our athletic teams. These achievements highlight a critical point: a uniform, one-size-fits-all approach cannot encapsulate the diverse needs and successes of different school systems.

Forcing a 5-day week and 180-day calendar year overlooks the unique circumstances and accomplishments of schools like ours. It negates the effectiveness of alternative schedules that have proven successful for our students and community. Education isn't a monolithic structure; it thrives in various forms and schedules.

I urge you to consider the broader spectrum of educational successes beyond the conventional measures. Please allow schools like ours to retain the autonomy to choose schedules that have proven beneficial for our students, teachers, and community. One-size mandates may not align with the diverse needs and successes present within different school districts.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I hope that our collective commitment remains focused on fostering excellence in education through diverse approaches tailored to the specific needs of each community.

Sincerely,  
Kami Kerby

**From:** [Greg DeMarco](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed rule change to 5 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:18:02 AM

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To Whom it may Concern,

The proposed change requiring a 5 day school week for all schools is extremely concerning as a parent of a high school student that currently utilizes an alternative schedule. Going to a mandated 5 day school schedule permanently would be extremely detrimental to the mental well being of our children.

Our child currently has the availability of what we consider a reset day. Todays youth face challenges that we as adults could have never imagined. Trying to maintain good grades, trying to fit in, and the constant rhetoric brought on through multiple social media sources is exhausting for these children.

Our school in particular has been overly successful with an alternative schedule. The staff dedicate their time and effort into ensuring that our students receive educational instruction that is positive and beneficial.

I can tell you first hand that in the weeks we have 5 instruction days our student come home exhausted and mentally spent after the 5 th day. We are able as a family to have more positive interactions throughout the weekend and make better plans as a family to spend quality much needed time together with a child that is not worried about having to go back to school the next day due to having an extra day to recover.

Thank you for your time and I encourage you to consider the long term effect of a change of this nature.

Greg DeMarco

**From:** [Jessica Roach](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar/Instructional Time  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:21:00 AM

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Good morning,

I am giving feedback as a concerned parent about the proposed changes for the School Calendar. The changes being proposed would cause difficulties in my life. My kids having a 4 day week has been extremely helpful to me as a single parent because it allows me to work the hours that they are in school and be able to pick them up after school. It has also allowed my ex in laws to spend time with them on Fridays while I work but still gives me time with my kids on the weekends. If they are in school on Fridays I will have to give up my time on weekends for them to see their grandparents. Also, my kids are thriving in school under the current schedule. If the changes go through I feel it would be a hindrance to them because the longer weekend helps with their mental health. My kids are not involved in sports but because of several sports having games/tournaments on Fridays, that also means that those kids would be missing class times on Fridays to travel. When the sports kids leave and only a few kids are left in class, most teachers in smaller schools like Texico don't teach new lessons so my kids would be wasting their time sitting at school while the other kids are gone.

I think as long as the instructional hours are met, it should be up to the school districts to decide how best to schedule their calendars based on the needs of the district. Please consider not implementing the proposed changes and allow for the individual districts to implement the hours as they see fit.

Thank you,  
Jessica Roach  
Parent of Texico Municipal Schools Students

**From:** [Tyler Graham](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Concerns Regarding Mandated 5-Day School Week and 180-Day Calendar Year  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:22:34 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear New Mexico Public Education Department,

As a deeply invested parent within the educational system, I am writing to express my concern and disagreement regarding the proposed mandate to enforce a 5-day school week and a 180-day calendar year across all school districts. This change will significantly impact not just our district but our entire way of life.

For over 12 years, our school has successfully operated on a 4-day week, achieving remarkable success both academically and athletically. Contrary to the common perception that fewer days equate to lower performance, our school stands as a testament to the fact that quality education isn't solely defined by the number of days spent in a classroom.

We take pride in our robust educational values, the excellence of our academic programs, and the consistently high achievements of our athletic teams. These achievements highlight a critical point: a uniform, one-size-fits-all approach cannot encapsulate the diverse needs and successes of different school systems.

Forcing a 5-day week and 180-day calendar year overlooks the unique circumstances and accomplishments of schools like ours. It negates the effectiveness of alternative schedules that have proven successful for our students and community. Education isn't a monolithic structure; it thrives in various forms and schedules.

I urge you to consider the broader spectrum of educational successes beyond the conventional measures. Please allow schools like ours to retain the autonomy to choose schedules that have proven beneficial for our students, teachers, and community. One-size mandates may not align with the diverse needs and successes present within different school districts.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I hope that our collective commitment remains focused on fostering excellence in education through diverse approaches tailored to the specific needs of each community.

Sincerely,  
Tyler Graham

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Allyson Warrick](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 day/week to 180 day calendar objection  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:24:48 AM

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This rule change will affect us all and our way of life. Texico Schools have been a 4-day week school for over 12 years and have many successes! We are not the school who constantly rate as a low performing school. We have strong educational values, strong academics, strong athletic teams that continuously provide excellent results. Please stop putting us in that one-size fits all category. Texico School's 4 day week has worked very well for our community for the last 12 years and we don't need to change it. Please just leave us alone.

Thank you.

Allyson Warrick (Parent of 2 children attending Texico Schools)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Britny Powell](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Educational changes  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:26:40 AM

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Hello, I would like to add feedback on the proposed changes to our education requirements. My children attend(ed) school mostly four days a week instead of five. I love this schedule because it allows me more time with them. My daughter just graduated this passed May, with honors and great success. She was prepared for her future, with solid foundation of education, and was able to spend time with her family while gaining such. We take family vacations, spend time away on weekends, and are able yo maintain my childs education. Texico school is ranked high in the state for education, while doing four day a week schedule. I do not see a reason to assume that one size fits all when it comes to education, the purposed changes may work for some, but may be detrimental to others. Please do not enforce this change upon my son.

Sincerely,

A concerned parent in NM  
Britny Powell

**From:** [Mason Pipkin](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Nm rules  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:30:37 AM

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Good evening,

I am a student of a 4-day week, and I am against having a 5-day week. I am more motivated to do my work during a 4-day work. In my opinion suicide rates would skyrocket if we went to a 5-day week. Therefore we should abolish this act and therefore we should stay a 4-day week.

**From:** [Cody Gutzler](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The 5 day weekend  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:31:16 AM

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I am a student here at texico schools and I think it would be a terrible change for the extra day a week we shouldn't try to fix what's not broken we do really well with just our 4days and our teachers do better in that time frame and our test scores have been consistent and it should not be changed. And we would need a long time to adapt because for the last 12 years we have done 4 day weekends.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** [Aden Nguyen](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] About 4 day week  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:34:36 AM

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Hi, I'm from a school that has a 4 day week and I criticize this choice in many ways. There are many reasons why we SHOULD have a 4 day week, and here are a couple examples on why we should still have a 4 day week.

-We have more room to learn from 4 day week, and this is because we have more time to rest which means that we would have more balance to learn from home life and school life which means increase productivity.

-Teachers are better prepared / Teacher morale

-Many people have jobs

-Looking at researches about 4 day weeks proves the result of increased productivity.

I've been to a school with a 5 day school week before and I felt very miserable and very unwilling to learn, but as I went to Texico with a 4 day school week I've felt more productive and more energized, and I'm sure the teachers feel the same as well. There's really no point in making it a 5 day week if you want results to decrease in grades.

**From:** [Denny Turner](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4-Day Week  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:35:25 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I am currently a student at Texico High School where we have 4-day school weeks. We were just ranked as the number 1 spotlight school in the state of New Mexico. Our test scores are some of the highest in the state and we only go for 4 days, which gives teachers a better chance to prepare for the school week. I used to go to Las Cruces schools where they went for 5 days. The Friday we went were useless because there was not much to cover and if there was it was over in the first 15-20 minutes of class. The 5-day school week may be good for other schools, but not for us.

Sincerely,

Denny Turner

**From:** [Denny Turner](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4-Day Week  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:35:25 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I am currently a student at Texico High School where we have 4-day school weeks. We were just ranked as the number 1 spotlight school in the state of New Mexico. Our test scores are some of the highest in the state and we only go for 4 days, which gives teachers a better chance to prepare for the school week. I used to go to Las Cruces schools where they went for 5 days. The Friday we went were useless because there was not much to cover and if there was it was over in the first 15-20 minutes of class. The 5-day school week may be good for other schools, but not for us.

Sincerely,

Denny Turner

**From:** [Letzi Vizcarra](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No 5 day school  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:35:34 AM

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I am a student of a four day school at Texico Schools and I feel like it is a good balance with learning, enough time to do homework and still have a social life . Our school has received The Blue Bell Ribbon Award. Our tests scores have been consistently high. Therefore I believe that our system is thriving and needs no change. Do not “fix” something that is not broken..

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Madeline Tillman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:37:35 AM

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I go to Texico High School and I have had 4-day weeks my whole life including a 5-day week every once in a while, these 4-day weeks are very enjoyable as I get to spend more time with my family and I get more free time in the summer. Texico High School's Academic record has always been good with no complaints. We have never academically struggled, therefore we do not need anymore school days during the year and we can still thrive off of 4-day weeks with an occasional extra day in the week.

**From:** [Ryker Russell](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 day week?  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:37:37 AM

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To however this may concern,

I do not agree with these changes that will be made to change the school week to 5 days. I am from a school with 4 days in its week and this would change a lot for are school and community. Please reconsider the changes that are about to be made. There is no need to change something that is not broken.

Thank you for your time.

**From:** [Jack McBride](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 Day School Weeks  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:41:02 AM

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I am a current student at Texico schools. I feel as though we already have enough days to go to school already. If we go to a 5-day schedule, students will be more likely to skip, be less productive, and have less valuable sleep to work throughout the day. We will have less time for our social lives. Texico is one of the leading blue-ribbon schools in New Mexico. We are dominating in our FFA program. We are already doing good as it is. Making this change will take adapting and our test scores will go down. If it is not broken, do not fix it. We are not a low performing school and do not wish to be treated as such.

**From:** [Gabriella Delarosa](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:43:30 AM

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Hello! I am a student from Texico, and I have been informed of the new system that is wanted. I disagree with this very strongly. Our system has been working for the past twelve years and we shouldn't brake something that isn't broken. Texico's test scores have been consistently high and there is no reason why we should start having a five-day week and have an extra month of school. Having a four-day week, we learn and get the education we need. Having the fifth day off, our teachers and students regroup and get ready for the next week of school. I hear your opinion, but there is no need for our school to follow.

**From:** [Vicki Sampler](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Changes  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:44:44 AM

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To whom it may concern,  
I am opposed to these changes. I believe our school and my children are thriving because of the way it is currently ran.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

### **6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements**

*Type of Rule Change: Repeal and Replace*

- Rule with proposed changes integrated [PDF](#) | [Word](#)
- Rule with proposed changes tracked [PDF](#) | [Word](#)
- [Public Comment](#) Updated 11/16/2023

### **6.30.12 NMAC, K-5 Plus Schools**

*Type of Rule Change: Repeal*

- Rule with proposed changes tracked [PDF](#) | [Word](#)

### **6.30.16 NMAC, Extended Learning Time Program**

*Type of Rule Change: Repeal*

- Rule with proposed changes tracked [PDF](#) | [Word](#)

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**Thank you,  
Vicki Sampler**

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License # REC-2022-1032



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<https://vicki.jbmrealtygroup.com/>

**From:** [Crystal Willoughby](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Calendar Rule Objection  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:54:49 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I'm writing in repose to the calendar rule change that is currently being discussed by the NMPED. Texico ,has been a 4-day week school for over 12 years and has many successes!

We are not one of the schools who constantly rate as low performing. We have strong educational values, strong academics, strong athletic teams that continuously provide excellent support from our staff. One -size does NOT fit all! Many times smaller schools are punished and asked to fit the criteria for those larger schools who are not performing as well. Asking our students to have 180 instructional days is FAR to many. This would not only mean that they have a shorter summer but also that they would return to a 5 day school week. Please consider making this decision a district CHOICE and not something that is a blanket "fix" for those districts who aren't performing well. Our students are thriving.

-Crystal Willoughby

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Mary Jane Callaway](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5-day School Week  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:58:32 AM

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From a student's point of view as to why we shouldn't have 5-day school weeks. One reason is that it can lead to increased stress and burnout among students. With only two days off, students may not have enough time to relax, recharge, and pursue other interests outside of academics. This can result in mental and physical exhaustion, which can negatively impact their overall well-being.

Another point to consider is the potential impact on family dynamics. A five-day school week can limit the amount of quality time that families can spend together. Parents and siblings may have their own busy schedules and having only weekends to connect and bond as a family can be challenging. This can have a detrimental effect on family relationships and the overall support system for students.

**From:** [LYNN DAVIS](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please do not  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 11:13:44 AM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

I have worked with Clovis Municipal Schools since 2001, first as an educational assistant and then as a teacher in elementary. I earnestly ask you to reconsider this endeavour. Since Covid, our students have been falling behind educationally, emotionally, and morally. We are trying to build them back up, but it is taking time. But adding more time to their school year/day is not the answer.

Student classes are overloaded and behaviors are terrible which really makes it hard on teachers. I have a co-worker working very hard to get her dossier complete to level up but she is considering quitting teaching after only 5 years because our classes are overloaded and parents do not understand the pressure that teachers are under to ensure students are ready for the next year. Therefore, she is in tears daily because she informs parents of their child's progress/behavior and is verbally assaulted for her efforts. She has worked really hard with her alternative teaching and dossier classes and she is a great teacher. However, she doesn't feel the teaching profession is worth the tremendous stress on herself and her family. Personally, I am 3 years away from retirement, so at this point, that is my goal and I know I am not alone. I am considering going back to an EA position after this year because then I would not be stressed to the point that I have to see multiple doctors.

Mentally, students are less equipped to sit in classes for longer periods of time simply because their brains are running on overload sensory-wise. The technology age has really put a dent in traditional classroom learning. I understand progress but some teenagers cannot tell you historical facts, cannot add or subtract money, cannot read a clock (unless it is digital) or form a complete written sentence without spell check, yet they are passed on or even graduate. Sadly, we teachers are held accountable by society, which is 100% wrong. Our education system is failing - not our teachers - the system. Our educational department. You. Many of the demands you make are simply not feasible because of our societal conditions.

Instead of adding more days/time and trainings (In truth - I do not take much away from the trainings - the real training is in the classroom), add more teachers/staff to alleviate the burden of oversized classroom, so that we are able to properly and effectively teach our children how to read, write, and add/subtract, to get along with others, to have good sportsmanship, and to be worthwhile members of society. These are changes that would truly make a difference.

Thank you for your time,

Lynn Davis, Second Grade Teacher  
Sandia Elementary, Clovis Municipal Schools

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**From:** [Marina Ponce](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Disagree  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 11:14:46 AM

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I do not agree with this proposal, my kids, and I believe everyone in our school district have been doing very good the way we have our school days and school week. Less stress for the kids means better learning capacity.  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Mariyah Bachicha](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Change  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 11:15:04 AM

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With us leaving school May 31<sup>st</sup> and coming back July 31<sup>st</sup> isn't enough summer time for pre-k through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. For Texico Schools we should stick to Monday through Thursday for all years to come. Also that will make no sense to get out of school and go right back in after July 31<sup>st</sup>, like for other schools, that's okay but for Texico, no. Texico Schools are doing great with 4 days a week, because us students still learn something, we play sports all week, but depends if the coaches want practice on the Fridays. But other than that, Texico Schools, should stay the same with Monday through Thursday, without any days changed. So for Texico Schools, as a family, we will agree to stay with Monday through Thursday for many, many, many years to come.

Thanks,  
Mariyah Bachicha

**From:** [Zayna Hunt](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Change  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 11:16:57 AM

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To whomever this may concern, the school days are perfectly fine. As a student from Texico High School our academic level is outstanding as well as our athletic programs. As students we are working as hard as we can to be the best version of ourselves. Adding school days to the year will just tear our spirits down. Adding around 30 extra days is frankly too stressful and I can guarantee you that the students will not try as hard, and we will eventually be burned out. Having our summers is our chance to take a break and have a little fun. It is not logical to take the summer from all of these young teenagers. Texico schools have been a 4-day school week for 12 years. It worked perfectly, which is proven by our overall academic level and test scores. If it's not broke don't fix it. That is the situation going on here. We have had a system for many years and adding days on into the school year would just ruin the whole system. So, I am here to disagree with the idea of the new rule that is being thought about.

Sincerely, Zayna Hunt

**From:** [A McBride](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] TEXICO MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS-PROPOSED CHANGE TO SCHEDULE  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 11:20:34 AM

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To whom it may concern,

My children have been Texico Wolverines since first grade, and are currently Sophomores. They have been on the 4 day school week for the whole time. They have been nothing but successful with this style of schedule. Texico has received numerous accolades in athletics, academics, and FFA. The teachers expect the best out of the students. The teachers drive the students to achieve great things. The teachers/staff/family members encourage and support the kids in everything they choose to do. When the students are in class, they are learning what needs to be learned to be successful. The lack of behavioral problems at Texico means that the time in class can be used to its fullest extent without the same interruptions as other schools may have.

Please don't take the autonomy away from a school that is achieving great things due to the issues other school districts might have.

#Be legendary  
#Wolverine proud

From  
Amy McBride  
Mother of two Texico students

**From:** [Adalyn Autrey](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4-Day Week  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 11:22:45 AM

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Good afternoon, my name is Adalyn Autrey. I am a student at Texico High School, a 4-day school week. I have just been informed of the 5-day school week and 180- day calander, starting school on July 31, and ending May 31. This is something that affects me personally, in many ways. Family, athletics, academics, mental health, and down time.

Firstly, my birthday is July 24. Meaning I would only get a week after my birthday until I go to school. I already get made fun of for being "young" and "a child", having to tell people my birthday is a week before school starts would be humiliating. I would also get no time to celebrate with my family. My family has a lot of July-August birthdays, and we all celebrate together. I never get to see my family, birthdays and holidays are my only chance. Adding this 180 day year is taking that away from me and many other students. Its taking away our precious time with family.

Also with free time, I use my free time to do homework and get better at my sports. I am a triple sport athlete: Basketball, Volleyball, and Track. I spend my fridays doing homework that I missed game days and working to improve on my athletics. Going to school on friday would cause a huge dip in my academic ability. I am constantly missing school for game days and other extracurricular activities, and I use my fridays to finish the work I missed on game days.

Athletics takes up a large amount of time out of my schedule, giving me almost no free time. Friday is my day to relax, ease the stress of the week, and finish homework. I have severe social anxiety, so being at school for long hours is a struggle for me. Having that day to de-stress and regather my thoughts is something I really, really need. Friday is my day to paint, read, bake, spend time with family, and just rest in general.

Finally, our school is a high ranked schools in New Mexico for testing, we have a 94% graduation rate, and we won the Blue Ribbon in test scores this year. That didn't happen due to chance or luck, it happened because we have the extra time to ourselves to put in that work. Also, statistically 4- day school weeks across America have better results in test scores, mental health, and less teen suicide.

Taking away our four day week is taking away out sanity, joy, and family. I know one email probably doesn't mean much, but I can guarantee you will be receiving more, especially from Texico Highschool students. We know the effects this has, and we know our worth. Thank you for your time ans consideration.

<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/4-day-school-weeks-new-research-examines-the-benefits-and-drawbacks/2021/10>

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/childrens-risk-of-suicide-increases-on-school-days/>

**From:** [HEATHER SANCHEZ](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] feedback on rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 11:24:22 AM

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Hello!

My name is Heather Sanchez, and I am a music teacher in SCSD. I graduated from SCSD in 1993 as salutatorian, and I was a National Merit Finalist.

I am a 26 year veteran teacher. 25 of those years I taught in NM, where I currently teach, and one year was spent teaching in a rural district in Colorado. I taught middle and high school music for APS for 23 years. I am a bilingual English/Spanish speaker. My son graduated from NM public schools in 2021.

I was awarded the Honorable Mention for the Fishman Prize for Superlative Classroom Practice in 2013, because my students had better growth in reading and math than any other teachers in my school (West Mesa High School, APS).

I would like to comment on the problematic proposal to change the school calendar. I hope you will take my insights seriously as I have dedicated a quarter of a century to teaching in New Mexico. Additionally, as a former public school student and a parent of a public school graduate, I believe that my perspective is nuanced and includes both employee and stakeholder concerns.

First, I would like to talk about Colorado. Colorado requires 160 school days, which are 5 day weeks.. Also, Colorado scored 15 points higher than NM in the most recent NAEP assessment in 2023, with a score of 236. If Colorado is able to get higher test scores with a month fewer school days, then why do you think it will benefit New Mexican students and families if we add more days to the year? Additionally, 116 Colorado districts also use a four day school week, and yet they have much higher scores than NM. This evidence demonstrates that the four day week is not the reason NM schools have lower scores.

Second, I would like to talk about the punitive nature of many PED and legislative responses to low test scores. As a veteran NM teacher, I have seen a variety of punitive policies rolled out to punish schools in order to improve test scores. Skandera's idea of rating teacher evaluations by test scores is an example of this. Another is rating schools on the A-F system to punish schools with low scores. As a classroom teacher, I am not responsible for ensuring adequate nutrition and a trauma-free home life for my students, but we all know that these external factors impact student success. I wonder if this is another example of the PED punishing school employees for factors outside of their control.

Third, students and families overwhelmingly support 4 day weeks. 84% of families and 95% of students who attend 4 day per week schools would continue, citing less stress and more time with their families. <https://www.nwea.org/blog/2023/what-the-research-tells-us-about-four-day-school-weeks/>

Fourth, I would like to compare the graduation rate from my former district, Albuquerque Public Schools, with my current district, SCSD. As you know, APS follows the traditional 5 day per week calendar and SCSD follows the 4 day per week calendar. The graduation rate

from APS was 69%. The graduation rate from SCSD was 82%. I wonder if the PED is taking graduation data into consideration? The data clearly shows a 13% higher graduation rate for high schoolers who attend a 4 day week instead of a 5 day week. When one considers the history of SCSD having low graduation rates in the 60-70 percent range, one must consider that the recent change to the four day week is a factor in the improved grad rates. If the PED is considering the data, a data driven decision would not be to arbitrarily force a district to change back to a 5 day week when they are showing 13% gains.

Fifth, this schedule is beneficial for students who participate in athletics, performing arts, and FFA/rodeo events. Most of these events occur on the weekend, beginning during the school day on Friday. This is much more convenient for families and school

As a teacher and a parent, it is difficult to read the proposed changes and think that this is something that is in the best interest of our students. Clearly Colorado is able to produce learners who can demonstrate competency on the NAEP using both a shorter school calendar and 4 day weeks. Small rural districts on a 4 day week are graduating a higher percentage of students than a large district on a 5 day week. Families and students support the 4 day week. It is obvious that this is a politically motivated attempt to punish communities that are finding success in this model.

**From:** [Daniel Harrison](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 11:37:51 AM

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The opinion to change the learning time of schools to a regulatory 180 days is idiotic, and will negatively impact the lives and habits of the teachers, students, and parents. The change will also negatively impact the academics, the athletics, and the moral of the students, due to the increased fatigue which will lead to a lathargic state of mind and body. While it may work in the larger schools in Santa Fe, the difference between inner city and state limits would be like comparing the east coast vs the west coast. Be mindful of your choices and opinions before they come out of your mouth, and determine if its intelligent or not. If not, keep your mouth shut and don't propose state-wide ideas.



**From:** [Kambrie Wieland](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Anti 5-Day School Week  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 12:07:50 PM

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As a student of Texico High School I can proudly say we have had many success with our 4-day school week. I believe we should stick to this tradition as it hasn't affected the education system.  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Joni Mauldin](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 1:13:34 PM

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Hello,

I would like to give my feedback for the proposed rule of going to a 5-day week 50% of the time. Socorro Consolidated Schools has gone to a 4-day week and due to this, we have attracted some amazing staff from other school districts, where it has been difficult to find teachers in the past. Also, the 4-day week allows staff to make appointments such as doctor visits, etc. on Fridays, which helps with attendance. The same for our students. Our community has also adjusted to the 4-day week, and it would be difficult to, all of a sudden, go back to a 5- day week.

Thank you,  
Joni L. Mauldin  
Assistant Principal  
Socorro High School  
575-838-2742  
[jmauldin@socorroschools.org](mailto:jmauldin@socorroschools.org)

**From:** [DANIEL MARTIN SANCHEZ](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School instructional time requirements  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 1:13:35 PM

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Schools should not get rid of the 4 day work week. This helps rural schools with staffing and costs. Big schools would benefit from it also.

Adding instructional days will not improve anything other than increasing free babysitting time. Colorado has less instructional days with higher test scores.

How about spending some time, thought, and money on how to retain teachers. Get rid of the dossier process that penalizes teachers who fail or don't do the dossier. We are losing teachers because of this idiotic rule.

Get rid of retirement restrictions that don't allow teachers to receive their retirement and collect a full salary for as many years as they want without sitting out 3 months or whatever. Another dumb rule that's causing the loss of more teachers.

The 4 day work week is a progressive idea that is catching on nationwide. Please don't go backwards and get rid of the 4 day work week.

Dan Sanchez

**From:** [Lacey Meeks](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 1:19:55 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

The change in school calendar requirements is very concerning to me as a parent and community leader. Texico has been on a 4 day school week for 12 years and in my opinion this has been very successful. As a professional and working mother, having Friday's off is very importance and beneficial to our family to be able to spend that extra time with our kids. Teachers are very overworked and overwhelmed at times and I have seen other districts that have 5 day weeks struggle to keep and even recruit staff. I believe the 4 day week is a great way to keep staff engaged, rested, and vital for the longevity of teachers which is important to our children's education. Please consider the fact that schools are not a one size fits all option and we wish to keep the 4 days week. Furthermore 180 day calendar year takes away our summertime with our children as well as the much needed rest and time off for teachers.

Lacey Meeks, ACNP-BC, FNP-BC  
Farwell Family Healthcare 806-481-7000  
Amarillo Family Healthcare 806-418-6886  
Dynamic Healthcare 575-935-9000

<http://www.laceymeeks.com>  
<http://www.amarillomedicalproviders.com>  
<http://www.dynamichealthcarenm.com>

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If you have received this e-mail in error, please delete it immediately.

**From:** [Chelsea Castaneda](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 1:23:07 PM

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I'm currently a senior at Texico High School, where I have attended most of my life. I may be graduating this year, but I wish to let my school continue the four-day school week. Our school has always excelled in our education, and teachers always improve that experience despite being only four days of school. Students need to have moments away from their school to make a life out of schools. This would help improve mental health as many feel stressed and tired from long school weeks. I wish to propose that the five-day school week isn't necessary because many students can still learn in those four-day school weeks.

Sincerely,  
Chelsea C.

**From:** [Jaylyn Cook](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule Change to require 5 days a week  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 1:46:20 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-fcxke5x5.png](#)

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To Whom It May Concern:

It has been brought to our attention that there is a new rule being proposed that would require 180 calendar days and require everyone to attend school five days a week. Although I understand that New Mexico must improve their educational standings, I do not think that requiring every district to attend more days is going to be the answer. As a teacher at a school district that strives for success daily, we have proven that we are capable of achieving that success on our current schedule. We have had a modified calendar for some time now. That has never impacted our success. In fact, I believe that it contributes to some of our success. Our students and staff are motivated to be here daily. We know the expectations and how to accomplish them in the time that we have during a four-day week. We have extended our day to accommodate more instructional time.

Our students and staff miss less school, because they can schedule appointments on Fridays when we are not in class. Staff members are able to spend more time instructing rather than having to miss for appointments for themselves or their children. We constantly hear about the shortage in teachers and substitutes. What is going to happen when there is no one to fill those roles as a substitute teacher? There is a shortage of teachers and a four-day work week is the only reason some teachers are staying in this field. I know several teachers that are indecisive on retiring and have chosen to stay as long as they have a four-day week. They will be out of this career if you pass this new rule. I know young teachers that have only been teaching a couple of years that have said, they will find other jobs. Are you prepared to fill the vacancies you are about to create?

As a coach, I see a lot of the success of our student-athletes related to a four-day week. We are able to fit our practice times in on our Fridays we have off. When possible, we schedule games and tournaments on days that we are off from school so that our students are not missing valuable instruction. We constantly hear how grueling the schedules are for students now days with school and sports, and you are proposing to take those days that they have to catch up on homework, sports, and other extracurricular activities away from them.

Are you thinking about the way this will impact attendance, dropout rates, finances, and staffing?

I say this as humbly as possible. Texico has continued to be at the top for years! Although I understand you are trying to find a way to get the other districts to perform and improve literacy and math rates across the state, why would you change something that is working in a successful district? Every little piece of what we do, contributes to our success at Texico, all the way down to our calendar. Why are you trying to impact that with an extended calendar and requiring five-day weeks? Diversity is constantly talked about in terms of student makeup, what about district makeup? Not every district is the same. We have kids that work in dairies, farms, and ranches to try to make ends meet. You cannot brand the entire state with this "one size fits all" model. Don't punish those that are successful. Figure out a way to make the ones that aren't performing be better. Don't change what is working in the districts that are Blue Ribbon winners and just received Excellence and Spotlight on our VISTA report.

These changes will significantly impact education in New Mexico. Are you thinking about all the negative impacts that it will have as well with this new rule?

Thank you for your time,

  
Math Teacher  
Head Girls Basketball Coach  
Texico High School  
575.482.3801



**From:** [Jordyn Bailey](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 school day enforcement  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 2:07:30 PM

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Good Afternoon,

It has been brought to my attention that legislation is trying move everyone to a 180 day, five day/week school year. As a former teacher in a rural community that was a four day school week, and now with children of my own attending a rural school with a four day school week, this is concerning.

I saw many benefits of a shortened school week, with the number one being attendance. When school stopped being held on Fridays, there weren't as many absences. Students can schedule appointments and take days with their families on Fridays rather than on a school day. Students were also more motivated to attend knowing their weeks were short and a three day weekend would approach soon.

The cost benefits are also a factor. If the school isn't having to operate an extra day, the factor of paying hourly employees, electricity, water, and meals for students all lead to reduced costs by the district. Many teachers for rural districts drive 40+ miles per day to get to work. It's beneficial to them to not have to drive an extra day.

Not only that, but now as a mother of school aged children I realize how many hours our kids spend at school. I enjoy the short school week so that I have an extra day to enjoy my kids and love on them. Eighteen years goes by far too fast and our kids spend more time at school than they do at home. I'm so thankful for the little bit of extra time I get them.

From my experience, academic achievement is not affected by the short week. Texico, Melrose, Grady, Elida all are four day week districts and all usually show great data as far as test scores go. So my question is what is the reasoning behind the shift and requiring the five dah week? Where is the evidence that supports this is the reason NM is falling behind in education? My guess is that most of it stems from the teacher shortage that the state has suffered from the last several years. Now that NM has started compensating teachers better, maybe there will be an increase in the number of licensed teachers rather than long term subs that are teaching our kids. There's more factors in place than just a four day school week that affect the education rankings. Please consider all of this in making the final decision regarding the 180 day calendar.

Thank you for your time,  
Jordyn Bailey



**From:** [Kylynn Thomas](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 2:14:09 PM

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Dear NMPED,

The 4-day school week helps rural communities like Fort Sumner, whose students often work on their family farms and ranches on Friday and through the weekend. I also believe this helps elevate school burnout to get an extra long weekend. With sports as well. Friday Night Football, a Saturday volleyball or basketball game, it give parents and kids an opportunity to recoup more. The 4-day school week has been proven to be successful, why change something that isn't broke? Please consider keeping the 4-day school week for the students, teachers and coaches sakes. Thanks.

- Kylynn Copeland

**From:** [Yeslie Tavaréz-Serrano](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 2:35:36 PM

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To whoever it may concern,

As a student I feel that proposing that all schools become 5-day week schools and that our calendar go to a 180-day calendar is honestly not convenient for me as a student or for the educators to have to attend more unnecessary days of school. As a student who only attends 4-days a week of school and has attended 5-days in the past I have seen improvement in not only my academic scores but as well in my mental being. Having 3-day weekends has given me time to catch up on schoolwork but still have enough time to spend time with friends and family. I hope you will take this feedback as consideration. Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** [Jose Herrera](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for:  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 2:37:22 PM

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Note: When submitting feedback, we kindly request that you specify which rule(s) you are submitting feedback for. This is especially helpful when the Department is accepting feedback for multiple proposed rules at the same time.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Good afternoon. I have some concerns regarding changing the 4 day to a 5 day work week half of the school year. We have several staff members that include teachers, administrators, ancillary, etc. that travel at least 50 to 70 miles one way each day. I personally think that they would not return if they had to travel more during the school year. That would be devastating for our kiddos in our school district as we cannot find qualified staff to fill those vacant positions. We have already lost many school teachers that have entered into other positions that are not within our district. We can barely fill substitute teachers when our certified teachers are sick or not available on those days. I personally don't mind working 5 days a week as I already work another job in the occupational therapy field, but to lose that many certified teachers to increase the school calendar must be thought out long and hard. This should have been thought about prior to going to a 4 day school week. Thank you for time and consideration, Jose Herrera, COTA/L

**From:** [Micah Crist](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 2:49:27 PM

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Subject: Inquiry on the Effectiveness of a 4-Day School Week

Dear NMPED Representative's,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to inquire about the possibility of discussing the potential benefits and success rates associated with implementing a 4-day school week as opposed to the traditional 5-day structure.

As an advocate for education and a member of our educational community, I've been intrigued by the concept of a condensed school week and its reported positive impacts on both students and educators. Several studies and observations have indicated that a shorter school week can yield numerous advantages, including improved student engagement, enhanced teacher satisfaction, and increased operational efficiency.

Some of the key points I'd like to discuss or highlight include:

1. **Academic Performance:** Studies have shown that compressing the school week into four days can lead to better focus and reduced absenteeism among students. This, in turn, may positively impact academic performance.
2. **Teacher Retention and Well-being:** A condensed schedule often results in longer weekends, providing educators with additional time for rest, professional development, and personal pursuits. This can potentially decrease burnout rates and boost teacher morale.
3. **Operational Savings:** There's evidence suggesting that a 4-day school week can result in cost savings for districts in terms of transportation, utility expenses, and facility maintenance.
4. **Environmental Impact:** With one less day of commuting and energy consumption, there might be potential environmental benefits, aligning with sustainability goals.

I am eager to understand the perspective of the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) on this matter. Are there ongoing discussions or research initiatives exploring the viability and efficacy of a condensed school week within our state?

Moreover, I would greatly appreciate any resources, studies, or expert insights that the NMPED may have on this topic. Understanding the educational landscape and considering the diverse needs of our students and educators is crucial as we aim to continually enhance the learning environment.

If feasible, I would welcome the opportunity to engage in a discussion or attend any sessions where this topic is being explored further.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response and the possibility of further dialogue on this matter.

Warm regards,  
Micah Crist

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Jaylyn Cook](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 2:51:10 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

It has been brought to our attention that there is a new rule being proposed that would require 180 calendar days and require everyone to attend school five days a week. Although I understand that New Mexico must improve their educational standings, I do not think that requiring every district to attend more days is going to be the answer. As a teacher at a school district that strives for success daily, we have proven that we are capable of achieving that success on our current schedule. We have had a modified calendar for some time now. That has never impacted our success. In fact, I believe that it contributes to some of our success. Our students and staff are motivated to be here daily. We know the expectations and how to accomplish them in the time that we have during a four-day week. We have extended our day to accommodate more instructional time.

Our students and staff miss less school, because they can schedule appointments on Fridays when we are not in class. Staff members are able to spend more time instructing rather than having to miss for appointments for themselves or their children. We constantly hear about the shortage in teachers and substitutes. What is going to happen when there is no one to fill those roles as a substitute teacher? There is a shortage of teachers and a four-day work week is the only reason some teachers are staying in this field. I know several teachers that are indecisive on retiring and have chosen to stay as long as they have a four-day week. They will be out of this career if you pass this new rule. I know young teachers that have only been teaching a couple of years that have said, they will find other jobs. Are you prepared to fill the vacancies you are about to create?

As a coach, I see a lot of the success of our student-athletes related to a four-day week. We can fit our practice times in on our Fridays we have off. When possible, we schedule games and tournaments on days that we are off from school so that our students are not missing valuable instruction. We constantly hear how grueling the schedules are for students now days with school and sports, and you are proposing to take those days that they can catch up on homework, sports, and other extracurricular activities away

from them.

Are you thinking about the way this will impact attendance, dropout rates, finances, and staffing?

I say this as humbly as possible. Texico has continued to be at the top for years! Although I understand you are trying to find a way to get the other districts to perform and improve literacy and math rates across the state, why would you change something that is working in a successful district? Every little piece of what we do, contributes to our success at Texico, all the way down to our calendar. Why are you trying to impact that with an extended calendar and requiring five-day weeks? Diversity is constantly talked about in terms of student makeup, what about district makeup? Not every district is the same. We have kids that work in dairies, farms, and ranches to try to make ends meet. You cannot brand the entire state with this "one size fits all" model. Don't punish those that are successful. Figure out a way to make the ones that aren't performing be better. Don't change what is working in the districts that are Blue Ribbon winners and just received Excellence and Spotlight on our VISTA report.

These changes will significantly impact education in New Mexico. Are you thinking about all the negative impacts that it will have as well with this new rule?

Thank you for your time,

  
Math Teacher  
Head Girls Basketball Coach  
Texico High School  
575.482.3801



**From:** [Shannon Contreras](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 2:54:41 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Shannon Contreras and I am an employee of a 4 day district at Socorro Consolidated Schools. I am the mother of 2 adult children and a 9 year old boy in 2nd grade. I have worked for this district for over 10 years, first as a substitute teacher and now as a full time employee at our District Office. From a parent standpoint, my 9 year old has excelled with the 4 day school week. He is more eager to return to school each Monday and is less run down at the end of each week. Our district also offers Friday school if I felt that he needed more time in the classroom. With the 4 day week, more time is allotted for students to partake in more hands-on learning during Friday school. Speaking with numerous parents across the district, the opinion of favoring the 4 day school week seems to be the same. In fact nearly 3/4 of parents voted in favor of a 4 day school week over the 5 day option.

Attendance has also been an issue for some time. If it is a struggle to get kids to school on a 4 day week, what is it going to look like if we move to 5 days. More time in the classroom is not the answer if they are not attending. My husband, who is a teacher at our local middle school, also sees the difference in student morale with a 4 day week.

Working at our district office, staff morale has increased tremendously. We have attracted more effective, licensed teachers who have chosen to work in our 4 day district. This has helped with teacher retention. In my opinion, having more effective teachers who love to teach and have made our district home is priority.

Thank you  
Shannon Contreras  
Human Resources Administrative Assistant VI  
Socorro Consolidated Schools

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**From:** [Jacque Carter](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 2:58:39 PM

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I am writing to express support for allowing NM school districts to continue to be allowed to educate students on a four day school week. I am 51 years old and grew up going to school four days a week. I ranked in the top end at my university and was well prepared academically. Both of my children also attended schools with 4 day a week and they also had excellent academics. Living in rural NM when a family needs schedule medical , dental, or business appointments students miss an entire school day for driving to town. School attendance is much better when there are days to schedule appointments. As a professional I have worked on 5 day a week school districts and 4 day a week districts, and the kids by far do better 4 days with focus and attention. Many people in our state drive long distances to get to school or to work in school districts, going 5 days would add a lot of expense and likely cause teachers to quit at a time we cannot afford to loose teachers. It is also a huge budget saver to only run utilities 4 days a week.

Jacque Carter

**From:** [amber padilla](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Extended school hours and days  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 3:04:41 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am writing about the proposed changes in extended school hours and days. We have always done a 4 day a week school. My children are thriving and learning there. This allows children to also not miss school as often to do doctors, dentist and whatever else. Home school even requires like 3 to 4 hours a day and right now kids go 8. That is adequate time for learning. The kids are already stressed with the work load and need an extra day at home for homework and to reset mentally from stressors like school work and bullies (when applies). Rest is crucial for brain development. Forcing more time won't guarantee a better education. Children of all ages need outdoor time and free choice time. 4 days helps with cost for commuting as well. An added day would add extra expense for families who travel longer distances to schools and schools to be open an additional day.

In recent years more schools have adopted a 4 day week school week.

Those extra Fridays free from school give kids time to learn real life skills also. Working on farm or at home. Learning to pay bills, cook, clean and so on, things that have been taken from our schools. It has also been shown that attendance is improved in 4 day school schedule. There also seems to be reduced disciplinary action.

Studies have also shown that a 4 day work week increased productivity and employees are more motivated and better with time management and I believe that can also be true of school time.

It also attracts more teachers. It gives them a better home work life balance. It gives them time for planning and grading and other things. It improves school moral and makes it easier to staff.

Just asking you to really look at this and to leave our 4 day a week schedule alone.

Thanks you  
Amber padilla  
Grady public school  
[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Laura White](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 leave our 4 day school week alone  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 3:11:13 PM

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Our students in Grady NM are doing very well with the 4 day school week and have for 50 some years. There is no research that shows kids attending 180 days of school per year increase the test scores or educational gains. Our small farming communities need these 4 day weeks.

**From:** [Rodney Mayfield](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PED School Instructional Time Proposal  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 3:20:21 PM

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I have a few questions about this. Are you going to give more money to rural schools for utilities and transportation? Do you realize that this will lead to Athletics missing more school? There are some school districts like Socorro that have a horrible time getting Teachers, are you going to offer them more money so they can get the teachers they need? The four-day workweek is one of the few things that many rural schools have to draw teachers in. Do you only care about what APS wants, because that is how it feels? Small schools like Tatum, Dora, Quemado, Magdalena, Socorro, and many others will start losing more teachers to surrounding states with 4-day work weeks. Socorro now has a higher Graduation rate. Studies show that students learn just as much with a 4-day week. There are at least three towns around Dora and Tatum in Texas that have 4-day weeks. Tatum can at least offer money, or at least they used to. This is kind of an equity, thing don't you think? Or do you care?

--

**Rodney Mayfield**  
Warrior Robotics & Science Olympiad Coach,  
Art Teacher, Socorro Schools

**From:** [Matt-Jan Klinger](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 3:30:47 PM

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Study after study has shown that adding days to the calendar year or hours to the school day doesn't improve student achievement or success. Rural districts need a 4 day week for all the reasons that farming and ranching communities need that extra day to support their business. Also many of our athletes are on the road to away games on Fridays. Needing to travel 3-4 hours one way to attend events. A 4 day school week also gives rural residents the opportunity to travel for appointments that otherwise would require staff and students to miss work to tend to because those services are not provided locally.

Please protect the four day school week.

Jan Klinger  
Tucumcari NM

**From:** [sofiaterrell@rocketmail.com](mailto:sofiaterrell@rocketmail.com)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 3:33:25 PM

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To whom it may concern,

In response to the proposal to eliminate 4 day school weeks for NM schools, I would request a reconsideration for this proposal. By reducing the number of school days the school is able to save money on transportation, food and energy costs. Students are able to focus on other activities outside of academics such as working on weekends to make some personal spending money. Attendance is shown to be better as students are able to schedule medical/dental/other appointments on Fridays without having to miss school.

As for employees, a 4 day school week attracts more teachers when applying for open positions because it allows for them to improve their work/life balance.

We would greatly appreciate your reconsideration of taking away this benefit that several teachers, parents and students have been shown to approve of.

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent

**From:** [Gage Bonestroo](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to rule change  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 3:33:33 PM

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To whom it may concern,

Our community is a strong and vibrant one here in eastern New Mexico. We are currently a 4 day district in Texico, NM. I am a parent of three students who attend Texico Municipal Schools. I am continually impressed by the School and its staff. Enforcing rule changes across all districts without considering their local needs and traditions is irresponsible. I feel very strongly that districts should govern themselves within reasonable parameters. I am confident in our school's academic commitment and I believe our performance indicators prove that. All schools should continue to improve the education of their students, but let those districts operate as they feel is best suited to their community's needs.

I am strongly opposed to a blanket rule change mandating 180 educational days a year.

Sincerely,  
Gage Bonestroo

**From:** [Sarah Scioli](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep 4 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 4:08:39 PM

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The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.

Thank you,  
Sarah Scioli



**From:** [Holly Burgin](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 4:08:51 PM

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Good afternoon.

I am a parent of three children at Texico Elementary, Middle and High school. What they are doing at this school is unbelievably amazing. The kids are going to school four days a week, and have good summers and are killing it all areas of life. Best scores in the state, state champions in multiple sports, kids doing very well in FFA and more. Changing it up and making these kids go to school longer will NOT help them and we strongly oppose it. The school works the kids very hard and they learn to rest and play catch up and tutoring on off days. Please I repeat please don't change changes to the school days and hours across the board. Our kids are doing amazing over here at Texico. Please don't ruin a great thing

Sincerely,  
Holly Burgin  
Sent from my

**From:** [Dennis Roch](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposed to revision for NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 4:11:09 PM

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As both a career educator and a former NM legislator, I stand strongly OPPOSED to the proposed revision to NMAC 6.10.5 for the following reasons:

- Because the Public School Code (22-2-8.1) only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT instructional days, any rule which attempts to require “days” will be outside the statutory authority of the PED.
- The Public School Finance Act (22-8-23.14) specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks; departmental regulations cannot prohibit something which is otherwise authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School’s most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.
- The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 79% reading proficiency rate, far exceeding the state average of 38%.
- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%.

I respectfully ask that the PED abandon this attempt to regulate/negate local district decision-making, particularly because this move is not supported by data AND appears to contradict state statute.

Dennis J. Roch, Superintendent  
Logan Municipal Schools  
301 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, PO Box 67  
Logan, NM 88426  
575-487-2252 (office)  
575-487-9479 (fax)

**From:** [fela sena](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 4:22:43 PM

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To whom this may Concern, We have a Child at texico school & We are Imploring you to please reconsider the Change to the Student days calendar. We are a small district & we believe the Current Schedule Should remain as is .We have been on a 4 day weeks for12 years& We believe that is what attributes to The Schools academic excellence.  
Sincerely, Fela Sena.

**From:** [Abigail Roach](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4-day Vs 5-day weeks  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 4:24:57 PM

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Hello,

I am a student in a 4-day week District, and I truly believe that it is better for the overall wellbeing of students and staff. Having a longer weekend gives students a better break that allows them to rest their minds and Improve their mental health. It also helps the staff to be better prepared for the week. This shows in all our test scores and how they are consistent and also in the way that we are ranked compared to other schools. My concern with what you are trying to do is that the change will be too much involving all of us who are used to the 4-day week and it will cause a downward turn in everyone's performance and attendance. I genuinely advice that you reconsider your stance on this and think of the positives that a 4-day week brings compared to the stress a 5-day week may bring. Thank you for reading this and I hope you take what I've said into consideration.

Sincerely,

Abigail Roach

**From:** [Holly Mayfield](#)  
**To:** [Feedback, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Instructional Time Requirements rule change  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 4:38:48 PM

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To whom it may concern:

Currently in the US public schools are experiencing high rates of absenteeism. How will extending the school year to 180 days help combat this in New Mexico? For reference please see <https://www.npr.org/2023/03/02/1160358099/school-attendance-chronic-absenteeism-covid>

Additionally, some districts in New Mexico have had 4-day school weeks for more than 10 years. What data does the PED have that these schools underperform comparable schools who have a more traditional 5-day week?

If the PED cannot show data that this rule change would improve school attendance and/or make learning more equitable throughout the state of NM then this change should not be made.

Thank you,

Holly L. Mayfield  
Principal, Sarracino Middle School,  
District Test Coordinator, SCSD  
Socorro, NM

**From:** [Corbin Peabody](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 day week  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 4:39:37 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am emailing regarding to the 5-day week. I don't think this rule should be allowed, for the state of New Mexico, especially since Texico is one of the smartest schools in New Mexico and we only go FOUR DAYS A WEEK. This means that we are getting good education as kids, and we don't need to go 5 days a week. Also, we don't need a 5 day week because it's not that we don't need more education, but it is that our teachers hold us to a higher standard than other schools in the state. Also, our state test scores are amazing. Please think on this and if you have any questions or comments to add on to this, please let me know and I will get back to you as soon as I can. Thanks!

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**From:** [Mia Nieto](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keeping the 4-Day Week  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 4:41:53 PM

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Hello! My name is Mia Nieto. I am a proud student attending Texico High School, and I would like to put in my feedback into Keeping the 4-Day School week. Here at Texico High School, we have very strong academics and STRONG athletic teams. Not to mention a GREAT environment for us(students). Having a 4-day week really also helps with our mental health! Students work hard all week, so having a Friday off really helps keeps us in check and be well rested. I thank you so much for reading this short paragraph and I appreciate you time!

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**From:** [T.W](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposal 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 4:43:06 PM

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NMPED,

NM schools that have a 4 day week outscore schools that have a 5 day week!!

Please take the following FACTS into consideration:

- State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days.
- State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations CANNOT prohibit something which is authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.
- The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 79% reading proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 38%.
- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%.
- Staff and students at 4 day week schools have to travel much farther to school. These are rural communities and many students already spend 2 or more hours on the bus per day. Adding another day for the students to travel to and from school is absurd.

Thank you,  
Tryndi Cox



**From:** [Sarah Fitzgerald](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 5:03:02 PM

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My daughter is a student at Fort Sumner Municipal Schools.

The four day school week is extremely beneficial for us for many reasons including:

- monetary savings for our small school in a poor county
- time savings for students bussing in or traveling in from ranches and rural areas
- less issues with school attendance due to extracurricular activities, appointments and the like

Paramount however is the monetary savings for our school. It would be a hard hit for a school existing in the poorest county in NM at times.

I am happy to discuss this further if desired.

**From:** [J3N campos](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Against the new rule! Keep our 4 days!  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 5:03:57 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

As a parent and substitute teacher I am giving me feedback to this new rule change! I can tell you from both perspectives this isn't necessary in fact I think it will hurt and burn out the kids even more. My kids go to Texico Municipal Schools and the school has received recognition for not only academics but also stand out in sports and FFA. I have subbed at both Clovis and Texico Municipal schools and from what I have seen adding more days isn't the solution instead you should focus on not changing things every year and reducing so many trainings. You would benefit more with less changes less training and actually having your teachers in the classroom more vs adding more days to the school year.

Don't try to fix something that isn't broken. While some schools do benefit from going to school 5 days that doesn't mean it applies for everyone. Going to school 4 days has worked perfectly fine for us no need for a change!

**From:** [Shawna Olivarez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Issues  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 5:08:00 PM

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I was very distraught to hear of an outrageous rule trying to be put in by the NMPED that will effect our small schools in this state. These rule changes will affect our way of life. Texico has been a 4-day week school for over 12 years and have many successes! We are not the schools who constantly rate as low performing schools. We have strong educational values, strong academics, strong athletic teams that continuously provide excellent results. Small schools do not and will not ever fit the guidelines of larger schools in this state. Please reconsider this outlandish rule.

Sincerely,  
A Very Concerned Parent

**From:** [Robyn Drake](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 6:02:44 PM

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Having a four-day school week offers several benefits to our school district here in New Mexico including improved student attendance, increased teacher morale and cost savings. It also allows the teachers time to prep and prepare for each school week. By reducing the number of school days, schools can save money on transportation, food and energy costs.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Cala Wilson-Trudo](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regulation 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 6:03:29 PM

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There is no reason to get rid of the 4-day week.

- State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days.
- State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations CANNOT prohibit something which is authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks.
- The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks.
- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks.
- There is no evidence (statistics) to back up what you want to do unlike what has been presented here.
- Students lose less instructional time as games can be scheduled on Fridays. This gives them time to finish homework and unwind over the weekend.
- Teachers work hard to get into 4-day districts with many spending the majority of their career in one if they can. There also seems to be less turnover in 4-day districts than 5-day districts.
- We have a school board for a reason. This should be a local decision.

**From:** [Cala Wilson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regulation 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 6:04:02 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

There is no reason to get rid of the 4-day week.

- State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days.
- State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations CANNOT prohibit something which is authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks.
- The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks.
- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks.
- There is no evidence (statistics) to back up what you want to do unlike what has been presented here.
- Students lose less instructional time as games can be scheduled on Fridays. This gives them time to finish homework and unwind over the weekend.
- Teachers work hard to get into 4-day districts with many spending the majority of their career in one if they can. There also seems to be less turnover in 4-day districts than 5-day districts.
- We have a school board for a reason. This should be a local decision.

**From:** [Cala Troy](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regulation 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 6:04:25 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

There is no reason to get rid of the 4-day week.

- State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days.
- State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations CANNOT prohibit something which is authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks.
- The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks.
- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks.
- There is no evidence (statistics) to back up what you want to do unlike what has been presented here.
- Students lose less instructional time as games can be scheduled on Fridays. This gives them time to finish homework and unwind over the weekend.
- Teachers work hard to get into 4-day districts with many spending the majority of their career in one if they can. There also seems to be less turnover in 4-day districts than 5-day districts.
- We have a school board for a reason. This should be a local decision.

**From:** [Bidegain Farms LLC](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NM PED Proposed Revision Reg. 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 6:11:55 PM

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To whom it may concern,

As a parent of 3 students at Logan Schools, I am OPPOSED to the proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.2 that would require 180 school days and ending 4-day school weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to state the following facts:

- State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days.
- State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations CANNOT prohibit something which is authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.
- The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 79% reading proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 38%.
- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%.

As a resident of rural New Mexico, I believe this proposal would detrimental to the needs of a school located in a rural community. Living in a rural community, the 4-day school week allows families to use that 5th non-school day to take kids to doctor appointments located in distant larger cities that require adequate travel time. Without that 5th non-school day, students would miss more school due to that travel time than students located in larger cities where access to health professionals is just down the street.

Again, I would like to state that I am OPPOSED to these proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.5.

Sincerely,

Donnie Bidegain  
Parent, Logan Schools  
Logan, New Mexico



**From:** [Staci Fife](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 day school week change opposition  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 6:14:17 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

My daughter is a student of Texico Elementary. She attends school 4 days per week. Texico is outstanding academically and in athletics with the current 4 day school model. Our family likes the shortened week, and feel that it is beneficial for her academically as well as for us socially. There is no benefit to a 5 day school week, when for the past 12 years this school has excelled on the 4 day model. I am opposed to changing a system that very obviously is successful for our students on this end of the state. The budget considerations to feed and house students an additional day a week as well as staffing issues could also be problematic.

Thank you,

Staci M. Fife

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [Shelby Stone](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NM PED Proposal Revision Reg 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 6:47:24 PM

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To whom it may concern,

As a parent of a student at Logan Schools and previous graduate from Logan Schools, I am OPPOSED to the proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.2 that would require 180 school days and ending 4-day school weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to state the following facts:

- State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days.
- State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations CANNOT prohibit something which is authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.
- The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 79% reading proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 38%.
- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%.

As a resident of rural New Mexico, I believe this proposal would detrimental to the needs of a school located in a rural community. Living in a rural community, the 4-day school week allows families to use that 5th non-school day to take kids to doctor appointments located in distant larger cities that require adequate travel time. Without that 5th non-school day, students would miss more school due to that travel time than students located in larger cities where access to health professionals is just down the street.

Again, I would like to state that I am OPPOSED to these proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.5.

Sincerely,

Shelby Allen  
Parent, Logan Schools  
Logan, New Mexico

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ladonna Sorrels](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NM PED Proposed Revision Reg. 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 6:51:32 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

To whom it may concern,

As a parent of prior students at Logan Schools and a current contracted school bus driver, I am OPPOSED to the proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.2 that would require 180 school days and ending 4-day school weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to state the following facts:

- State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days.
- State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations CANNOT prohibit something which is authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.
- The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 79% reading proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 38%.
- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%.

As a resident of rural New Mexico, I believe this proposal would be detrimental to the needs of a school located in a rural community. Living in a rural community, the 4-day school week allows families to use that 5th non-school day to take kids to doctor appointments located in distant larger cities that require adequate travel time. Without that 5th non-school day, students would miss more school due to that travel time than students located in larger cities where access to health professionals is just down the street.

Again, I would like to state that I am OPPOSED to these proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.5.

Sincerely,

LaDonna Sorrels  
Logan Schools Contacted School Bus Driver and parent of two  
successful Logan High School graduates  
Logan, New Mexico

**From:** [Mandy Burke](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Leave it alone!  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 7:04:20 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Any change to the four day a week schedule will wreak havoc on how we balance and maintain our life. Quality over quantity matters! We have great teachers, students, and staff. One size does not fit all, and this size does not fit us!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Dennis Rich](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 7:06:18 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

This is in response to the proposed elimination of the 4 day school week. As a school board member, parent and community member this would be very detrimental to the small rural districts in this state. It would have a significant impact on our school budgets. Schools would be required to run buses an extra day every week plus the cost of an extra day of substitute teachers and an extra day of utilities. Please do not pass the elimination of the 4 day week

Thanks Dennis Rich

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [tjwillis50](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NM PED Proposed Revision Reg. 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 7:16:03 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern,

As a parent of a student at Logan Schools, I am OPPOSED to the proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.2 that would require 180 school days and ending 4-day school weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to state the following facts:

- State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days.
- State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations CANNOT prohibit something which is authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.
- The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 79% reading proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 38%.
- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%.

As a resident of rural New Mexico, I believe this proposal would be detrimental to the needs of a school located in a rural community. Living in a rural community, the 4-day school week allows families to use that 5th non-school day to take kids to doctor appointments located in distant larger cities that require adequate travel time. Without that 5th non-school day, students would miss more school due to that travel time than students located in larger cities where access to health professionals is just down the street.

Again, I would like to state that I am OPPOSED to these proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.5.

Sincerely,

Toby J. Willis  
Parent, Logan Schools  
Logan, New Mexico

**From:** [Jeanell Willis](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 7:17:59 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern,

As a parent of a student at Logan Schools, I am **OPPOSED** to the proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.2 that would require 180 school days and ending 4-day school weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to state the following facts:

- State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, **NOT** a minimum number of instructional days.
- State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations **CANNOT** prohibit something which is authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.
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- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%.

As a resident of rural New Mexico, I believe this proposal would be detrimental to the needs of a school located in a rural community. Living in a rural community, the 4-day school week allows families to use that 5th non-school day to take kids to doctor appointments located in distant larger cities that require adequate travel time. Without that 5th non-school day, students would miss more school due to that travel time than students located in larger cities where access to health professionals is just down the street.

Again, I would like to state that I am **OPPOSED** to these proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.5.

Sincerely,

Jeanell Willis  
Parent, Logan Schools  
Logan, New Mexico

**From:** [Christina Liles](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NM PED Proposed Revision Reg. 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 7:21:20 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern,

As a parent of a student at Logan Schools, I am OPPOSED to the proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.2 that would require 180 school days and ending 4-day school weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to state the following facts: • State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days. • State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations CANNOT prohibit something which is authorized by statute. • The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%. • The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 79% reading proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 38%. • The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%. As a resident of rural New Mexico, I believe this proposal would detrimental to the needs of a school located in a rural community. Living in a rural community, the 4-day school week allows families to use that 5th non-school day to take kids to doctor appointments located in distant larger cities that require adequate travel time. Without that 5th non-school day, students would miss more school due to that travel time than students located in larger cities where access to health professionals is just down the street.

Again, I would like to state that I am OPPOSED to these proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.5.

Sincerely,  
Calvin and Christina Liles Parent, Logan Schools Logan, New Mexico



**From:** [sarah scioli](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NM PED Proposed Revision Reg. 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 7:23:18 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern,

As a parent of a student at Logan Schools, I am **OPPOSED** to the proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.2 that would require 180 school days and ending 4-day school weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to state the following facts:

- State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, **NOT** a minimum number of instructional days.
- State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations **CANNOT** prohibit something which is authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.
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- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%.

As a resident of rural New Mexico, I believe this proposal would be detrimental to the needs of a school located in a rural community. Living in a rural community, the 4-day school week allows families to use that 5th non-school day to take kids to doctor appointments located in distant larger cities that require adequate travel time. Without that 5th non-school day, students would miss more school due to that travel time than students located in larger cities where access to health professionals is just down the street.

Again, I would like to state that I am **OPPOSED** to these proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.5.

Sincerely,

Sarah Scioli  
Parent, Logan Schools  
Logan, New Mexico

**From:** [Kelsi Peabody](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Against Proposed School Calendar  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 7:52:39 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing in disagreement to the proposed mandatory five day week and increased minimum school days. I am the parent of two boys who attend Texico Schools. I have a seventh and eighth grader at Texico. Texico has been a four day a week school for over 12 years! This has worked well for the school administrators, educators, students, and families. I for one, take my boys out of school less for appointments, vacations, school activities, and other various things. Having Friday off allows for flexibility and the ability to do the things mentioned above. Texico strives to have the best school and that is evident by numerous awards, championships, and other honors they have received. This school year alone, Texico has won both State football and volleyball, had several students win top honors at National FFA, and our school received BEST school district and Blue Ribbon awards. Texico has excellent administrators, educators, and board members and I trust they will continue to do what is best for OUR school. I hope you consider keeping decisions such as this in the hands of each individual school.

Respectfully,  
Kelsi Peabody

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Mari Venable](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 8:07:48 PM

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Good evening My name is Marisela Retana and I have two kids that attend school in the state of New Mexico, as a mother of two children that attend public school in a great school district this new rule gives me great concerns. My children have attended school with the 4 day school week and have done magnificent they are more eager and open to learn because they do not get overwhelmed with school because they get the right amount of school time and home life. I fear that extending both their school weeks and reducing their summer break would only cause them to get discouraged or overwhelmed. As a mother this new rule also brings a great anxiety, every year I pray my children make it home safely and I look forward to the time I have my children safe at home with me to spend time with during their breaks and to know that the time I get to spend with my children gets cut down is both upsetting and brings an emotional distress. I sincerely hope that you all take into consideration not only the children but the parents you will be effecting with this rule and vote no. Thank you

**From:** [Ashleigh Davis](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed 180 day school year  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 8:07:58 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

As an educator I'm completely against the 180 day school year. There is no research that this proposal shows any increase in a student's academic success. If you have dedicated teachers that provide the students with a structured learning environment that utilizes their time wisely there is no need to extend the school year. The state is going to push out the educated dedicated teachers by extending the school year. As a state we are already in dire need of fulfilling positions. Staff and students need a real summer to help everyone be able to spend time with family and recharge for the next school year.

As a parent whose kids attend a 4 day a week school I'm completely against the proposed 180 day school year that will make my children have to attend 5 days a week. My kids attend one of the highest rated schools in their academic performance winning many awards. They have educators who have specialized degrees in education and love their jobs. Again there is no research to show that making them go longer will increase their academic performance. This is also proof that a one size fits all isn't the case and could be more detrimental.

I ask that you strongly consider all of my valid points as an educator and parent. We are the ones in the trenches and know what's best for our students and children.

Sincerely,  
Ashleigh Davis

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jonathan Chapman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Advocating for the Continuation of the Four-Day School Week  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 9:25:17 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To whom it concerns,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining our current four-day school week schedule. As discussions surrounding educational policies progress, I believe it is crucial to acknowledge the numerous benefits that the existing arrangement brings to both students and the school community.

**Enhanced Student Well-being:**

The four-day school week has proven to be a key contributor to improved well-being among students. The extra day off allows them valuable time to rest, engage in extracurricular activities, and pursue personal interests. This positive impact on student morale can contribute to increased engagement in the classroom and overall academic success.

**Academic Focus and Efficiency:**

Contrary to concerns about academic performance, the four-day school week has been associated with increased focus and efficiency among students. With a condensed schedule, students often find themselves more motivated to complete assignments and participate actively in class. This heightened academic focus can positively influence overall student achievement and contribute to the school's educational goals.

**Community Engagement and Support:**

The four-day school week serves as a valuable tool in fostering community engagement and support. Families appreciate the flexibility the schedule provides, allowing for easier coordination of family activities and events. This positive relationship with the community can enhance the school's reputation and contribute to a collaborative learning environment.

**Operational Cost Savings:**

Continuing with the four-day school week also aligns with cost-effective measures. The reduced number of operational days can translate to potential savings in areas such as utilities, transportation, and maintenance. These savings can be redirected toward educational resources or extracurricular programs, enhancing the overall educational experience for students.

**Environmental Responsibility:**

Our current schedule also plays a role in our commitment to environmental responsibility. With one less school day, there is a collective reduction in the carbon footprint associated with transportation to and from school. This aligns with our educational values of sustainability and positions us as a responsible institution within the community.

**Student Flexibility:**

Maintaining the four-day school week offers students increased flexibility to balance academic and personal responsibilities. In an era where the well-rounded development of students is highly valued, this arrangement contributes to a positive school culture and fosters a sense of trust and respect between students, educators, and parents.

I understand that discussions around educational policies are ongoing, and I wanted to ensure that the value and benefits of our current four-day school week are considered. I would be more than happy to discuss this further and provide any additional information needed to support the continuation of our existing schedule.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Jonathan Chapman  
Concerned Parent  
Texico Municipal Schools

**From:** [Leslie Creighton](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 9:37:41 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear NM PED Officials,

It has come to my attention that NM PED is proposing a rule change requiring all schools to move to a calendar that would force a 5-day school week versus the current 4-day school week which many smaller more rural schools currently use.

Listed below are a few reasons this should NOT happen:

- State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days.
- State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations CANNOT prohibit something which is authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks.
- The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks.
- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks.

In addition I would like to point out that operating expenses such as utilities would likely increase for these schools and put a cramp on already tight budgets.

I had two daughters who went their entire school career on the 4-day week. They excelled in school, extra-curricular activities, and both went on to earn degrees from NM universities. The 4-day week allowed for days to complete doctors and dentists appointments without missing school and allowed for days to engage in extra curricular activities also without interfering with school.

Certainly larger cities and schools would have difficulty making a 4-day week work because of limited daycare options for parents leaving many kids to fend for themselves and making greater opportunities for kids to get into trouble, but rural schools do not have these issues.

Please let each school make their own decisions about their own calendars and allow the 4-day week to continue for the good of our children.

Respectfully,

Leslie Creighton  
Elida, NM

**From:** [Gregory Hawkins](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 days and 5 day weeks  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 9:53:28 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

TITLE 6 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION  
CHAPTER 10 PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION - PROCEDURAL  
REQUIREMENTS  
PART 5 SCHOOL [CALENDAR] INSTRUCTIONAL

My children have been in school at Texico since kindergarten. Now they are freshman and sophomores in high school.

We have only known 4 day school calendars.

I am unsure why these rules are being changed so suddenly and drastically. It seems based on the removed language in the rules, the school had to jump through many hoops to become a mostly 4 day school week. Now these changed are being mandated and sprung on us?

Our school is ranked historically as a leader in academics in New Mexico every year. On what basis would we need to change?

Isn't that what school boards and local admins are for? Why is the state forcing the issue? It seems to be working well for us.

I would like to provide my feedback requesting **this one size fits all rule to NOT be approved.**

Allow schools to do what makes sense for them.

Thanks  
Gregory Scott Hawkins  
2227b Curry road C  
Texico NM 88135  
575-309-9214  
Staff pharmacist  
Plains Regional Medical Center  
Clovis, NM



**From:** [Seth Bailey](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 9:56:33 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Grady school district, in Grady, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent and former educator  
Seth Bailey

**From:** [Crystal Hicks Reese](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Maintain autonomy for high performing schools like Texico School District  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 9:57:34 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good evening,

Our community was made aware today of current rules being proposed to change all school districts to a 5 day week and 180 day school year. As a mother of 3 children currently in Texico School District, I am completely opposed to this change. Our students work very hard in an already challenging and intense curriculum set by Texico staff, and it works for our small and successful community. What is effective for urban communities, is not equally effective for us in rural communities. Our educators and administration at Texico Schools are some of the best I have seen, and they ensure success for our students with their hard work. Please leave our districts alone, as we are far more successful than many others with our current 4 day school week. Please maintain autonomy with the local districts. This seems like overstepping, or an attempted abuse of power. There is no reason to infringe on small schools districts when what they are doing is best for our children, and that is proven by their performance.

Crystal Reese  
361 Curry Road 13  
Texico, NM 89135

**From:** [Haley Nevins](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback from a Texico parent  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:20:02 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello, my husband and I wanted to give some feedback about the recent possible school calendar change. We love that our kids go to a school that has a 4 day week. This has not affected their education negatively but has affected it positively . As they are able to rest over a 3 day weekend and we are able spend quality time as a family which is very important for a child's development.

Texico is #1 school in the state of NM so obviously having a 4 day week is not impacting our school negatively so why would we be required to change that?

We are asking that you please do not pass any laws that will force us to have to switch to a 5 day school week. Thank you for your time.

Tyler and Haley Hicks

**From:** [Elizabeth Lee](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:32:16 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Floyd school district, in Floyd, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130.

I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen. It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education. Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report. Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults. Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched. Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Also to add, my kids enjoy the little extra break, being a whole 3 days. We aren’t having random Friday half days. They aren’t getting a HUGE break for either Thanksgiving or Christmas. I have 3 kids enrolled in Floyd elementary and middle school, and those kids work their rear end off EVERY single day. From 7:50am - 4:00pm EVERY Monday through Thursday! You want them to learn what they need to succeed in life- but would you like them to do this successfully, or to be “burnt out” and do as I did? I dropped out. That’s not what I want for my kids.

**KEEP THE 4 DAY SCHOOL WEEKS!!!!!!!!!!!!**

Sincerely, A concerned Parent!

**From:** [Blair Pollister](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NM PED Proposed Revision Reg. 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:53:55 PM

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To whom it may concern,

As a parent of a student at Logan Schools, I am **OPPOSED** to the proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.2 that would require 180 school days and ending 4-day school weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to state the following facts:

- State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days.
- State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations CANNOT prohibit something which is authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.
- The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 79% reading proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 38%.
- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%.

As a resident of rural New Mexico, I believe this proposal would detrimental to the needs of a school located in a rural community. Living in a rural community, the 4-day school week allows families to use that 5th non-school day to take kids to doctor appointments located in distant larger cities that require adequate travel time. Without that 5th non-school day, students would miss more school due to that travel time than students located in larger cities where access to health professionals is just down the street.

Again, I would like to state that I am **OPPOSED** to these proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.5.

Sincerely,

Blair Pollister Parent,  
Logan Schools Logan, New Mexico  
Entrepreneur and Community Volunteer  
Quay County Little League President  
Call or Text: 575-639-1890  
[blairpollister@gmail.com](mailto:blairpollister@gmail.com)

**From:** [Giselle Piburn](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NO ON proposed Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 11:47:07 PM

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To whom this concerns,

I am another teacher against the proposed Rule NMAC 6.10.5 extending the year for NM students!

If you have extra funds put them to better use.

Respectfully,

Giselle Piburn  
Director, Mentorship Program  
pronouns: [she/her](#)  
Monte del Sol Charter School  
Santa Fe, NM 87507  
m 505-660-3171  
o 982-5225 x115  
[Zoom link](#) by appt.  
[gpiburn@montedelso.org](mailto:gpiburn@montedelso.org)  
[monte website/ mentorship](#)

**From:** [Britney Hawkins](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed rule by NMPED  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 6:24:51 AM

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What some schools lack in quality can not be made up with quantity. More school days across the board is not the solution. Also, some schools are already excelling and should be left alone. One size does not fit all!

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Jonathan Chapman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Optimizing Operational Cost Savings  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 6:41:56 AM

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Dear Rule Feedback Team,

I trust this message finds you well. I am writing to express my steadfast support for maintaining our current four-day school week schedule, with a specific focus on the substantial operational cost savings it offers.

**Operational Cost Savings:**

The continuation of the four-day school week aligns strategically with cost-effective measures. The condensed schedule results in a tangible reduction in operational days, presenting potential savings in critical areas such as utilities, transportation, and maintenance.

**Redirecting Savings for Educational Enrichment:**

By embracing the four-day school week, we have the opportunity to redirect the realized savings toward enhancing educational resources and extracurricular programs. This allocation not only ensures prudent financial management but also enriches the overall educational experience for our students.

**Financial Sustainability:**

In an era where financial sustainability is a paramount consideration, the four-day school week provides a practical avenue for optimizing our budgetary resources. These operational cost savings can be instrumental in fortifying the financial health of our institution, enabling us to better navigate future challenges.

I understand the ongoing discussions regarding educational policies and wanted to underscore the fiscal advantages our current schedule brings. I am available for further discussion and more detailed information regarding the positive impact of the four-day school week on our operational cost savings.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Jonathan Chapman  
Concerned Parent  
Texico Municipal Schools



**From:** [Monique Sours](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:09:38 AM

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Hello my name is Monique Sours. I teach first grade at San Jon Schools. I have been teaching for five years. I also have a student that attends Grady schools. I am very concerned about this bill you are proposing. Below a fellow teacher friend summed it up perfectly. I will add that I have been contemplating leaving the profession since I started. I have had nothing but difficulties trying to become a teacher and there is no support when you are in the classroom. If this bill passes I will leave the profession indefinitely.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the San Jon school district, in San Jon, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
Monique Sours

A concerned parent and educator.

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**From:** [Kayla Lee](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Stop HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:12:15 AM

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Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the House school district, in House, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130.

I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen. It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, State Law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, State Law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report. Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched. Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold High School graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent and educator

**From:** [Rodney Bone](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep 4-day school week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:13:46 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I have been involved with the 4-day school week for most of my life. I went to school at San Jon Municipal Schools and I graduated in 1989. I had a 3.6 GPA and was 3rd in my class. We had a 4-day school week for as long as I can remember. Grady has also had a 4-day school in place for the same length of time as San Jon. My 3 oldest children graduated from Grady with 4.0 GPAs. Two went on to college and graduated with honors and the other went into the auto mechanic field. My youngest is a Freshman and has carried a 4.0 since the day he started school.

Now, to the legality of this whole thing.

\* State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate either a 4-day or 5-day school week . . . Departmental regulations CANNOT prohibit something which is authorized by statute.

Not to mention these facts . . .

\* The high school graduation rate for New Mexico schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces the New Mexico schools on 5-day weeks.

\* The Student Achievement in Reading for New Mexico schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces New Mexico schools on 5-day school weeks, most with a proficiency rate more than double the state average.

\* The Student Achievement in Math for New Mexico schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of schools on 5-day weeks.

The problem with New Mexico's education system is not with the 4-day school week. It lands squarely on the 80% of schools that cover only 20% of the state. That is the larger schools starting from the southern state line with Texas and going north through Albuquerque and Santa Fe and west to Gallup. Hold this section of New Mexico schools and students accountable and you will see a gain in our state's education.

Don't force what is not working in the larger schools onto the smaller schools and tell us that it is going to be better. We aren't broken, so we don't need to be fixed.

[Rodney Bone](#)  
[rbone3971@gmail.com](mailto:rbone3971@gmail.com)

**From:** [Kayla Lee](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:14:53 AM

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Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Grady school district, in Grady, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130.

I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen. It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, State Law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, State Law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report. Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched. Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold High School graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent and educator

**From:** [Craig Rohrbach](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:29:12 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am against the proposed rule changes listed in HB 130 mandating all schools become 5-day week schools and all calendars go to a 180 days. At Texico schools and many surrounding districts, we have seen nothing but benefits associated with 4-day school weeks. We have just earned the top school in NM. These mandates infringe upon the local autonomy provided to school districts and their boards. It is local control that allows a district to decide what is best for their students. This bill should not be passed with these mandates!

Craig Rohrbach  
Texico, NM

**From:** [jesus tavaréz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Tavaréz family from texico school district  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:37:13 AM

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We have been a 4-day week school for over 12 years and have many successes! We are not the schools who constantly rate as low performing schools. We have strong educational values, strong academics, strong athletic teams that continuously provide excellent results. As a rancher we believe our school schedule fits us perfectly and would like to state that one-size does NOT fit all! So we do not agree with the changes proposed specially when it affects our way of life , we are not part of the city there for we should not be forced to be in a similar schedule as the cities , I personally came from Santa Fe nm and believe our education here in texico has helped my children more than in Santa ge city our teacher are dedicated and help our children and we are all like a small family here , thank you

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [prattapp@yucca.net](mailto:prattapp@yucca.net)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] proposed rules  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:39:33 AM

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Dear PED,

I would like to voice my concern about the proposed changes about the amount of days attended for the school year. My daughter is a current elementary school student in Texico, NM. This school has been on a 4 day a week schedule for many years and has excelled in academics and athletics. The community finds that this type of schedule allows the kids and families to have a balance in their lives and allows the kids some down time from school. This school and several others in this region are on the 4 day a week schedule and they have proven through the years that this system works and the kids learn better and have better attendance. We do not want the forced changes to this school district and to disrupt a very positive school and way of life that works for this area. We do not agree with your proposal of changes!!

The NMPED should look at what schools and their districts are having the biggest issues with this and work with those districts to help resolve those issues. The districts should have control over how many days a week the kids attend school as long as the hours for the year are met, this should not be dictated from somewhere that is not familiar with the way of life for that area. Every area and district have different needs and ways of life, and require different approaches to education. The NMPED should work with the different districts with approaches that would best fit the needs of those districts.

Thank you,

Paul Pratt



**From:** [Naomi Huicochea](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:51:44 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
Naomi Huicochea  
A concerned parent, staff member, & community member

**From:** [Tammy Dunlap](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:06:35 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in concern for the 4 day school week. The money saved on transportation, food and energy plays a vital role in the operations of the 4 day school week.

The student attendance is much improved and teacher moral is improved. Please do not take away the 4 day school week. Student test scores are higher in a 4 day school week.

Also, please let the local citizens make major decisions for the schools in their communities. Someone in Albuquerque or Santa Fe does not know the needs of Melrose or Corona communities.

Sincerely,

Tammy Dunlap

**From:** [Anneliese Kvamme](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Against proposed 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:08:45 AM

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To the New Mexico Public Education Department:

I am **against the proposed rule change in 6.10.5 NMAC** that would require all school districts to move to a mandatory five-day school week.

In my twelve years teaching at Lordsburg High School, I have seen the **improvement a four-day school week can make in student engagement and productivity**, particularly in a small district in rural New Mexico. I was teaching here for the transition from a five-day school week to a four-day school week, so I saw the dramatic difference.

Unlike what most people expect, **students were able to cover more material in my classes with a four-day school week** than with a five-day school week! **Students came to school rested** after a three-day weekend and did not beg for "free days," since my students had a day to catch up on any unfinished work while still having two days left of the weekend. In addition, after the change, our **schooling was not interrupted nearly as much** by the travel schedule for football, track, or other tournaments, which almost always included Fridays. In a school as small as we are, where a large percentage of students are involved in athletics, this made a huge difference in the amount of productive class time. Having a four-day school week also meant that parents who needed to take their children out of our small town to visit orthodontists or other medical professionals **could do so outside of school hours**.

Because we have four-day school weeks, my school can offer "Friday school," half-days on one or two Fridays a month for students who choose to come in to do work or to receive extra tutoring. This is **especially advantageous for our less advantaged students** who need access to technology or tutoring in order to complete any work they were unable to finish during normal class time. We have seen a number of students take advantage of this opportunity, an opportunity they would not have available to them if we were operating on a five-day school week.

As a bonus, changing to the four-day school week gave me the ability to schedule personal appointments on Fridays **instead of having to take sick days and leaving my students with substitute teachers**. In addition, I could work on extra grading and lesson planning on Friday and thus still have my two-day weekend to rest, most weeks. Before the change from a five-day school week, I found myself using a good percentage of my weekends to complete school-related work, especially when grading essays, a condition that had taken a

toll on my mental health as a teacher and my family relationships.

Overall, **I have found the four-day school week to be advantageous** for my effectiveness as a teacher and **more especially for the improvements in attitude and productivity I have seen in my students**. While this may not be appropriate for all school districts, it has been very beneficial to Lordsburg Municipal Schools. Because of this, **I believe changing 6.10.5 NMAC to require all districts, even those in rural areas, to operate on a five-day school week would be detrimental to the teachers and students of New Mexico.**

Please consider allowing districts to maintain a four-day school week.

Thank you,  
Anneliese Kvamme  
Teacher, Lordsburg High School

**From:** [Chell Price](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:17:34 AM

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Going to school only four days a week has huge benefits! I personally feel it is well worth the extra thirty minutes a day for the teachers and students to have a three day break. It cuts down on gas for the buses, electricity to run the school, and absents from teachers and students for appointments. A lot of schools in rural New Mexico have to drive so far to a town to dr appointments which mean teachers and students miss the entire day.

My kids personally ride a bus forty miles one way to go to school. An eighty mile round trip to school means they are gone from home from 6:15 am til 5:30 pm which is a betty long day and week! Having Fridays off is a huge help! Not only does it save the school gas we have to drive 20 miles a day to meet the bus so a day with out driving dues help! Please leave the schools a four day a week especially us very rural area schools.

**From:** [Sandy](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:25:00 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Elida Municipal School district, in Elida, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

A concerned educator, but more importantly a concerned parent,

Sandra Vigil

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**From:** [Tiffany Eilenstine](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:42:05 AM

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To whom it may concern,

In January 2023 my husband and I made the decision to pull our sons a fifth grader and a sixth grader from the Clovis Municipal Schools district which supports a typical 5 day schedule to Grady Public Schools which models a 4 day week.

In making this decision we told our children that this would include a longer day and more rigorous curriculum and they were eager and excited for this opportunity.

In their previous school setting the curriculum was spread out and they were not engaged. The day was boring and cumbersome to them and they did not value going to school. Since starting in Grady they look forward to the school day. They look forward to what they are learning and are thoroughly engaged in the curriculum as well as extra circulars that are offered to them. My children are THRIVING in a 4 day setting and that should be what matters.

If hours are met then the days in which are spent should not be mandated. If a 4 day week works for Grady schools as well as others maybe a 4 day should be considered for all New Mexico schools. There should be more important things to consider. Let what works for certain schools be the example. What doesn't work at others should be what's changed. Leave the 4 day school day as is it's working for my students.

Signed proud and grateful Grady Broncho parent.

**From:** [Amanda Gonzales](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hb130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:51:27 AM

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Texico was named #1 school district according to Niche this September, our elementary and middle school are named schools of excellence according to NM PED and their NM Vistas system and the high school is a spotlight school!!! And... not only do we have it going on academically but the girls won a state basketball championship last year!!! This last Saturday the boys won the State Championship for football AND the girls won in volleyball!!!! Two weeks ago we just had two suburbans full of kids go compete in Nationals (not state, NATIONALS) for FFA and brought home several awards! I'm pretty sure a day 4 week is working just fine!!! Our schools need to be able to make decisions on how they run locally! It should not be up to the governor! One size does not fit all.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Katy Mochel](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:59:17 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Elida school district, in Elida, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent

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**From:** [Emily Landrum](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 day school week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:04:33 AM

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Having a 5-day week will not be a good change for our small school. A majority of students live 20-60 minutes away from the school. With the price of gas, many students can't afford to add another day of school. Mental health is also a huge issue. As a student council member, I hear about how school brings down the mood of everyone. Studies have proven that adding an extra day of school does not ensure a better education. My peers and I can agree that an extra day will not help us.

**From:** [CARRIE NIGREVILLE](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:22:29 AM

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Good morning,

I'm writing to express my concern about the proposed changes to the School Calendar Requirement, renamed with the proposed 'Instructional Time' Requirements. I was dismayed to come across this proposed change almost accidentally, rather than through regular communication channels to school districts. Unfortunately, this gives the appearance of yet another proposed rulemaking attempt being kept under the radar. Given the significant impact that this proposed change would have on districts across the state, I would have hoped for more prominent opportunities for school boards, district leaders, teachers and communities to engage in the conversation around this decision.

One of the most significant challenges being faced by districts across the state is low student attendance. In attempts to meet the needs of students and families, as well as the requirements of the Attendance for Success Act, schools are bending over backwards to identify needs, intervene, document efforts, and work to affect change for families. Unfortunately, without any expectation of responsibility on the part of the student and family, our efforts are often not successful. As a district, we have invested significant funds, people, and efforts to serve our families in this manner. The addition of more instructional days to our calendar will not serve to entice students to attend school. This only serves to feed the vicious cycle of low attendance rates, low performance resulting from low attendance rates, and the additional PED mandates to address low performance, such as this one. Until New Mexico can fundamentally address the system that places all accountability for student attendance on the school without sharing the responsibility of educating our youth with families and the community, we will not see positive outcomes from increasing the number of days students are required to attend school.

As districts are still recovering from the impact of the pandemic, we are just starting to see improvements in staffing - which not all districts are enjoying. However, districts are still functioning with many alternatively licensed and inexperienced teachers with whom we are working to develop skill sets and deeper content understanding. These priorities are not improved by the addition of even more days with students without sufficient time to examine data and practices, make instructional plans, and incorporate best practices. Already, our teachers are committed to after school, evening and Saturday interventions, not to mention supporting extracurricular activities for students, which actually do improve student attendance and success.

A more effective investment for the PED would be to increase the funding and resources made available to districts to provide mental health and behavioral supports for students. Schools have seen a significant increase in student mental health crises and violent behaviors for which trained responses are required to ensure the safety and protection of all of our students. Given the extensive and increasing needs of students outside of the academic realm, this would be a better focus for change.

We have seen teachers and school leaders work miracles in the past few years, and responding to their efforts and success with a message of 'Not enough - do more' is disrespectful and not productive. It disregards local control that should provide for calendar decisions that align with community desires. I urge you to reconsider this move and seek other ways to support New Mexico students in achieving great outcomes. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. Sincerely,

Carrie Nigreville  
Deputy Superintendent of Academic Services and Leadership  
Clovis Municipal Schools



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**From:** [Sean Reagan](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:23:41 AM

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My name is Sean Reagan and I would like to state my profound opposition to HB 130. I believe, before forcing 4 day schools to be 5 day the statistics need to be separated. Look at the performance of 4 day schools completely separate from those that are 5 day. I would guarantee the reason New Mexico ranks 51st in education, has nothing to do with 4 day schools. With that said, I also strongly disapprove of the thought that a state ranked dead last in education needs MORE terrible education to improve.

I am a native New Mexican and went through public schools. I had wonderful teachers, who were properly educated and were allowed to TEACH. Adding more hours to school does not improve your odds of gaining qualified educators.

Rules like this are solely responsible for a mass exodus of great educators with bad rules and poor decisions. NM PED needs to be a resource for educators and a support system for children. From my perspective, since I graduated all this group has done is force quality educators to leave and force kids into more school time for worse education.

Homeschooling sounds like a great option for those who have the ability and I feel terribly sorry for the kids who don't have that ability and are forced into this broken system.

Sean

**From:** [Lillian Tincher](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:23:43 AM

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I have already written in a very long response with my personal experience and thoughts on this change, but also wanted to provide some of the research, or lack of, to show that extended time does not correlate to achievement, and that all the pros of extending the school year have nothing to do with supporting our students academically. SO why are we going to spend the money on something that will not work instead of on something that we know will absolutely work, smaller classroom sizes...?

Just a few, there is much more.

“While studies have found that longer instruction time can improve achievement, the correlation is not exact and depends on other factors, such as classroom environment, quality of instruction, and student ability.<sup>‡</sup> In short, it’s likely that longer school days won’t be an effective way to raise achievement without other factors already being in place. Supporting this notion is the fact that U.S. teachers already spend more time in the classroom than most other developed nations”

<https://www.waldenu.edu/online-doctoral-programs/doctor-of-education/resource/the-pros-and-cons-to-longer-school-days#:~:text=No%20Direct%20Correlation%20Between%20Longer,of%20instruction%2C%20and%20student%20ability.>

The pros only speak about a longer school day that makes parents' lives easier, which we already implemented last year.

“Some studies have been done that show that longer instruction time can improve achievement, but those results depend on things like classroom environment, quality of instruction, student prior knowledge and ability. This means that a longer day does not necessarily correlate with higher achievement. Without other factors in place, a longer school day is most likely not increasing student learning. In fact, countries that are regularly high achieving such as Finland, Singapore and China have not taken the longer day approach. Instead they maximize learning within the traditional schedule.”

<https://www.gcu.edu/blog/gcu-experience/pros-and-cons-longer-school-days>

Pros again, more time to play and time for the arts, all things that many parents can and do provide outside of the classroom. Pros again, matches the parents’ schedules. Again, does not show any correlation to achievement. Pros seem to be that day care is provided.

“Despite the considerable number of research studies and reviews of research, the body of empirical literature is limited in some respects. While many studies have examined the relationship between school time and student learning, most have relied heavily on correlational data. There has yet to be a controlled study, employing an experimental design, that directly measures the impact of significantly extending the school year on student achievement outcomes.”

[https://www2.wested.org/www-static/online\\_pubs/po-98-02.pdf](https://www2.wested.org/www-static/online_pubs/po-98-02.pdf)

“The research literature suggests that, while time is certainly a critical factor, by itself it has little direct impact on student performance. Simply adding time to the school year or day would not likely produce large-scale gains in student achievement.”

[https://www2.wested.org/www-static/online\\_pubs/po-98-02.pdf](https://www2.wested.org/www-static/online_pubs/po-98-02.pdf)

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**From:** [Cindy Stamps](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 Day School Week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:25:39 AM

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I believe that we need to keep the 4 day week at our school. I think it is essential in cutting down costs in electricity, school lunches, etc. I don't think our kids have been hurt by just going 4 days a week. Their tests scores have proven that , along with our graduate statistics.

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**From:** [Kelly Shank](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:39:43 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Texico was named #1 school district according to Niche this September. The elementary and middle schools are named schools of excellence according to NMPED and their NM Vistas system and the high school is a spotlight school. Not only are our students thriving academically, but the girls won a state basketball championship last year, this last Saturday the boys won the State Championship for football and the girls won in volleyball. Two weeks ago Texico just had two suburbans full of kids go compete in Nationals for FFA where they brought home several awards.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned educator's spouse.



**From:** [Maranda Kite](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 Feedback-District Decision  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:52:55 AM

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Hello,

My children attend school in a school district that has school 4 days a week. Nearly all students in the school live or participate in their family farm and ranch operations. The livelihood of their families depend on these farms and ranches. Additionally, the majority of the students participate in athletes, FFA, 4H and other activites that are essential to them having become well-rounded adults and learning teamwork.

Our students receive high test scores and there is no evidence to show that going to school 5days a week would be better.

PLEASE, PLEASE allow school districts to make these decisions on their own so that they can best serve the students, they know, in their communities.

Regards,  
Maranda Kite

**From:** [Heidi Vermillion](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:58:23 AM

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Heidi Vermillion  
966 S. Ridge Rd  
Silver City, NM 88061  
[jhverm@gmail.com](mailto:jhverm@gmail.com)  
575-313-2810  
Date: Nov. 21, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: ***Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department***

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of a student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from

instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Heidi Vermillion

**From:** [Kelly McDaniel](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PLEASE DON'T CHANGE THE 4 DAY SCHOOL WEEK!  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:15:34 AM

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Kelly McDaniel  
18 Kohdy Lane  
Arenes Valley, NM 88022  
kdcat.mcdaniel@yahoo.com  
575-574-2663

November 21, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: ***Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department***

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of a student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children. Cliff School is currently listed as a Spotlight School!

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.

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3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in

achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kelly McDaniel

**From:** [Amy Terry](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] opposition of school scheduling  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:21:31 AM

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To whom it may concern:

I am currently an employee at Logan Municipal Schools as well as a parent. I am strongly against not letting the local school districts design their own schedule. We at Logan are very successful in the schedule and days we currently have. The years before are proof. Why change something that is not broken and actually working very well. Show me the studies showing that 4 day a week school does show success, or that 5 days a week shows more success. Every school district is different, applying an universal rule to the largest school district and to one of the smallest is not appropriate. Please let the school districts decide.

Here are other reasons I strongly oppose the schedule of 180 days per year:

- The Public School Code (22-2-8.1) only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days.
- The Public School Finance Act (22-8-23.14) specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations cannot prohibit something which is otherwise authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.
- The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 79% reading proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 38%.
- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24% .

Thank you your time.

**Amy Terry, MS, CCC-SLP**  
**Logan Municipal Schools**  
**Speech-Language Pathologist**  
**[aterry@loganschool.net](mailto:aterry@loganschool.net)**  
**Work: (575) 487-2252**  
**Cell: (575) 403-7485**

**From:** [Sarah Gudgell](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4day vs 5day week Survey  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:22:20 AM

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To whom it may concern,

As a teacher here at Logan Municipal Schools, I truly believe that operating on a five-day school week would only negatively impact our students, teacher, admin, and all other staff. We are a small school which means many of the staff wear many different hats. We would be stretched thin if we were to add an additional day to our work week. We also have proven ourselves to be successful academically; we are amongst the top in reading and math in the state. Bus travel would be another expense that we would have to take on every single week to accommodate out-of-town students. The bus accommodations would also be tricky on Fridays because we do not have enough bus drivers to drive to athletic activities and to drive student's home.

Our 4-day work week makes our lives as teachers easier to plan ahead and to get all instructional material prepared from week to week.

Thank you,  
Sarah Gudgell

**From:** [Kelly McDaniel](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] LEAVE THE 4 DAY SCHOOL ALONE!  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:26:14 AM

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Dan McDaniel  
18 Kohdy Lane  
Arenas Valley, NM 88022  
575-574-8285

November 21, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: ***Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department***

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of a student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children. Cliff School is currently listed as a Spotlight School!

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.



I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kelly McDaniel

**From:** [MARGO RIVERA](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 day week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:34:33 AM

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The reason several out of town certified regular education/special education and ancillary staff have continued to work in our district is because of the four-day work week. Adding another day when traveling from another town is not only time consuming, but is wear and tear on all vehicles.

It is a shame the Secretary of Education is leading certified staff away from working in our small district.

**From:** [Crystal Hicks Reese](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:40:04 AM

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Good morning,

As a parent of 3 children at Texico School District, I am extremely opposed to the proposed changes to the schedule. Texico School District is one of the most successful in New Mexico. We do not need or want an additional 3 weeks of school or the added 5th day to the week. Our schools and curriculums are already challenging and intense, with very high success rates. The proof is in our performance. Leave these decisions up to our rural communities, as our local educators and administration know what's best for our children. One size does not fit all. We do not send our children to school for daycare or to be fed out here, we care dearly for our children and value our time with them. Which our current schedule allows, along with giving them the best education possible. Please leave autonomy up to local districts.

Thank you,  
Crystal Reese  
361 Curry Rd 13  
Texico, New Mexico 88135

**From:** [+15053478161@tmomail.net](mailto:+15053478161@tmomail.net)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:41:38 AM  
**Attachments:** [text\\_0.txt](#)

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State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days. State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations CANNOT prohibit something which is authorized by statute.



This message was sent to you by a T-Mobile wireless phone.

**From:** [Molly Mackinnon](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:42:47 AM

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Dear LESC Committee Members:

As a public school teacher who is missing an inordinate amount of students on each day of instruction, I can assure the committee that adding more days will not do a thing to ameliorate the problem of truancy. The children I do teach are, in large part, consumed with mental health issues and daily life issues resulting from economic disparity, lack of proper access to health care and, in some cases, homelessness.

In so far as removing planning and personal development from the proposed school instructional hours: I sincerely, and without sarcasm or emotion, invite any person on this committee to substitute teach my 7th grade science classes for a week, and plan for those 70 students at home, at the end of your work day. I also have an AP Environmental science class you may have as well.

Teaching is about bringing great instruction to children. It has to come from a place of experience, knowledge, stand up comedy gifts, counseling office and grocery store. It has to be delivered in a stimulating way that holds class management in place, while driving multiple, diversified levels of learning forward. All of this takes time and is PART of our job, just as no one would expect you to prepare speeches, agendas, policies and more OUTSIDE of your work hours.

For teachers to have to continuously justify the scale and scope of our work as professionals, (and to be paid for it!) is beyond the pale.

I do *not* and will *never* support such a re-draft of the just passed state statute.

Respectfully,

Molly Mackinnon  
Monte del Sol Charter School

**From:** [Crystal Reese](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:44:25 AM

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Good morning,

As a parent of 3 children at Texico School District, I am extremely opposed to the proposed changes to the schedule. Texico School District is one of the most successful in New Mexico. We do not need or want an additional 3 weeks of school or the added 5th day to the week. Our schools and curriculums are already challenging and intense, with very high success rates. The proof is in our performance. Leave these decisions up to our rural communities, as our local educators and administration know what's best for our children. One size does not fit all. We do not send our children to school for daycare or to be fed out here, we care dearly for our children and value our time with them. Which our current schedule allows, along with giving them the best education possible. Please leave autonomy up to local districts.

Thank you,  
Crystal Reese  
361 Curry Rd 13  
Texico, New Mexico 88135

**From:** [Secundino Esquibel](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Revision to reg 6.10.5  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:55:09 AM

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State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days. • State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations CANNOT prohibit something which is authorized by statute.

Don't mess with things that are not broken. The point of letting every district decide for themselves if a 5 day or a 4 day week is appropriate is because the needs of children are different and that's up to the districts to identify

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**From:** [Pam Firestone](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:00:29 AM

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As a local, retired teacher/parent, I wish for you to turn this bill down. Hands-down! Texico schools have proven themselves, to the state and community, to be a magnificent group of teachers/students. Their academic numbers tell you how well a 4-day school week works amazingly! Please stop controlling our local schools. If it isn't broken, don't fix it. Texico schools is not broken.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Laura Ridge](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep the 4 Day School Week!  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:05:01 AM

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You keep tacking on days our calendar. Right now, I'm in class the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. More than half of my senior class is absent. They have an assignment but, with this many missing, it has to be busy work.

My week of break turned into three days of break because you seem to think that cramming more days in the school year is somehow aiding in instruction. In reality, the curriculum in New Mexico is what's dragging us down. It's not your teachers or your students that are failing in New Mexico. It's the pace and content of what we teach. Teachers have turned into drones who have to teach exactly what is mandated. This sucks out all of the creativity and excitement from our lessons. In turn, our students are drones as well, working to take some standardized test that measures absolutely nothing because they don't try.

We go to school for the full week but I can tell you, if we lengthened the school day and got Friday off, my students would be so much happier and more motivated. They would have time to enjoy their childhoods and not stay packed into an ancient and decaying building like Roswell High School. Teachers would have more time to actually have a life and not just grade on the weekends.

So, instead of taking freedom away from us, consider giving us more. Let teachers decide what our students need to learn and how to teach it. Let students be children and enjoy their carefree lives while they can. We all should go to school for four days a week. We work too much. They work too much. And none of us feel appreciated.

*Laura A. Ridge*

English 12/Creative Writing Club Sponsor

Roswell High School



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**From:** [Crystal Reese](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:10:23 AM

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Good morning,

As a parent of 3 children at the very successful Texico School District, I am vehemently opposed to the proposed changes to a 5 day week and adding 3 weeks of school. Most of our community is also opposed.

Texico was named #1 school district according to Niche this September, our elementary and middle school are named schools of excellence according to NM PED and their NM Vistas system and the high school is a spotlight school. Not only do we have success academically, but the girls won a state basketball championship last year. This last Saturday the boys won the State Championship for football AND the girls won in volleyball. Two weeks ago we just had two Suburbans full of kids go compete in Nationals (not state, NATIONALS) for FFA and brought home several awards. A day 4 week is working just fine for our rural district. Our schools need to be able to make decisions on how they run locally! It should not be up to the governor! One size does not fit all.

Thank you,  
Crystal Reese  
361 Curry Road 13  
Texico, NM 88135

**From:** [Laura Lewis](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:35:16 AM

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Laura Lewis

250 Morgan Road

Fort Sumner, NM. 88119

806-224-6505

[jtrackranch@gmail.com](mailto:jtrackranch@gmail.com)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my support for the continuation of the four-day school week in New Mexico, as proposed by State Law 22-8-23.14. As an educator with 28 years of experience in a small school setting, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that a four-day school week has had on both students and teachers.

The potential rule change by the New Mexico Public Education Department to eliminate the four-day school week is a matter of concern, especially considering the significant advantages it brings. Schools operating on a four-day schedule consistently demonstrate improved student achievement in critical subjects such as reading and mathematics when compared to their counterparts operating on a traditional five-day schedule.

Moreover, in smaller districts like ours, attracting and retaining qualified teachers has been a perpetual challenge. The four-day school week serves as a significant selling point for small schools, facilitating the recruitment of educators who are dedicated to fostering academic excellence in a more conducive and engaging environment.

It's crucial to emphasize that State Law 22-8-23.14 explicitly grants the authorization for schools to operate on either a four or five-day school week. Consequently, any regulatory measures should align with this legislative provision, allowing schools the flexibility to choose the schedule that best suits the needs of their students and staff.

In conclusion, I urge the New Mexico Public Education Department to reconsider the proposed rule change and uphold the autonomy granted by State Law 22-8-23.14. The four-day school week has proven to be a catalyst for enhanced academic performance and teacher retention in small districts, and its continuation would undoubtedly contribute to the overall educational success of our students.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that your careful consideration will ensure the best possible educational outcomes for our schools and communities in the state of New Mexico.

Sincerely,  
Laura Lewis  
Fort Sumner Municipal Schools

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**From:** [Mariah Morrison](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:51:14 AM

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Hello My name is Mariah Morrison, I just wanted to let you guys know how the 4 day school week is amazing for my kids. If they were to go 5 days it would already be so hard for them to get up and have any time at home I love the 4 day week and it works out so good for our family please don't change it!!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kellen McKee](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirement  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:51:36 AM

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Our school is a very small, rural school. There are many reasons why this would be detrimental to our students and community.

1. Attendance would drop. Our students have many responsibilities outside of school. They are required to help out at home, on the farm, and working with animals. We are able to complete the outside jobs on Friday. If we were required to have school on Friday, the students would miss time during the school day to work at home.
2. Game Days. All of our students are needed to play with a full team in sports. They are able to travel on Friday currently. The games are many hours away. This would require most of the secondary students to be absent all day on Friday anyway.
3. We are in a very hard to staff area. Many of our staff run errands, doctor appointments, trainings, etc. on Friday. If they were required to work, I KNOW that most of them would quit. We would be very short staffed.

These are just a few of the reasons why this would have a BIG NEGATIVE for our community. I understand that it may be easier to require every school to be the same... BUT this is education. We never take the easy way. Our focus is doing what is best for students. PLEASE do not punish our students for the sake of "easy".

-Kellen McKee

**From:** [Callie Parr](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:57:05 AM  
**Attachments:** [HB 130 Feedback.pdf](#)

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Please see attached letter containing feedback in reference to rule HB 130.

Thank you,

Callie Parr  
Concerned Parent



To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico school district in Texico, NM, in direct opposition of HB 130. It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults. Four day work weeks help attract and retain quality teachers.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched. Compacting school into just four days a week leaves more time for kids to spend with family, friends, and outside interests. Older students can spend time engaging in resume-building public service or paid work.

Not to mention, districts are able to reduce overhead costs. Particularly in the categories of building operations and maintenance, transportation and food service.

Additionally, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Conclusively, I want to drive home the point that one size does not fit all! Texico specifically was named #1 school district according to Niche this September, our elementary and middle school are named schools of excellence according to you, the NM PED and your NM Vistas system, and the high school is a spotlight school! Not only is Texico succeeding academically, but we also just brought home two athletic State Championships and several FFA awards at Nationals. The community of Texico (staff, students, and parents) are working very hard and striving for excellence every day! Please leave the four day week to the discretion of the local administration!

Sincerely,  
Callie Parr  
Concerned Parent

**From:** [Myra Abdill](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Trying to do away with 4 day weeks  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:08:35 PM

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- As you can see, the four day week does work. Maybe it needs to be implemented across the board. At our school you can see from test scores it works! Staff, students and yes, even parents like it. Taking away local authority is wrong. You can see our data below.....it proves that this works. Numbers don't lie.
- 
- The Public School Code ([22-2-8.1](#)) only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days.
- The Public School Finance Act ([22-8-23.14](#)) specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations cannot prohibit something which is otherwise authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.
- The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 79% reading proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 38%.
- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%.

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**From:** [Robyn Henderson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:17:17 PM

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I am in support of a mandated 5 day week.

1. Students need routine and consistency, a five day work week is the norm for most occupations
2. Longer days to accomplish requirements with a 4 day week mean children are up earlier, home later and usually have more homework
3. 4 day week puts stress on families needing childcare during their 5 day work week
4. Food insecure families/children go without nutrition one more day
5. NM has poor educational rankings and perhaps we should focus on keeping kids in school and providing consistent education, not minimizing interactions....improved frequency will improve retention and therefor success

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Melinda Collins](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:18:45 PM

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This bill is not a one size fits all bill! Texico municipal schools are highly successful not only academically but athletically and agriculturally! We have the top students and staff and we do it all in a four day work week! Our students and staff strive for excellence everyday and that should stand for something. Look at the schools record and allow their administrators to make the decisions as to what's best for their students and staff.

Melinda Collins  
Texico Staff

**From:** [Gabriela Betancourt](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:23:10 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Grady Municipal School, in Clovis, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen. It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education. Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report. Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults. Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched. Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely, A concerned community member.

**From:** [Patti Sargent-Neely](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:44:14 PM

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KEEP THE 4 DAY SCHOOL WEEK!!!!

As the parent of a 2023 NM Public School I feel that my son benefited GREATLY with the 4 day school week. His mental capacity worked better with longer days and the extra day off allowed him to complete assignments as well as help with our family

KEEP THE 4 DAY WEEK!

Patti Sargent-Neely

**From:** [Kim Sanchez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [DeBell, Amanda, PED](#); [Frostad, Gregory, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Changes to NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 12:58:58 PM

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As I read HB 130 I am questioning why PED would consider writing a rule that would, essentially, prevent schools from having a 4-day calendar. HB 130 specifically allows for 4-day weeks. It goes as far as qualifying what those schools need to be considered a K-12 Plus school. In addition, nothing in HB 130 mentions the maximum length of the school day.

If PED is writing a rule that prevents these schools from using their autonomy to decide what is best for their district, they are **overstepping their bounds**. What is the purpose of NMAC? It is the duty of the department to take newly enacted legislation and write rules that put the legislation into action. But if that legislation allows for 4-day calendars then it is the responsibility of the department to write a rule that acknowledges that. It is outside of the department's scope to write a rule that removes a district's ability to continue with their pre-approved existing calendar.

School districts that choose a 4-day week have taken the time to consider what is best for their district and community. They were required to do so before changing. They were required to have a vote of the community. That vote required a 2/3 consent, not the usual 50%, in order to pass. PED is now ignoring the desires of the voting members of those communities by rewriting this rule in this fashion.

PED again **oversteps their bounds** when the proposed rule change states that professional work hours must occur "before, after, or on a day other than the required minimum 180 ..." It goes further to state that the time "shall not be double counted ..." When reading HB 130, it states that "up to sixty instructional hours per school year for elementary grades and thirty instructional hours for middle and high school grades may be used for professional work hours". This can only be interpreted as allowing that many hours to count as instructional time. Otherwise, it would not have been labeled as "instructional time". HB 130 even states that the professional work hours "may be imbedded in the course of the normal school day." PED is clearly not following this with the "before, after, or another day" clause.

This proposed rule change does nothing to address Section 4 of HB 130. PED has not only overstepped their bounds with requirements to a district's calendar, but has been derelict in its duty to include in the rule how Section 4 should be implemented.

Four-day weeks have become a way of life for many communities and businesses. Many of the governmental offices in these communities have also chosen to go to a 4-day week. I know that the city and county government offices for our area have.

For our school district, I know it has been a recruitment factor. We have teachers choosing to leave the bigger district in which they live and travel the hour needed to work in our district. With gas prices high, I can't see them continuing this if forced to a 5-day week. This will remove qualified teachers from the classroom. If there is one thing research shows, having a highly-qualified teacher is paramount to student success. Considering the Yazzie-Martinez lawsuit, any rule that would decrease a rural school's access to highly-qualified teachers

should never be considered by the department.

Rural communities depend on members of their families to assist in day-to-day activities. The traditional school calendar was created with the idea that students were needed in the ranching and farming communities during the summer - the busiest times. When looking at communities with year-round schools, these tend to be urban communities. With a 4-day week, rural communities have that time provided because any rancher or farmer will tell you that June and July are not the only months they need help. (We can longer count August as one of those months as it is now spent attending school to accommodate other required changes.)

If PED wants students in school more, I suggest tackling attendance first. I have heard of students missing school to “get a haircut”. (I’m not joking). I know of students that were kept home to provide child care to younger siblings.

I have known students who were required to have counseling once a week. They missed every single Tuesday. When the local district went to a 4-day week several years ago, these students were able to change their counseling days to the day not in school. This change improved their attendance.

In closing, if PED wants to dictate to school boards the need for 5-day weeks, please follow the correct process and take this to the legislature. I do not feel, given that so many of the lawmakers represent the aforementioned rural communities, it will be passed. However, the great thing about our governmental process is that can be addressed. Just please do it through the correct channels.

K Sanchez

Sent from my iPhone — please excuse Siri’s mistakes



**From:** [Valerie Rivas](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 1:22:22 PM

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I am writing in opposition of this bill. My family has had a 4 day week since my oldest child started school 10 years ago. The 4 day week allows us to share in both highly engaged education for 4 days then recharge outside living our rural lifestyle raising livestock and enjoying family time and hard work outside of school.

My kids perform differently in school but not due to a 4 day week. I have one low achiever due to learning disabilities and one very high achiever. My low achiever loves having more time outside of academics where he can be successful in his 4H and FFA projects raising livestock and doing hands on projects like his woodworking hobby. But he is very focused and hard working at school when school is in session.

My high achiever also loves the extra time outside of school to focus on his sports.

Changing from a 4 day to 5 day for my family will make my high achiever hate school. He needs the time outside of class to unwind.

My husband is also a teacher, this schedule allows us to also travel as a family over a long weekend without him taking days off away from educating his students.

If this change occurs my husband will consider leaving the profession and we will most likely home school our children to continue the lifestyle we have come accustomed to.

There is no good data driven reason to change from 4 to 5 days. Leave that up to the districts. We do NOT need more government over reach!

Thank You,

Valerie

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Marilyn Lancaster](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 1:25:12 PM

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We have three grandchildren in the Texico school system. Along with the school as a whole, they have all three excelled both academically and in their sports endeavors. 4.0 grade point averages, and just this year 2A state championships in both football and volleyball. Every student we know, along with their parents and the faculty and coaching staffs are very happy with the four day schedule they are on.

In a nutshell, "if it ain't broke don't fix it" certainly applies here. Please dismiss this new ruling under consideration to mandate all state school districts to a 180 day academic year. This type of policy should be left to the individual school district to decide, and not mandated by NMPED. Please leave us alone and allow us to maintain our highly successful model.

Sincerely,

Gary and Marilyn Lancaster

**From:** [Ann Marie Nicolds](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [Earwood, Randall](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 1:38:40 PM

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Note: When submitting feedback, we kindly request that you specify which rule(s) you are submitting feedback for. This is especially helpful when the Department is accepting feedback for multiple proposed rules at the same time.

Dear NMPED,

I am writing concerning the proposed rule 6.10.5 regarding the “school calendar requirements” rule change. I work at Reserve Schools, since March of 2022, and I have children in the school now and for the past 23 years. I am uncomfortable with the proposed change to a five day week and added days to our calendar. I have enjoyed being able to have the availability on Fridays with my kids home for grocery shopping, doctor appointments (which I try to make on Fridays), important phone calls, and getting things done around the house that I can’t get done during the week. This includes trips out of town, and giving me an extra day to visit. I have been happy all these years to brag that we only have four days that we have to go to school. It has worked very well.

This change in days that is being proposed is disappointing. It changes how our family functions. It changes our focus on hard work, time together, building relationships, and building talents to a longer work week. It changes how we visit. The current school calendar for Reserve Schools is working just fine for us, as are other school’s calendars are working for them, and we are managing quite well. Our school sets our calendar around our goals, our desire to improve, and what works for our culture. Please consider that our Administration has the best of intentions in mind for our area and lifestyle. They know us because they are one of us.

I appreciate your consideration and good judgement in this matter. I trust that you will make this choice fairly.

Sincerely, Ann Marie Nicolds  
Administrative Assistant & Mother of 6

**From:** [Oscar Cortez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 1:48:08 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Grady school district, in Grady, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. Our school is loved and functioning in a high rhythm with our 4 day week.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched. Students are allotted more opportunities to participate in these activities more because of the 4 day week. It interferes less with parents and students are allowed to participate more often than not in their school and classroom because the 4 day week allows the feeling that we have more time to do extracurricular activities.

The 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society.

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Paul Gutierrez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130, Rule 6.10.5 Proposed Amendment to Act 22-2-8  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:06:16 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Fort Sumner school district, in Fort Sumner, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
Sarah Gutierrez  
A concerned parent and staff member

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Melody Rapson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Instructional Time Requirements  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:15:28 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

I would like to address the proposed requirement of 50% of the school weeks being 5-day weeks.

I believe that this creates inconsistent schedules. As a staff member with disabilities and the parent of a student with disabilities, I can say this would be inconvenient to detrimental. Consistency is very important, not just to those with disabilities, but to children in general. I can easily see absenteeism rising on the fifth days.

The next logical option would be to move to mandatory 5-day weeks. I have several issues with that option.

First, it takes the decision-making of what is best for a district out of the hands of those who live in that district.

Next, it raises the likelihood of students with disabilities being chronically absent because of appointments. My own student currently receives therapy two to three times a month. We have been able to get those appointments on Fridays, the day we do not have school; this way they do not miss any school days.

I also do not believe that it is necessary to have 5-day weeks. This will be the third year our district has had 4-day weeks. All of the schools in our district have scored above the threshold needed for additional support. We even have a Spotlight school!

We have already had an increase in instructional hours for this year. At this point, we do not know the effect of raising those hours. Making another change so soon without any data on the first change seems irresponsible and playing to the crowd. I would much rather have solid data of the effects of increasing class time before making any new decisions. I am also a firm believer in quality over quantity.

--

**Melody Rapson**, San Antonio Elementary Library

*She, Her, Hers*

"Reading is like breathing in and writing is like breathing out."- Pam Allyn

**From:** [Justin Bollinger](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback.....  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:32:40 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Logan Municipal School district, in Logan, New Mexico in strong, direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well-rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
Justin Bollinger  
(concerned parent, and educator)

Additional facts to consider that one size fits all education is not necessary or effective.

-The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM

schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.

-The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 79% reading proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 38%.

-The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%.



**From:** [Reserve PTO Mountaineer](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements 6.10.5  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:38:28 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

We Do Not support the new proposed Calander requirements 6.10.5 as it does not benefit the community of Catron County. Our schools have served fine the last 25+ years on the 4 days a week schedule with the hours 8am-4pm. Do Not support changing the requirement at all. The travel alone to get to school is far, the need to do daily chores, have structure in the home are factors that need considering. School is important but more days will make them too tired and not enjoy school. They are learning and thriving fine. Why make it a burden when its great the way it is. I Do Not support changing requirement 6.10.5 to more school days.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [Katherine Marie](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:39:24 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I as a parent of a child in Reserve Independent Schools, Catron County, Reserve, NM and do NOT support possible upcoming changes on the school calendar requirements 6.10.5. Our students have thrived almost the last 30 years on a four day schedule with a 8am-4pm time. It will not help my child any different than how it is now. The distance to get the kids alone in this area will only make them more tired and dread school as most of these students are 30-50 mins one way and already rise early for school and arrive home late. Do Not change the requirement. I Do Not support.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Bri Aucutt - Hight](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:43:24 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern:

I am writing in regards to the recent HB130 that is trying to be put into place to explain my strong opposition.

If this bill passed it would not only require my family to pull out of all public school and begin home schooling but it would be devastating to many families. It has been proved in research that schools who adopt 4 days a week score on average higher than the schools attending 5 days a week.

Personally- having my child in school 4 days a week allows my family to be together and promote the western lifestyle supporting our home grown business. If my children were required to attend school 5 days a week, this would separate our family and place a strain.

Please device all of the facts before attempting to pass this ridiculous bill that will affect so many of the rural communities and families.

Brianne Hight, OTR  
806/470-2266

**From:** [Debbie Gordon](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:53:00 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I do not feel that this change would benefit our school area. We have had four day school weeks for 27 years. It has worked amazingly well for parents, teachers, and students. As a parent, I'm not interested in the school having my children for longer hours and more days. Our children need time at home with parents too. This has been wonderfully rounded school system that has worked well for us and this change would be detrimental for the families in our area. I vote no to these changes. We have had a good experience with what we have. Thanks. No change!

**From:** [Marisol Torres](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:58:59 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am writing on behalf of TEXICO school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned Parent

**From:** [Allyson Warrick](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 2:59:51 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

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Sincerely,  
A concerned parent

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Celina Lopez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Bill  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 3:10:17 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.



Hello,

I teach in Socorro. It is a 4 day work week! I am able to make the hour commute due to the 4 day work week. If the rules change to a 5 day work week, I won't be able to afford the gas to drive here.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THE NEW BILL!

Thanks,  
Celina Lopez  
505.916.6033  
SHS  
ELA Teacher

**From:** [Lizbeth Gonzalez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 3:25:36 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To whom this may concern,

As a current hire in a NM public school system, working four days a week has been a breath of fresh air due to having the time necessary in order to complete home work for classes that I am currently taking, going to doctors appointments without having to ask for a day off, and enjoying quality and NECESSARY time with family/friends. Students also benefit from attending school four days a week by staying more focused and engaged in the class curriculum.

Staff, students, and the community all benefit from four days a week in many different ways. It keeps everyone engaged, and allows for individuals to be interested in working for public schools.



**From:** [Britny Powell](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 3:26:18 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent

**From:** [lazyilazy](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 3:28:21 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I am voicing my concern about the elimination of the four day week option for NM school districts. I spent 29 years teaching and administrating in New Mexico. I am also a product of NM public schools. After both working and attending both four and five day school week options, it is my firm belief that the four day week option is more beneficial to student growth and teacher retention than the five day week. I attended school at Tucumcari when it was a five day week and Grady as a four day week. I also worked at Melrose and Texico as five day weeks and San Jon and Logan as four day weeks. I have vast experience with both schedules. I recommend very strongly the four day week. If you have any questions I can be contacted at 575 420-4235. Thank you.

Tommy Thompson  
Retired Teacher and Principal

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S20 FE 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone

**From:** [Jenkins, Autumn](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 3:41:26 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Sincerely,  
A concerned Parent,  
Autumn Jenkins

**LEGAL DISCLAIMER.** The contents of this electronic communication and any attached documents are strictly confidential and they may not be used or disclosed by someone who is not a named recipient. If you have received this electronic communication in error please notify the sender by replying to this electronic communication inserting the word "misdirected" as the subject and delete this communication from your system.

**From:** [Adam Young](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130 Feedback  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 3:44:51 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Adam Young. I will be upfront by saying that I no longer live in New Mexico, so therefore, do not vote in New Mexico. But I consider myself to have grown up in the state, and have many connections with family and friends in the state. Many of whom will be impacted by the Education Department's interpretation of HB 130 and the switch from hours of instruction to days.

The fact that HB 130 already extends the school year in an unreasonable fashion is moot as it has passed. What isn't moot is the fact that, using this bill's passage as an excuse, and switching its interpretation of amount of instruction from hours to days, will effectively end the ability for many (if not all) small school districts across the state to offer a 4 day school week. Many of these districts have offered this for decades.

The 4 Day School Week has so many benefits that would be lost. My own personal experience growing up in that system is that it let me focus better. I got to enjoy my childhood and teenage years more instead of being cooped up in a classroom most of the time. Athletics, particularly Friday games, were improved as I wasn't already tired from a school day. We were happier as a student body. And our annual testing scores were better too, compared to those that went to school 5 days a week. As we got older, many of us were able to help out on family farms or have jobs on that Friday, better preparing us for life after school.

The benefits also follow the school district itself, and by proxy the State. Let's be honest, New Mexico needs to penny pinch some. You cannot deny the decreased cost in maintenance, busses, and heating and cooling that come with a 4 day week.

Let's look at the town I live in now. It went to a 4-Day school week this year, as many smaller Texas districts are trying to do as they've done the reverse of what the New Mexico Education department is doing (going from days to minutes of instruction). I've talked with administrators and teachers, and this is the feedback I'm getting. It's not solid, as the actual data is being compiled regionally, but, feelings of how things are working are the best measure we're going to get a half a year in.

- School attendance is up.
- Discipline issues have declined.
- Grades are seemingly better.
- Student happiness is increased.
- Teacher happiness and performance is increased.
- Expecting a banner year for Educator retention.

And as a parent of a kid in this district, I'm seeing what I saw in me. He spends time outside on that day he's out. His friends are around. It's easier on us as a family with his extracurricular. And I feel like he's overcoming his slight learning disability better as well.

These are things to pay attention to. We all know New Mexico generally ranks close to last in this country in education. It has for decades. We all know that you as a Department are looking for ways to fix that. As you should be. This isn't the answer. You need to focus on a smaller level then some sort of one size fits all approach. Many of the kids that I know that have graduated from schools across eastern New Mexico are some of the brightest minds out there. The rural districts across eastern New Mexico do not want this. They didn't want HB 130 in the first place. But here we are.

I'll close with this, and I know it's not what the powers that be in the State of New Mexico want to hear. Rural New Mexico, particularly Eastern New Mexico, has had so much ridiculousness thrown their way that they do not want the last several years. And Santa Fe has done a great job shutting them out of State politics and letting this happen. Even the US Congressional districts are drawn in a way that limits their voice. New Mexico is not an ALL BLUE state, but people think that because of how Santa Fe has shut out the rural areas. What works in Newsome's California, will not work for New Mexicans. This interpretation of HB 130 is another nail in the coffin of New Mexico being a unified state. This will affect rural communities in ways that I'm not sure you can fathom right now, and it will have the opposite effect that you intend.

Politics shouldn't be in Education. But because you allow it to be, you end up with things like this and allowing for smaller communities and their children to potentially suffer, for the sake of making bigger schools look better.

A 4 Day School Week has become the way of life for many New Mexico smaller districts. It needs to be the way forward, not shunned. It WORKS.

Adam Young

[https://www.instagram.com/younga01\\_ttu/](https://www.instagram.com/younga01_ttu/)

**From:** [Patty OHare](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 Day School Week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 3:58:41 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Greetings,

We are proud to be the top school district in the state of New Mexico. Our success is not by chance; we excel because we work hard to maintain high standards of education.

At Wolverine Nation, we value education, relationships, and growth. One of the things that has been working well for us is our four-day school week.

We understand that some of you may be wondering why we should continue with this schedule, and we have a simple answer. It's working!

Our students have seen tremendous progress and achievement with this schedule, and we do not want to change what is working. We have more time for classroom instruction, and our students are able to participate in extracurricular activities without compromising their education.

Therefore, it makes sense to continue with our current schedule of four days of school per week.

We appreciate your commitment to education and look forward to our continued success.

Sincerely,

*Patty O'Hare*

**Mental Health Counselor  
High School Theatre Arts  
Texico Municipal Schools  
520 North Griffin Street  
Texico, New Mexico 88101  
(575) 482-3305 ext. 1050**

*Everyone deserves the chance to fly. Defy gravity.*

**From:** [Jana Bamber](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 4:01:16 PM

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We do not support HB130. Our kids benefit and thrive with a four day school week. We don't want any changes.

**From:** [Becky Turnbow](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 4:05:37 PM

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To: rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov  
To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of \_\_\_ Elida \_\_\_\_\_ school district, in \_\_\_\_\_ Elida \_\_\_\_\_, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned \_X\_\_\_ (parent, student, educator, staff member, community member)\_\_\_Becky Turnbow\_\_

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**From:** [A McBride](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: TEXICO MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS-PROPOSED CHANGE TO SCHEDULE  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 4:29:22 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent

On Mon, Nov 20, 2023, 11:20 AM A McBride <[bajj2476@gmail.com](mailto:bajj2476@gmail.com)> wrote:

To whom it may concern,

My children have been Texico Wolverines since first grade, and are currently Sophomores. They have been on the 4 day school week for the whole time. They have been nothing but successful with this style of schedule. Texico has received numerous accolades in athletics,

academics, and FFA. The teachers expect the best out of the students. The teachers drive the students to achieve great things. The teachers/staff/family members encourage and support the kids in everything they choose to do. When the students are in class, they are learning what needs to be learned to be successful. The lack of behavioral problems at Texico means that the time in class can be used to its fullest extent without the same interruptions as other schools may have.

Please don't take the autonomy away from a school that is achieving great things due to the issues other school districts might have.

#Be legendary  
#Wolverine proud

From  
Amy McBride  
Mother of two Texico students

**From:** [Jana McCloy](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 4:37:56 PM

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To whom it may concern:

My two children are students at Tatum Elementary School. We currently have a 4 day school week for the majority of the year. This schedule works well for our ranching family and community. The girls are able to help with ranching duties on Fridays. We are also able to schedule doctors and other appointments on Fridays so the girls don't have to miss a whole day of school for these visits since we live in such a rural area.

The 4 day school weeks also help our school financially. The utilities are cheaper because of one less day to heat and cool the school. Also, we are able to save on fuel cost for running the buses. Also many of our teachers are from ranching families and they are able to work in town for 4 days and then for the ranch the other 3 days.

Please do not take this decision for 4 days a week school away from each district's discretion.

Sincerely,  
Jana Mitchell

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Cas Holt](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 4:58:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-rayfyao5.png](#)

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

To Whom it May Concern,

I present this letter on behalf of Texico School District, located in Texico, New Mexico, expressing our strong disapproval of HB 130. I hereby grant permission for this email to be publically shared during the meeting scheduled for December 18th, 2023 if deemed appropriate. HB 130's enactment significantly exceeds the regulatory scope provided to the NMPED and conflicts blatantly with a number of existing rules. Specifically, state law 22-2-8.1 does not obligate a minimal day requirement, focusing instead on total instructional hours. Correspondingly, state law 22-8-23.14 unequivocally grants local school authorities the flexibility to implement a 4-day or 5-day school week, optimizing the learning environment for their students. By thus contradicting our present State Law, HB 130 is setting a deeply concerning precedent for the future of education in New Mexico.

According to the 2023 NM Vistas report released by you, the NMPED, on November 14th, 2023, it is stated that districts following the 4-day school week consistently outperform those with 5-day weeks in both reading and mathematics, with regards to overall percentiles and progress in learning. It also delineates that 4-day schools have higher high school graduation rates than 5-day week schools. All these findings published by your own agency, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report. Moreover, during a time when NMPED has acknowledged one of the worst teacher shortages in history, eliminating the leverage that rural New Mexico districts have in attracting teachers would represent a significant regression. Inclusive and committed educators are imperative to nurture and prepare the future generation of New Mexico for life beyond school.

In addition, the 4-day school week offers unparalleled opportunities for students to excel in extracurricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA-sanctioned sports, and other highly valuable programs. In conclusion, it's clear that the 4-day school week enables New Mexico educators to nurture high school graduates into comprehensive, high-performing, and emotionally stable adults—adults who are better equipped to become productive members of New Mexico's community. And isn't that, frankly, our ultimate objective?

Sincerely,

An invested parent, educator and staff member,

*Cas Holt*

Special Education Teacher  
Texico Middle School



**From:** [Ashley Thomas](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 5:02:26 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Grady school district, in Grady, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned educator and parent

**From:** [hdjdbikerbabe@netscape.net](mailto:hdjdbikerbabe@netscape.net)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Amendment to Act 22-2-8  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 5:06:36 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

To whom this may concern. My self and my husband don't suport this 6.10.5 Proposed Amendment to Act 22-2-8. Our family would like our school to stay a 4 day work week. The kids have Fridays off for doc appointments, and most holidays. The kids in sports have most of their games on Fridays, and miss less school. The Fort Sumner School District, is a smaller school and we have to drive far distances for games. Having Fridays off helps tremendously. They are in school from 8-4pm, this is a longer school day, but they get all their recomended hours in.

Thank you for your time,

Angela Du Vall  
5754205355  
P.O. Box 426  
Fort Sumner, NM 88119

**From:** [Terri Damron](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition of HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 5:10:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-jzz0kv52.png](#)

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o Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear; HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum number of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. Dedicated educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well-rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Respectfully, a concerned educator,

*Terri Damron*  
*Teacher, Texico Middle School*  
*(575)482-9520*





**From:** [Jasen Herrera](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 5:26:29 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico Municipal school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

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Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned Educator / Coach

**From:** [Sarah Turnbow](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keeping 4 day school week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 5:27:20 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To: [rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov)  
To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of \_\_\_\_\_ Elida \_\_\_\_\_ school district, in \_\_\_\_\_ Elida \_\_\_\_\_ (town) \_\_\_\_\_, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Sincerely,  
A concerned \_\_\_\_\_ (parent, student, educator, staff member, community member) \_\_\_\_\_

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Allison Muniz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 5:29:25 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico Municipal School District, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Sincerely,

A concerned community member

**From:** [Hannah Vanlandingham](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 5:30:04 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon,

To whom it may concern:

I am writing you today regarding the proposal to change the requirement of requiring schools to have 180 school days rather than meet the required 1,140 hours for the school year.

I personally went to a school that we did 5 days a week school days and I saw no benefit in this. It made me hate school, I wanted to be homeschooled due to the long grueling weeks at school. Which ultimately just did withdraw from the public school system to homeschool and part of my parents and my decision was due to the limits placed on myself due to 5 day school weeks.

The benefits from 4 day school weeks include-more family time, more opportunities for extracurricular activities including sports, music, hobbies with animals, and for older children-opportunities to obtain a part time job. Where I live now, many of the rural schools follow the 4 day school week and it has been a tremendous success here. My husband grew up doing 4 days a week and expressed his enjoyment in school because it didn't feel as though he was constantly there and he was able to enjoy things outside of school.

Please consider the rural schools of NM when making these decision and know that they make a huge impact on the lives of the children and their families. Many rural families have animals/farms/ranches that require devotion too and adding another day to take children to school, when it's not necessary as the 4 day week is currently implemented and working. Furthermore, the other factors to this include-higher cost for schools due to the extra day of feeding/transporting/heating/cooling the building, this can be detrimental to the small rural schools throughout NM. this would not only be a burden but an irresponsible decision that will impact many.

Thank you for your time and please consider the points in this email before changing something that is currently working wonderfully as proven by the rural schools testing scores and graduation rates.

Respectfully,

Hannah Payne

**From:** [Dawn Moyer](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 5:35:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing this request to let you know that the four day school week is a necessity in rural towns across NM. As a farming community we heavily rely on our students to help on the farm and ranches. The four day school week does not prohibit our students from graduating in actuality the graduation rate is higher for 4 day week schools than for the 5 day week schools, as is the math and reading achievements.

State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies the minimum number of instructional hours NOT the minimum number of instructional days. The schools should be able to decide if they would like to continue to operate under the four or five day school structure per state law 22-8-23.14.

Please let me know if I can be of any assistance from this point forward.

Thanks,

Dawn Moyer  
Tax Supervisor/Assistant Database Administrator



319 West Main Street  
P.O. Box 100  
Artesia, NM 88210 (P.O. Box 88211)  
[dawnm@yateslegacy.com](mailto:dawnm@yateslegacy.com)  
Work Main (575) 810-6277  
Cell (505) 227-1705  
Fax (575) 746-8997

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**This message may contain confidential information and is intended for the named recipient only. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. E-mail transmission cannot be guaranteed to be secure or error-free as information could be intercepted, corrupted, lost, destroyed, arrive late or incomplete, or contain viruses. The sender therefore does not accept liability for any errors or omissions in the contents of this message, which arise as a result of e-mail transmission. If verification is required please request a hard-copy version.**

**From:** [Tabitha Haynie](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school district  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 5:39:19 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,



A concerned parent

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Bibi Shepperd](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 5:51:04 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

This email is in support of keeping the 4-day school week in New Mexico. As a parent, this schedule allowed for me to make medical appointments on Fridays, and also allowed for my son to work on Fridays. This has taught him a valuable lesson on work ethic, resulting in him getting a job with the USDA Forest Service. These are only a few of the positive outcomes of a 4-day school week. As an employee of schools, this 4-day week has allowed for me to be present while my students are attending school to learn, and my appointments are scheduled on Fridays. Please do not change this 4-day school week that has been working at our district for the past 27 years. Changing to a 5-day school week can be detrimental to the success of our students (which should be all of our #1 priorities). Thank you for your time!

**From:** [Lynette Priest](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 Day School Week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 5:54:21 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

My daughter attends Melrose Schools in Melrose NM! This is her eighth year attending Melrose.

We are in favor of keeping our 4 day school week. We believe less is more. With the extra time and extra days added throughout the school year is more than what should be needed to keep the 4 day school week.

You take that away and you will have burn out from the children, teachers, and staff.

Having Friday's off is like a mini vacation each week and helps when families want to go out of town or appointments because that is less days that are counted against the children of being unexcused.

The other advantage is the expenses of having less days. The expenses effected would be utilities, and food preparations.

Having 4 days compared to 5 days is children and staffs mental health and expenses. The state is already hurting with its finances.

Please! Let the schools keep their 4 day school week!

Thank You

Lynette Priest

**From:** [S.Ferguson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 5:56:52 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To: [rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov)  
To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Elida Municipal school district, in Elida, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely, Sandra Ferguson  
A concerned community member, grandparent, retired school employee.

--  
Thank you,  
Sandra Ferguson  
Tomahawk Pumping Services, Inc.

**From:** [Brenton Hartle](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [Leslie Hartle](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hb130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 6:47:02 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico middle school district, in Texico New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned Parent  
Brenton T Hartle

**From:** [Bailey Slater](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:06:00 PM

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To who it may concern,

I am writing in regards to HB130. While I see the good intentions of the bill, this bill would be detrimental to the rural communities of New Mexico and the urban communities that have adopted a 4 day a week school schedule. This bill will poorly affect these communities in several ways. The first way is Increased overhead cost (ie utilities, transportation and food cost). You can easily see how one less day at school can save money by running the busses less and one less day a week to feed kids. This bill could also cause the loss of quality teachers and staff. One great benefit schools can offer is a 4 day work week. This helps avoid burn out of teachers. Also this benefit keeps them from moving to better paying opportunities. If you were to take the 4 day a week benefit away we'd have an even harder time retaining without a significant increase in pay. The last and most significant affect of the bills is children will lose out on time with family, friends and out of the classroom learning opportunities. If we think about learning solely from a classroom we limit our children's education. Our children learn from their parents, friends, and family members. A four day a week school schedule allows our kids a chance to spend time with these influences and learn things that can not be taught in school. In the case of my own child we spend Fridays leaning ASL, Spanish, geography and anything else my child wants to learn more about. The four day a week schedule also allows us to take our child to work on ranches, do community service, visit local history sites and observe nature. As you can tell this bill would be detrimental to many in New Mexico. I urged you strike down this bill.

Thank you,  
Bailey Slater

**From:** [Janet Hagler](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:07:28 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To: rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov  
Subject:HB130

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texicoschool district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned staff member

**From:** [Bailey Schurr](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:09:00 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Grady Municipal school district, in Grady, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
Bailey  
A concerned parent and community member

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)



**From:** [Amber Archuleta](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:17:43 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good evening,

Thank you for taking time to read this email regarding HB130 and the proposed rule change - moving from instructional hours to instructional days.

You may or may not know that Cimarron was actually the first district in the nation to move to a 4 day week. As a graduate of Cimarron High School, I experienced the 4 day week both in school and now as a 25 year employee of the district.

I graduated in 1997 from CHS. A 4 day week gave us the time to be successful academically as well as athletically. I was able to excel in class, on the floor, and also still have time to get homework done on the weekends. I feel like we were more successful, our attendance was better, and it was more beneficial across the board.

Cimarron is also a community that is not wealthy. Many students in high school have to work to contribute to their family unit. Having the extra day to work was vital for some families.

I started back with Cimarron Schools in 1999 as an Instructional Aide. I have moved my way up the "ladder" and am now Personnel & Payroll for the district. Cimarron is extremely small (population less than 1000) and trust me, not many people are knocking on our doors to fill our vacancies. The 4 day week is definitely one of our selling points. In addition to that, this has helped us cut our operational costs because we are able to close the building. We choose to close the building on Mondays. Sports happen much more on Fridays so closing the building on Fridays wasn't successful. We've tried both over the years, Monday closure is what works best for us - even though our surrounding schools are closed on Fridays. We all make it work.

Many states are now catching on and moving to 4 day weeks - not the other way around! If it didn't work, others wouldn't be moving in that direction.

This change would be detrimental to the small districts. This would not benefit our students, staff, or community. Our 4 day district has better attendance and testing than our 5 day counter parts. Why fix what isn't broken?!

Please, let us decide what works for us - and that's not this rule change!

--

Amber Archuleta  
Cimarron Municipal Schools  
Personnel & Payroll  
STARS / Nova Coordinator

**From:** [Vanessa Kopchick](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:22:29 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am a parent from Cliff,NM PLEASE don't take away our 4 day weeks from school! These kids thrive on 4 days we make sure we never our absent unless sick or need be! We make our doctors or dentists appointments on Friday to not interfere with school!! We are a country school these kids have manners, a great work ethic, and respect for their parents and teachers which is not taught these days in this world!! I was raised in Michigan with a 5 day school week and I can't tell you now raising my kids how much more I would of thrived on a 4 day school week!!

Please keep our school 4 days!! Cliff, New Mexico

Thank you

Vanessa Kopchick

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Morgan Kittrell](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:23:12 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher

achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

A concerned parent, Morgan Blaque Kittrell

**From:** [Kylee Cain](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:25:12 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico Municipal School District, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA-sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well-rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

Kylee Cain  
A concerned parent

**From:** [Amy Jackson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:44:42 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am writing in support of maintaining the option of a four day school week. My children attend, and I teach at, a rural microdistrict public school. The four day week is one of the main reasons that I have chosen to teach in person as opposed to working online. My family also treasures the time that we can spend together, strengthening our bonds and investing time in passing on our agricultural heritage. Many individuals, staff and students alike, use this day to help neighbors, pursue higher education or other certifications, and develop important career skills.

A four day week is not only part of the culture and custom of our community, it is also essential for allowing students and staff to access distant resources without missing school. For my family to attend medical appointments, we travel 90 minutes each way; our dentist is 2 hours away. Specialists in Albuquerque or Amarillo are 3 hours out. Having one day a week that we can schedule important appointments without them missing instruction or me having to take time off and schedule a substitute teacher is crucial.

New Mexico education has an obligation to meet the needs of diverse communities - linguistically, culturally, and geographically. Rural living comes with a unique set of opportunities and challenges. Please recognize these circumstances when considering how the current four day school week serves the communities that have adopted the format.

Amy Jackson

**From:** [Trent Eby](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB-130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:52:41 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good evening,

I am writing this correspondence to voice my opinion IN FAVOR OF THE 4 DAY SCHOOL WEEK. Our second grade student attends Cobre Consolidated Schools and the four day school week has worked really well for him and us as a family. His learning has been excellent at his school and the three day weekend gives him plenty of time to rest and spend time with his family.

Respectfully,

Trent Eby



**From:** [Rodney Roach](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Four Day Week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:01:11 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern

I have been in law enforcement for many years and have firsthand experiences with every school district in our area. I strongly believe there is considerable fewer issues with schools participating in the four day week.

Please don't remove something that works well.

Thank you

**From:** [Wendy Bridges](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:03:31 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Fort Sumner Municipal Schools, in Fort Sumner, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent, educator, and staff member  
Wendy Bridges Williamson

**From:** [Crystal Willoughby](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:04:42 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Sincerely,  
Crystal Willoughby

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Tomie Purvis](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4-day school week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:06:36 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Elida school district, in Elida, New Mexico, in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting, on December 18th, 2023, should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks, at the discretion of local administration, in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Sincerely,  
A concerned community member  
Tomie Anthony

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Lateresa Brake](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 8:17:56 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good evening,

I am concerned that the 4 day week is in question. I am a parent and an employee of a school.

Taking away our 4 day week would hinder many student's abilities to work, be with their families and most students are in sports that are scheduled mainly on Fridays.

I work in a high school where numerous students have jobs that help, and sometimes provide for the whole family. Taking away the 4 day week would more likely cause attendance issues at school because most will choose their paycheck over their classes on Friday.

Many students have scheduled visitation with their non-custodial parent on Fridays. They would definitely have to miss school if that parent lives out of town due to court ordered visitation. We have several students in this situation.

Sports are purposefully scheduled on Friday in order to keep students in class Monday through Thursday. Having school on Fridays would definitely not provide more education. It would only cause attendance issues.

We are short on bus drivers as it is and if we add an extra day this would leave an extra shortage if they have to drive our teams to an out of town event.

As a rural ranching and farming community students must help on their family's farm and/or ranch to make ends meet. Having school on Fridays would cause a hardship on their families. And would probably cause attendance issues. With this in mind we have several bus routes to pick these students up and take them home.

Adding another day would cause more expense on the school district. Not only with fuel and salaries, but more energy used in each school and meals to provide.

5 day school week would only cause more difficulties and attendance issues. It would not provide more classroom time or learning. By the end of the day on Thursday the staff and students are burnt out and ready for the 3 day weekend. I believe we would have tremendous attendance problems if we went to a 5 day week.

Also, staff and parents are able to schedule appointments for Friday to keep the students in class Monday through Thursday. Having that one weekday each week to schedule appointments and attend to needed events is pertinent to all involved.

I hope this helps in someway to understand just a few points of how important it is to keep our 4 day week.

Thank you for your time,

Lateresa Brake

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Court Watson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:01:14 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing as a concerned parent for a student that attends a New Mexico Public School in Grady, NM. My son is currently in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and has attended a four day school week since he started in public school. Before that, his two older brothers attended from pre-school to graduation from schools with four day school weeks. They have excelled in their college endeavors, continuously maintaining GPA's over 3.5 and above. By the way, the college they attend is also on a four day week. Four day school weeks have been in place for over 20 years, not only in Grady, but the rural schools in San Jon, Logan, and Tucumcari as well.

The four day school week has been a great benefit for all three of my children. They were allowed to focus on their school work and had time to focus on studying over the weekend. My older two boys were also able to find part time jobs, but had to make up most of their hours between Friday thru Sunday, because in our small community, many businesses are not open after 6PM. This would not have been possible if they were having school on a Friday.

The four day school week has allowed my youngest son to avoid missing school days for doctor's appointments as well. His doctors reside over 120 miles away from where we live, so if we have to go to the dentist, doctor or even eye doctor, he is out the entire day. This is currently not an issue since we schedule these appointments on a Friday to avoid missing school. However, it would be inevitable to miss excessive days of school if we scheduled these on a five day school week.

I also employ several young single mothers that have children that attend four day school systems in San Jon. A continued issue for them is that every time the school has a Friday that must be attended, they have to ask off to go pick up their kids as the bus stop, which is over 25 miles away. This is not an issue when they have sitters to watch their little ones on Fridays.

Before the PED rushes into changing to a 5 day school week, there are some things that might want to be considered. Many school districts are already facing a staffing shortage, and for rural schools, it is even more difficult for school districts to find

quality educators for their students. Having a four day school week can be an advantage for those districts looking to keep or attract quality educators for their students. Why would NM PED want to make finding high quality educators for small/rural districts even more difficult? Because moving to a five day week would do exactly that.

If you are looking at raising achievement, studies have shown that children actually retain and attain higher grades on standardized tests than those attending schools with a five day school week. Many rural states including Oregon and Colorado have over 60% of their rural districts utilizing a 4 day school week without issue. You also have states like Texas and others looking to implement four day school weeks. Seems like schools districts are actually changing to a four day school weeks for the positive benefits. Why would NM PED want to look to reverse that trend?

In my opinion, it appears that the NM PED is trying to rush to a conclusion that more school days equal higher achievement. Research has shown this is not true. Making the decision to move to a five day school week would wreck havoc on rural districts. This is something that doesn't need to happen. KEEP FOUR DAY SCHOOL WEEKS FOR RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS!!

Sincerely,

Court Watson

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

**From:** [Sarah Shafer](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:15:20 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Capitan school district, in Capitan, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education. Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. As an educator myself, the 4 day week has been so important in the achievement of my students and my own well-being. Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched. This additional day home with my family has allowed me to focus on my work as an educator diligently and passionately during the school week and be present and fully available to my family at home on the weekends.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent and educator  
Sarah Shafer



**From:** [Brice Griffith](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:23:41 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Elida school district, in Elida, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen. It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education. Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report. Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults. Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched. Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely, A concerned parent. Brice Griffith

**From:** [Christina Wood](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:32:09 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Tucumcari school district, in Tucumcari, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society.

Sincerely,  
A concerned educator

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [packersfan5002](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:36:05 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Tucumcari school district, in Tucumcari, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society.

Sincerely,  
A concerned community member

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

**From:** [Sandra Rowe](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Say No! Keep our 4 day school week!  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:38:59 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Say NO to this change, I grew up on a 4 day school week, and I am here to say I remember the change from 5 day to 4 day and the difference it made on my fatigue. I also watched my kids move from a school that had 5 days to a 4 day school week and watch the difference it's made in their education. 4 day schools have amazing benefits. They work beautifully in rural communities as well as have positive effects on suburban schools as well. Why would a good thing that works well need fixed and changed? These kids need the breaks and they need the time off of school. Adding more days is not going to affect those kids, it will cause more absences, it will cause more fatigue, depression, the kids that get bullied will have less break. Say no. For the health and well being of those kids that are thriving say no to this change.

I do not stand with PED choice on adding more days and hours to the education system. That will not fix the education crisis in this state, it will make it worse.

[Yahoo Mail: Seamless Account Control](#)

**From:** [Sandra Rowe - Martin](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 9:49:57 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of multiple a students as well as a staff member, attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children.

1. **Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days:** The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.
2. **Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model:** Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.
3. **Bias in Funding and Accreditation:** The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.
4. **Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time:** Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.
5. **Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes:** There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sandra Rowe

**From:** [Missie Romero](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:25:09 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Tucumcari school district, in Tucumcari, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society.

Sincerely,  
A concerned educational staff member

**From:** [Carol Webb](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:27:56 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Tucumcari school district, in Tucumcari, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Sincerely,  
A concerned community member



**From:** [Shannon Aguilar](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Calendar change  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 10:47:28 PM

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Cimarron Municipal Schools opposes the 180-day calendar proposition, asserting that its implementation would inflict financial strain on rural schools. Additionally, concerns extend to potential drawbacks in critical areas such as food service, attendance rates, and staff retention, undermining the overall well-being of our educational community. Research demonstrates MORE is not always BETTER. Four day weeks allows rural schools to appeal to a wider staff pool and retain teachers who are already stressed over random and constant changes being injected into the system. Additionally, 85% of four day schools in NM are performing above average.

**From:** [Carolina Grace Griego](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: Keeping 4-day weeks at Fort Sumner Schools  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 11:24:05 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Mrs. Grisham

This email is regarding the debate whether you should or should not make students and teachers at Fort Sumner Schools go to school Fridays. As a student perspective 4-day weeks has improved not only students mental health but teachers too. The school's overall test scores are amazing and good enough that we don't need thous 40+ days of school. On the days I am not in school Im am spending quality time with my family. Famimiles that raise livestock 99% of the time there children are working on feeding, watering, and tending to their ranch/farm. Families that own local businesses and their children help out too. So as you can see having 4-day weeks really is helping today's society.

**From: Carolina Griego**

**From:** [arely Maldonado](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep 4 day school days!  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 12:07:55 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of texico municipal school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent.

Arely Maldonado

**From:** [Priscilla Hazen](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 5:01:14 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

The 4 day school week has been in use for over 40 years in NM. It has allowed schools to continue to function with limited resources. Forcing all schools to have 180 days of instruction will devastate rural schools and push teachers to choose whether teaching is worth the commute. The 4 day schools that I have been apart of have been at the top of performance in NM.

Changes in education need to address current problems not changing programs just for the sake of making changes.

Priscilla Hazen  
[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Daniel Vigil](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed school extension  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 5:16:42 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

As a teacher I can relay here that I have heard nothing but grumbles from students, parents, community members about the continued extension of the school year. I would not extend the school year without a fundamental shift of how school works. We need to change the culture around school not just keep throwing more time at it. Furthermore, as a teacher if the school year continues to be extended without a corresponding significant pay increase for teachers there is a high probability I will be looking for other opportunities of employment.

**From:** [edd52@bacavalley.com](mailto:edd52@bacavalley.com)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 5:45:46 AM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

Re: HB130 that proposes to mandate that all schools in New Mexico go to an 180 day schedule is a very misguided idea. There are several reasons that this proposal should be shelved. It is obvious that the PED has not thought through the extreme expense, not only to the rural school districts that are now and have been on a 4 day school week for DECADES, but the higher costs that will be associated with the operations of the schools for the states budgets as well. The PED will cost the state an additional 20 percent in bus related costs, such as fuel, maintenance of the engines, tires, and of course the 20 percent increase in pay for all bus drivers. Let's not forget that the state will be replacing buses 20 percent sooner that they do now because of increased mileage. There will be an additional cost in meals for students that the state will also incur. Rural school districts in New Mexico also struggle with building operations at the present time. Heating costs continue to rise and it is the school district that will have to pay those higher cost when an additional 31 days are added to their calendars. To add a 20 percent increase in building maintenance cost will devastate the small rural schools, and without a doubt lead to a REDUCTION IN STAFF, which will only hurt the students in these small districts. Don't forget that any reduction on districts that are already struggling with operational budgets, will have to cut back on extracurricular programs, such as band and sports programs that are the lifeblood of some of these small communities.

I would plead with the PED to really think through the devastation to the small rural school districts that this proposal will create!

Calvin E. Carter  
10 Meadow Lark Dr.  
Raton, New Mexico 87740  
Ph: 505-652-0622  
Email: [edd52@bacavalley.com](mailto:edd52@bacavalley.com)

**From:** [Matt](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130/6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 6:02:35 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am writing to support the 4 day school week in areas in which it makes the most sense economically, educationally and environmentally. I fear that we as citizens of this state will be doing a disservice to our rural children, teachers and the quality countless home lives.

Many of whom will be impacted by the Education Department's interpretation of HB 130 and the switch from hours of instruction to days.

This bill's passage as an excuse, and switching its interpretation of amount of instruction from hours to days, will effectively end the ability for many (if not all) small school districts across the state to offer a 4 day school week. Many of these districts have offered this for decades.

The 4 Day School Week has so many benefits that would be lost. Many kids born into rural families get to enjoy childhood and teenage years more instead of being cooped up in a classroom most of the time. I believe this is hugely important to a persons ability to succeed, find happiness and self esteem. Athletics, particularly Friday games, were improved as I wasn't already tired from a school day. Annual testing scores were better too, compared to those that went to school 5 days a week. Many of us were able to help out on family farms or have jobs on that Friday, better preparing us for life after school. Also, let's be honest, New Mexico needs to be careful with their budget just like many other states. You cannot deny the decreased cost in maintenance, busses, and heating and cooling that come with a 4 day week.

Let's look at the benefits:

- School attendance is up.
- Discipline issues have declined.
- Grades are seemingly better.
- Student happiness is increased.
- Teacher happiness and performance is increased.
- Expecting a banner year for Educator retention.

These are things to pay attention to. We all know New Mexico generally ranks close to last in this country in education. It has for decades. We all know that you as a Department are looking for ways to fix that. As you should be. This isn't the answer. You need to focus on a smaller level then some sort of one size fits all approach. Many of the kids that I know that have graduated from schools across eastern New Mexico are some of the brightest minds out there. The rural districts across eastern New Mexico do not want this. They didn't want HB 130 in the first place.

Rural New Mexico, particularly Eastern New Mexico, has had so much thrown their way that they do not want the last several years. And Santa Fe has done a great job shutting them out of State politics and letting this happen. Even the US Congressional districts are drawn in a way that limits their voice. New Mexico is not an ALL BLUE state, but people think that because of how Santa Fe has shut out the rural areas. What works in California, will not work for all New Mexicans. This interpretation of HB 130 is another nail in the coffin of New Mexico being a unified state. This will affect rural communities in ways that I'm not sure you can fathom right now, and it will have the opposite effect that you intend. Politics shouldn't be in Education. But because you allow it to be, you end up with things like this and allowing for smaller communities and their children to potentially suffer, for the sake of making bigger schools look better.

A 4 Day School Week has become the way of life for many New Mexico smaller districts. It needs to be the way

forward, not shunned. It WORKS.



**From:** [Mary Garnett](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 6:12:24 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

A concerned parent

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Ty Greeman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition of a 5 day school week  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 6:16:38 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Silver Consolidated school district, in Cliff , New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society.

Also in closing I feel the proposed change is merely a change mandated by NMPED for the sake of change. The proposed change to a 5 day week is unjustified and unnecessary based on the information and real word data provided . Perhaps the individual or individual's that are proposing this change need to focus thier efforts elsewhere in pursuit of justification of thier roles in NMPED. Rather than apply a failing principle and by doing so exhibiting a basic lack of competence with which to conduct the business of educating NM's students . NMPED can start with addressing the factual issue that 4 day week schools students are testing better and higher than the 5 days school students. That being stated it would make more sense to bring the 5 day week students up to par with the 4 day students , instead of dragging the 4 day

students down to the level of the 5 day students. I very much appreciate being able to comment and thank you for for reading them .

Regards

Ty Greeman , parent of 3 students ( 1 at Silver , 2 at Cliff) in Silver consolidated schools .

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** [Leo Martinez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 6:22:35 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Asking schools in rural areas on a four day week to go 180 days will make it very difficult for staff.

We have to travel great distances to buy groceries, attend medical and dental appointments, do our banking, and manage other aspects of life. This is done on the week day we have off.

If you do not live in a rural area you would not even be aware of this.

**From:** [Cindy Harris](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 6:37:19 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please keep our 4 day school week!

Why change something that has been working for 40+ years!

Our kids & teachers thrive and are so focused on school work during this time!

Grades and tests prove this!

Amount of School days shouldn't be "ONE FITS ALL"!

Cindy Harris  
Texico Schools

**From:** [Richard Dunlap](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 6:47:10 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in response to HB 130. 85% of 4 day week schools in New Mexico are scoring efficient or better

25 states are practicing 4 day school weeks. Once a practice reserved for rural districts, the idea is catching on in suburban and urban areas as well.

Districts reduce overhead costs, particularly in categories of building operations and maintenance, transportation and food service.

Proponents claim a 4 day work week helps attract and retain quality teachers.

Compacting school into just 4 days a week leaves more time for kids to spend with family, friends and outside interests. Older students can spend time engaging in resume building, public service and paid work.

Sincerely,

Richard Dunlap

--

Ricky Dunlap  
PO Box 23  
Melrose, NM 88124  
575-574-8964

**From:** [Amber Northcutt](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 7:06:44 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Our very own Mrs. Elkins has created a template to use to submit your feedback to the New Mexico Public Education Department!  
Read and feel free to use!

Sometimes, on these types of issues, it's hard to know what to say or, we are simply too busy to create a well-rounded email. No worries, simply fill in the blanks and hit send! Or, even better, reword this to fit why you believe 4-day school weeks are essential to student success.

Email To: [rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov) (<http://rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov/>)  
Subject: HB130

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of \_\_\_ school district, in \_\_\_(town)\_\_\_, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
Amber Northcutt  
A concerned parent



**From:** [Donna Tivis](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 7:09:42 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern, I know you are grasping at straws to improve your state status, however, taking away the 4 day school week is NOT the answer. Look at the scores for those school districts! They are not your lower performing schools. There are many advantages to those schools including more family time, which I believe is one of the most important aspects. I encourage you to not pursue making the days longer or taking away the 4 day week. I have had children in the 4 day week and taught in the 4 day week. I am very much in favor of keeping the 4 day school week.

Sincerely,  
Donna Tivis (parent, grandparent, teacher)

**From:** [Katie Reagan](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 7:13:07 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Subject:HB130

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Fort Sumner school district, in Fort Sumner, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Sincerely,  
A concerned PARENT

Katie Reagan

**From:** [Sandra Monks](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 7:40:48 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Elida school district, in Elida, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Sincerely,

Sandra Monks  
A concerned community member

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Jaynee Sharp](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 7:54:21 AM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Sincerely,  
A concerned Parent Jaynee Sharp

**From:** [Jaynee Sharp](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 7:56:19 AM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Sincerely,  
A concerned Parent  
JK Sharp

**From:** [shaelei lemons](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 7:57:07 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Dora Consolidated school district, in Dora, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Sincerely,  
A concerned staff member  
Shaelei Lemons

**From:** [Makayla Montoya](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule HB 130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 7:58:38 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good morning,

I as a mother and Early Headstart educator want to voice my opinion over the matter of the five day a week school schedule.

I believe that four day school weeks benefit all students, Teachers , and their education. Having the four day week helps families while scheduling for their child's doctors appointments, dentist appointments etc. and to help minimize absences during the school year.

Four day weeks also help schools with managing operating costs benefiting from a four day week rather than a five day week to then turn around and put those funds into other academics where needed for the students.

Students would also benefit in having that extra day to work on and finish up any additional homework or projects at home while also getting their families involved with their school work and getting that extra support from their families.

In all, I truly and strongly believe that New Mexico should remain on four days a week in these communities as it allows families to get more involved with school work, creates better scheduling for parents with doctor appointments, and giving students the days necessary to keep their focus and attention span on their work rather than prolonging the school days.

Thank you,  
Concerned Parent

**From:** [Stormie McBride](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 8:19:38 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Fort Sumner school district, in Fort Sumner, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
Stormie and Vincent Gonzales  
Concerned parents of Brayden Gonzales and his education!

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Amanda Guidry](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: calendar rule  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 8:36:13 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

This feedback is in regards to the calendar rule. My children have been attending school in a 4day week district. They attend school from 7:55am to 4:07pm. I think that 4day week does work as all of my children are doing exceptionally well in school and get to enjoy three day weekends with their family. I think requiring more school will just burn these kids out. They are expected to work so much and try to make up everything lost in the pandemic that they are just shutting down. It's important to let kids be kids, requiring more school will only degrade their mental health.

**From:** [Karen Cone](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 8:47:24 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Dora and Elida school districts, in Roosevelt County, New Mexico (and all other 4-day schools not in my county) in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Sincerely,

A concerned parent of two graduates from a highly successful 4-day school career, a former teacher in a 4-day district and current teacher at a 5-day school, and a concerned citizen in my community, county and state.

Karen Cone, Portales, NM

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Joshua McCormick](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 9:07:02 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I'm writing today to express opposition to the extended learning hours for public K-12 schools as written in House Bill 130. I think that it moves closer and closer to year-round school. This takes away from precious family time that our kids can spend with us. While the leaders of New Mexico and supporters of HB 130 believe that this will lead to improved student achievement, I believe the negative effects will outweigh any gain we see. I want more time with my kids, not less.

I think that there needs to be a hard look at the quality of the hours spent in school, not the quantity. Teachers are judged on performance of students test scores and lack the freedom to efficiently teach them. Teachers deserve support to decide how they can teach best.

New Mexico has long been among the worst states in academic achievement. I don't believe the length of the school day/year is the problem here.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email and take my opinions into consideration.

Joshua McCormick  
(575)302-8785

**From:** [Maria Platz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4day week  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 9:07:08 AM

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We need to keep our 4-day week school weeks. There are so many benefits to this, especially in the rural area that I live in. Our school has a couple of Fridays for those students who need that extra support. Teachers are also utilizing one Friday a month for necessary meetings, training, and instructions required by the school districts. This allows students to not get burnt out on school and allows families to get out of town without rushing. Children are not missing as much school because doctor appointments or any other appointments are made outside of school hours.

As a teacher and a parent, this allows more time with our own families. As a teacher, you can see that children and parents are not burnt out with the 4-day weeks. My husband travels for work so this allows me to spend time with him without having to take a lot of time off. I am able to work while our children are in school and make a difference by teaching in our community. If we go back to 5 days a week I would not work much longer because I need to be there for my family. My job allows me to work and help children grow and succeed as well as allows me to work while my children are in school. 4 days a week really benefits my family. If we go to 5 days a week then not only would my children be missing more school I would be missing work as well.

I would like to keep it 4 days a week..

Thank you  
Maria Mesa

**From:** [Marsha White](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 9:08:35 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Tucumcari school district, in Tucumcari, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent

**From:** [Kim Clark](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 9:43:36 AM

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Kim Clark  
112 Rosedale Road, Silver City, NM 88061  
[ropingirl@gmail.com](mailto:ropingirl@gmail.com)  
575-538-2665  
Date: November 11, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

## Strong Disapproval of the Public Education Department's Proposed Rule Changes Regarding the School Calendar Requirements.

I am writing this letter as a concerned community member and parent of a recent graduate of Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. I've learned that the Public Education Department (PED) is putting forth major proposals to alter the calendar and hours of instruction in public schools. I vehemently disagree with these modifications because they directly jeopardize the educational system that has worked well for our neighborhood and, most crucially, for our students at Cliff Schools.

- 1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.*
- 2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.*
- 3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.*
- 4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.*
- 5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community*

*support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.*

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

**I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns** and I plan to encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kim Clark

**From:** [Brian Smith](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] OPPOSED - re: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 10:24:23 AM

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As a teacher and parent, I am opposed to this proposed rule.

I am the primary caretaker of my students over the summer and on holidays, and so if there are more days when I have to be in school and my sons do not, that makes it extremely difficult for me as a parent.

Also, as a computer science teacher, one of the reasons that I am doing this job at much lower pay than I could be making in private industry is that I value my summers and the time I get to spend with family, travel, and do hobbies. Losing more of that will make teaching a less attractive option, and is likely to push more teachers to look for other opportunities.

Finally, more time in school is not the solution to our educational problems. If students stopped using cell phones during school time they would get much more than learning time back then this rule proposed to add.

Please do not enact the proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC on School Calendar Requirements.

I am strongly opposed to this.

-Brian



**From:** [Lillian Tincher](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 16, 2023 1:45:43 PM

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### **6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements**

I am writing in regards to the PED new rule 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements, specifically the added time.

I am saddened that educators have not been informed of this by the PED nor by the union until 11/15/23, the day it was being presented. It is also concerning that the day and time that the rule is open for comment is scheduled, 11/17/23 at 12:30, at a time that educators cannot attend without coverage, and with the lack of substitute teachers, makes it possible for the majority. Educators are unaware of the new rule although it directly affects their students and their families; therefore, it is imperative that teachers are informed and have a voice in the outcome of the new rule.

I have been an educator with SFPS for 8 years, and I feel that my profession has been completely disrespected due to the lack of educator voice in the matter, as we are the ones with well informed opinions on whether or not these policies will benefit our communities. There really is no credible evidence nor research that shows that simply adding days to the year is going to benefit student achievement. On the contrary, the research shows that adding time has not shown a substantial amount of academic growth; however, having smaller class sizes and more support in the classroom, such as educational assistants and full time counselors, would benefit students and educators immensely in every way. These are things that should be funded. The research that they did provide last legislative session actually debunked the theory of adding time, but they combed through and picked quotes that showed supporting evidence, although the article explained the opposite.

There are many other options if some of our community does want an extended learning program over the summer. For example, one option would be to send out surveys to gather information on the amount of educators, parents, and students that are interested in attending school a few more weeks out of the year instead of making it mandatory for all. If you are to make it mandatory, many educators are going to leave—those that are veterans and new talent that only have a couple of years invested. I am concerned that if this new rule is implemented, we will lose even more teachers, which leaves less support and us with bigger class sizes. Most of us are highly educated individuals, and more than capable of finding opportunities that are more lucrative. We teach because we love it, not because it pays the bills. Nevertheless, if we continue to be ignored and taken advantage of, many of our highly qualified educators will seek out other opportunities. We cannot afford to lose more educators.

I am aware of what people begin to say about educators when we advocate for our time. We have heard and read the comments, “Teachers are lazy” and “Teachers just don’t want to work”. We heard all of it during COVID when we were trying to protect our families, and even before that. It has nothing to do with not wanting to work, and teachers are anything but lazy. Many of us work hours after the school day and over the weekend to grade, write out student feedback, type up our lesson plans, attend meetings, and participate in professional development. We work overtime every week that we are not paid for; therefore, we are putting in hours upon hours of volunteer work in order to be effective educators, because we love our profession, we love our students, and we love our communities. In addition, during the school day, we are wearing several different hats for 20+ kids every day. Educator, nurse, mediator, counselor, friend, protector, and whatever other that hat is needed at any moment. The notion

that educators are lazy is complete nonsense. On top of that, many of us have another job in order to pay our bills. I am a level 3 teacher with a salary of 74,000, but I only net 43, 000 each year because of how much they take out of my check. That does not cover the cost of living. I could not even afford to buy my own home without another job. I know many of us already have jobs lined up for the summer so that we are financially stable. Extended time would postpone or make it impossible for educators to seek out the financial opportunities that we rely on every summer. I am aware that they intend on compensating us, but we make much more working our summer restaurant positions. Not an opportunity cost I can afford.

I work four night shifts on top of working after school and on weekends preparing for my students, and I have 2 year old to take care of when I get home. Therefore, I come to you as an educator and a parent. The majority of the people I work with in the evenings are parents, as well. They are in opposition of the new rule because summertime is the only quality time they have with their children. This is essential family bonding time. As for me, an educator that works both days and evenings, I do not see my daughter for five days and four nights. I am not willing to extend these circumstances for her. The thought utterly breaks my heart. She needs me, and I need her. I need to be able to be with my family, and that is only possible in the summertime when I am only working one job. I do not have the luxury of only working as an educator, it would be financially impossible if I want to own a home and provide my daughter the basic needs she deserves.

I am in agreement that something needs to be done to support all of our students and I think that educators, the ones that are in the classroom, should have a voice in what that should be. We know our profession, we know our students, and we know our communities. Our feedback and input not being required when developing new policies, is unacceptable. I have yet to meet an educator that agrees that extending the school year is beneficial. The educators that I have talked with that do not care either way, do not have the same circumstances as I do and the many other educators that empathize with me. We are the majority. I find it strange that these policies are being developed by individuals that have not been in the classroom, and therefore do not understand the circumstances that many educators face.

With all of that said, educators know that by the end of the year students are wiggly, unfocused, and lack motivation. They reach this point two or three weeks before school is even over. Anyone who has taught, knows this. To keep students in that environment for extended time is cruel. Motivation is everything, without it, nothing can be taught well nor learned well. Furthermore, summer vacation is a time that many spend time in camps and/or with family, which is just as valuable as being in the classroom—saying that they need to spend that time in school is devaluing their education outside of the classroom. Also, many educators are already overworked and underpaid—this is not news to anyone. We work overtime as educators on top of having weekend, evening, and/or summer jobs in order to feel financially stable. Educators already feel that they are taken advantage of, we feel that more and more is required of us each year with very little compensation or none at all, and that many do not care what we have to say or how we feel. Frankly, it is exhausting. Now and in the future, please consider the voices of your educators, their experiences, their circumstances, and seek out their knowledge when developing and implementing new policies that affect them, their students, their families, and their communities as a whole.

Respectfully,

Lillian Tincher

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Lillian Tincher, M.A. (She/her/hers)  
3rd Grade Teacher  
Wood Gormley Elementary School  
141 E. Booth Street

Santa Fe, New Mexico  
[ltincher@sfps.k12.nm.us](mailto:ltincher@sfps.k12.nm.us)  
505-467-4800

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**From:** [Albert Wood](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Friday, November 17, 2023 3:40:31 PM

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If legislation was already passed and agreed on. Why are you going to add more days to over worked teachers? I agree the truancy and school absences are out of control, but instead of punishing teachers and the students do show up. Make summer school mandatory for those students that are not coming to school. In the past it was a method for students & parents to be held accountable. Begin to hold individuals accountable for their actions. Begin a system where by students can be retained or have to retake core courses, during the summer or during the year.

Punishing those that are already doing what they're suppose to do. Is not the answer.

Respectfully,

Mr Wood

**From:** [Brenda Wren](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 day school year  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 10:11:33 AM

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Our school district has been on a 4 day schedule for 12 years. We are highly successful in academics and athletics. We have strong educational values and our students and staff perform consistently! Our school district is small and financially this would be a strain.  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Rose Remmey](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] OPPOSING PROPOSED RULE !!  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 4:16:18 PM

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- I strongly oppose the attempt to take away local school choice for a four day week to a mandated five day week. I will site the following reasons.
- The Public School Code ([22-2-8.1](#)) only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, not a minimum number of instructional days.
- The Public School Finance Act ([22-8-23.14](#)) specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations cannot prohibit something which is otherwise authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.
- The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 79% reading proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 38%.
- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%.

In other words, don't fix what isn't broken!!! Logan Municipal School is an exceptional institution of education, and the above mentioned stats are proof of that. Again, departmental regulations cannot prohibit something which is otherwise authorized by statute!!

Thank you,  
Rose Remmey

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**From:** [nwallace@plateautel.net](mailto:nwallace@plateautel.net)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 5:19:04 PM

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Please do not change the 4 day week for schools that go with that schedule. My children and now my grandchildren have attended school four days a week. It is very helpful especially in the rural communities. It is an excellent recruiting tool for teachers and other staff. There are fewer absences due to the option to make dental and doctor appointments on that fifth day plus the athletes don't miss another day when they have games on Friday and have to travel for those games. It has been working for more than twenty years in our area.

Sincerely

Becky Wallace

**From:** [audrey.powell@yucca.net](mailto:audrey.powell@yucca.net)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 6:50:31 PM

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Do your research. Schools on 4 day weeks thrive and are above the national average on achievement. Only one source of study doesn't give NMPED authority to change the rule. Don't take authority from the local school district based on bias information. The rule change is not going to solve a thing. More time in the classroom doesn't achieve better results. It all has to start from home. The research does show to improve student academic success is regular attendance, smaller class sizes, rigorous instruction, student engagement, highly qualified teachers, quality learning materials, and community and family engagement. This rule change will take kids away from family time and again put the parenting back on the teachers. This rule change is totally ridiculous. Stay in your lane.



**From:** [red@plateautel.net](mailto:red@plateautel.net)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [jack.chatfield@nmlegis.gov](mailto:jack.chatfield@nmlegis.gov); [Woods, Pat](#); [andrea.reeb@nmlegis.gov](mailto:andrea.reeb@nmlegis.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:22:57 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

We are writing on behalf of Texico School District, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB130. We give consent for our email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear that HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of attendance days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week districts on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extracurricular activities such as 4-H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched. It is worth noting that in this year alone, many more school districts across the United States have embraced the 4-day a week school year. For example, in the state of Missouri, there are currently 155 school districts serving over 95,000 students; representing 11% of school districts and up from 8.35% from the previous year. We question why NMPED, now, is attempting to prevent 4 day weeks, when so many other school districts are beginning to see the value, especially in rural areas.

Texico NM Municipal Schools has been on a 4 a day week for 12 years with great success, as noted above.

Our son has attended Texico School District since the 4th grade, is now a Junior and is thriving. Texico Municipal Schools isn't just a school, it's a family and the opportunities for participation in extracurricular activities that a 4 day school week provides is a major part of this familial atmosphere. Participating in extra curricular activities is essential for students of all ages, but even more so students who excel in learning in non classroom

environments. Our son is one of those students.

Eliminating the option for districts to control their own direction is both illegal and to some degree immoral in our opinion as it violates existing statutes and undermines the educational process for thousands of students across New Mexico. We have no issue with any district that chooses to maintain a 5 day per week schedule. In return, we demand the same respect and consideration from the state of New Mexico and other school districts across the state.

We emphatically demand that this proposal not be put into effect.

Stuart and KC Schooley

**From:** [Jennifer Stephens](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 21, 2023 7:33:24 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico Municipal school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent and staff member

Jennifer Stephens  
Secretary  
Texico High School  
[\(575\) 482-3305](tel:(575)482-3305)

**From:** [Mackenzie Romero](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 9:44:37 AM

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Good-morning,

I am writing this email in regards to the purposed changes under HB130. I think rule change would negatively affect staff and students at schools operating on a 4 day week. There has been no research as to why school needs to increase hours or day. NM schools on a 4 day week are about 85% efficient. Working in a NM school for the last 3 years, I have seen how 4 day weeks positively impact all students. Athletes who are in sports are not worn out, coaches have an opportunity to have one day off, we are able to keep staff, and many many other reasons. Not only is this best for staff and students, this is best financially. Our school is able to shut down on Mondays and save money. NM, specifically Cimarron where I work, was one of the first schools to go to a 4 day week and this has been nothing but amazing to benefit everybody. Please listen to the voices speaking, we have serious concerns and increasing hours is not what is needed right now.

Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jeremiah Woodruff](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 9:52:24 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Elida Municipal Schools, in Elida, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned student

**From:** [Julia Woodruff](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 9:55:15 AM

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To: rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov  
Subject:HB130

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Elida school district, in \_Elida \_, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned teacher and parent

Julia Woodruff

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**From:** [Darlene Hazen](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4day school week  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 10:28:03 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am writing to discourage doing away with the 4 day school week. Roy has been very successful for over 40 years. We are currently #3 in Reading and #1 in math. We are a very rural area where some students have to travel over 50 miles one way. Adding another day for them would definitely be a hardship. Also, if you make them go 5 days there would be no time for any doctor appointments. Kids would be missing school anyway. We have to drive a minimum of 75 miles (one way) for a doctor and a lot of times farther than that. This also applies to our teachers. 5 day school week would be very detrimental and counterproductive to our whole community. Please leave this decision to each school district.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** [Susana Mendoza](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition of HB 130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 10:36:22 AM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico Municipal Schools, in Texico New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is very clear to me as well as other concerned parents and staff members that HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. State law 22-2-8-1 does not mandate a minimum number of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. So to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

The NMPED recently published in the 2023 NM VISTAS report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than a 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both overall percentiles and growth. It was also reported by you, NMPED, in the most recent VISTAS report that high school graduation rates were higher in a 4-day a week school than in 5-day.

We all know we have a serious teacher shortage. NMPED has also mentioned that it has been the worst teacher shortage in history. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults. We also know that with such a critical teacher shortage, a lot of schools are having to resort to using "long term" substitutes. Even then, there is also a shortage in substitutes. There are many teachers already close to retirement or can already retire, but haven't done so, due to teacher shortage, already mentioning that if this law goes into place, it will push them to get out sooner. We need our teachers to stay. Going 5-day weeks will simply push them to their brink.

I am speaking as a school staff member, but also as a parent. Having a 4-day week allows not only staff, but parents as well to schedule their much-needed doctor, dentist, and personal appointments on those Fridays that we don't have school. This allows the student or staff member not to miss school. Which also avoids placing a burden on the school by having to find a substitute, and also avoids the child having to take all the extra work home that they missed while being absent, which this can also place stress on the parent of the absent child. This also allows for students to excel in extracurricular activities, such as FFA, NMAA



sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities. Plus, we have been a 4-day week district for over 12 years, and it has plainly been seen that it has worked for us. I propose that the decision to stay 4-day a week or change to a 5-day a week school be left to the school district, administrators, and even our community.

In conclusion, the 4-day a week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have been proven to be more well-rounded, higher achieving, and more competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society, and lets be honest here, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

A concerned parent, staff member, and community member

**From:** [James Hazen](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 10:41:24 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am writing to discourage you from doing away with the 4 day school week in our county (Harding). Roy schools have been very successful for over 40 years with a 4 day school week. Our graduation rate is very high and we are currently #1 in math and #3 in reading. We are a very rural area which is already a hardship for some families that travel more than 50 miles one way to school. This applies to teachers also. We also cannot take off for an hour to go to a doctor appointment. Most doctors, dentists, eye doctors etc. are a minimum of 75 miles one way and for a specialist possibly 200 miles away. A 5 day school week would be very detrimental to our community. Please leave this decision up to our local school board.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Caleb Gonzalez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 11:25:17 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am writing this email in hopes that you all will reconsider the rule change under HB130. Coming from a high school that went 5 days, to now working in a school who goes 4 days, I do not support the rule change. As a custodian and coach, we are able to have the extra day if needed to deep clean, run an extra practice, or spend extra. We have great students here who have great attendance. Going more hours or days will hurt our attendance. Going only 4 days means students are able to schedule appointments on our day off. Finicially, 4 days only makes sense to keep our costs down. We are able to shut down our buildings one more day a week.

**From:** [Ernie Rogers](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 11:58:02 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Tucumcari school district, in Tucumcari, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned educator/staff member

**From:** [Ernie Rogers](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 12:04:20 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Tucumcari school district, in Tucumcari, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned educator/staff member

--

**Ernie Rogers**  
**Boomer Sooner!**

**From:** [Julie Book](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 12:37:21 PM

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Good day:

I would like to provide my feedback as a teacher who has taught at a four-day a week school and two five-day a week school.

The number of days that school is in session in no way indicates the comprehensive success of students in the school. More time does not equate to more success, and the research shows it.

I would recommend that the PED focus on which schools are successful and try to find out what is happening there that makes it so.

In my experience, the four-day a week school where I worked had irresponsible administrators, intense poverty, and no community support. I have worked at a five-day a week school with the same challenges--what was disheartening about this is that there was no accountability either way.

I now work in a school in which we have administrators who work tirelessly and beyond what their requirements are for the position they are in--they care intensely about the school's success and take responsibility for it. We also have a number of "virtual Fridays" since we are one of the only schools in our district that is forced to operate on a five-day schedule. Our school would be successful regardless of whether it is in person four or five days a week because that alone NEVER determines sure success. Again, more of the same is not better.

I urge the PED to examine this "rule" on a case by case basis and avoid painting with a wide stroke all districts in the state. I also hope that more accountability is required of schools and administrators who are not meeting the mark, perhaps even going an extra step and looking closely at what schools with proven track records in this state are doing, and what we can learn from them.

Sincerely,

---

**Julie Book, Ph.D.**  
**High School Teacher**  
**500 Des Moines Ave**  
**PO Box 38**  
**Des Moines, NM 88418**



**From:** [Micah Thompson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Stop the 5 day mandate!  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 12:38:15 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

A 5 day school mandate is not the answer to the myriad of problems that the state faces regarding education. The state regulates the number of hours and 4 day schools comply. The number one ranked school in the state is a 4 day school. It works! Please don't attempt to substitute quantity for quality.

Micah Thompson

**From:** [Sandra Gurule](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 1:53:30 PM

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I fully support returning to a 5 day school week. I am a school bus driver and see how the longer days affect my riders especially in the afternoon, getting home at dusk. Shorter days and a longer school year would benefit not only the students but also the staff. Thank you for your consideration.

Sandra Gurule  
Mountainair, NM



**From:** [Lori Eggleston](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 2:27:54 PM  
**Attachments:** [PED letter 11-22-23.docx](#)

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I would like to submit the attached letter to express my thoughts on the proposed changes for the schools that are on a 4 day a week schedule. This would be a terrible thing to happen to our community here in Cliff. Thank you for your time.

Lori Eggleston

Lori Eggleston  
8 Oso Lane PO Box 115  
Cliff, NM 88028  
Lori.ljaz@yahoo.com  
575-535-2072  
November 22, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: ***Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements***

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of a student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days **has been effective**, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.
2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been **successful** but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.
3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.
4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.
5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a

school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - **areas in which Cliff Schools excel.**

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals. I have other children who graduated from Cliff Schools after we moved here from Scottsdale, Arizona. I have seen the success of this model; it is a positive environment for students and it works.

I am unable to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns but I encourage other parents and community members to attend. **Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.**

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Lori Eggleston

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**From:** [amanda sanchez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 2:48:04 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Cobre school district, in Bayard, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned level III teacher  
Amanda Sanchez

**From:** [Niki Hightower](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 3:20:40 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent/staff member

**From:** [Zachary Shank](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 Urgent Concerns Regarding Proposed School Calendar  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 3:59:21 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom It May Concern,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the recently proposed school calendar. While I understand the importance of adapting to changing circumstances, I firmly believe that the current proposal is a mistake and raises serious concerns.

The proposed calendar, in my opinion, is not only impractical but also detrimental to the well-being of both students and educators. The suggested changes, particularly impacting 4-day week schools, fail to consider the potential negative impact on academic progress and overall educational experience.

Moreover, it is crucial to acknowledge that rural schools operating on a four-day week have been successful, attracting and retaining talented educators. The proposed calendar's potential to disrupt this balance may lead to a significant exodus of teachers from these communities, impacting the quality of education and the community as a whole.

It is essential to note that schools operating on a four-day week have demonstrated time and time again that they can excel academically. Texico Municipal Schools is a prime example. The proposed calendar overlooks the successful models that have shown improved student outcomes and teacher satisfaction.

I urge the NMPED to reconsider this calendar proposal and engage in a more comprehensive consultation process with stakeholders, including parents, teachers, and community members. Collaboration is key in ensuring that decisions made align with the best interests of all involved parties.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and trust that the NMPED will carefully reconsider the implications of the proposed calendar.

Sincerely,

Zach Shank  
Head Baseball Coach  
Assistant Football  
Secondary Educator  
Go Texico Wolverines!

**From:** [Susan Smith](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 4:12:24 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I work for a 4 day a week school. I have found more time in the seat doesn't mean more learning. If you really want to do something about learning get rid of the drugs, help the families put food on the table, and fix CYFD to get those that need to be taken out of the family can. Most of the problems our kids are having are out of the schools control. We have a police force in northern NM that won't do anything about the drug dealers. Everyone wants to blame the educators when 99% of the issues are out of our control.

**From:** [Nikki Sumrall](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130 proposed rule changes  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 4:52:22 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

To whom it may concern,

My family lives in the small rural town of Grady that currently attends school 4 days a week with longer school days than five day a week schools. We occasionally have a five day a week school week, but when we do, I have noticed that attendance is very low or the students are just checked out. Our athletic director works with our school administration to put as many sports events on Fridays and Saturdays as possible to eliminate students missing school for sports. If we are forced to have school on Fridays, the number of students at school will be scarce, therefore a waste of school funds for building operations, maintenance, school bus transportation and the cost of feeding these students. The funding for our school would have to be increased to offset these costs.

This is my first year working in the school full time, as I have worked as a substitute in previous years and during covid, as well as when my children were younger, we homeschooled. My husband and I have a great deal of concern for our children's education and want them to have the best education possible and have very high expectations for their future. The push to make 4 day a week schools go to 5 days a week, will not give you the results you are looking for. Instead, I fear that there will be more students who drop out due to the 5 days a week, or families like mine, where I will quit my job working at the school as an Educational Assistant while I am pursuing my teaching licensure and will choose to homeschool my children again for the convenience and better education that I may provide them. The public schools will suffer, as you will have many teachers quit for a variety of reasons, but the main one for our rural area would be because several of our teachers drive 35-40 miles one way to get to our school and financially cannot afford an additional day each week with the cost of fuel, as well as why would they drive that distance each day, when they can just get a job in Clovis. Grady will suffer because we will lose quality, strong educators and will as well lose students.

I am sure data will show that these rural, 4 day a week schools out perform your larger school even when we have fewer students, so our schedule does not need any changes and should be left the way it is.

Respectfully,

Nikki



**From:** [mplummer@yucca.net](mailto:mplummer@yucca.net)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 5:40:25 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Four-day school weeks need to remain! Students do much better when they are already at school rather than attending a fifth day.

Schools budgets go further only paying utilities, food, transportation for four days. More funds are available for educating the students. Students miss less school for extra curricular events, athletic activities. These can be held on Fridays.

Also, students would do better with fewer days per year. After so many days, they are tired and they are in need of a longer break. They are kids. They want to learn but after they are done, they are done!!

The districts need local control over the number of days they attend per week and year. School personnel are much more knowledgeable of school/students than politicians are!

**From:** [Robbie Supanchick-Camphouse](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 6:05:48 PM

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I am a Level II Vocational teacher here in New Mexico. After twelve years teaching in a five day a week school, this school I'm in a four day a week school.

My stress level is lower than I think I've ever known it. I can truly recharge on the weekends now. I don't have to take time off for dental or doctor appointments. I'm more present physically and emotionally for my students on a four day week than ever before.

My lessons are more robust and well rounded. I've got more time to facilitate SkillsUSA, Academic Bowl, and the schools esports teams. Weekend PD sessions that start on a Friday no longer take me away from my students.

Adding more time and more stress is not going to fix our education system in New Mexico or the United States. Holding onto the rockstar teachers will. Not driving out dedicated, companionate educators will start to heal what is so deathly ill.

Recently speaking with one of my admins about changes I wanted to make in my classroom I was told "... you're a professional, and you know what you're doing. We trust you", I nearly burst into tears.

Over my years teaching here in New Mexico I've been told by PED plenty of times that my voice matters, and I will be listened to.

Still waiting.

**From:** [Albert Hronich](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 6:31:36 PM

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Please vote NO on bill HB 130.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: The contents of this email message and any attachments are intended solely for the addressee(s) and may contain confidential and/or privileged information and may be legally protected from disclosure.

**From:** [Briana Hightower](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 7:33:54 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico Elementary school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent

**From:** [Amy Urquijo](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 8:11:10 PM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Amy Urquijo. I am a school SLP and a coach for both varsity basketball and track. I want to express my vote AGAINST this bill.

I see the ever increasing numbers in SPED and increasing need for SLP services despite the continued increase in school minutes. The increase in minutes/days is NOT HELPING. It is also causing burn out to increase not only in ancillary staff but in teachers and administration. This state and country are already suffering from major shortages in schools across all levels of staff. This increase would strongly exasperate this issue.

Benefits of a shorter year/school week include cost reduction, improved staff morale and retention, as well as an increase in time available for family which is greatly needed right now.

Many ancillary staff choose the school setting not only because they enjoy working with children but because of the great benefit of the schedule. I know for myself I would look for a way to service this age range in a different setting if was not for the schedule. Do we really want to risk and even higher shortage in staff just to add days to the yearly schedule that is not shown to make a positive impact in student education?

Amy Urquijo MS CCC-SLP

**From:** [Myca M](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 9:58:16 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico Municipal, school district, in Texico, New Mexico (as well as all the surrounding school districts) in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Academically we have numerous spotlight schools according to the NM PED Guidelines and have been recognized by the state as so. We have many schools in the area that can provide concrete academic data on the success of a 4-day school week.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned community member

**From:** [Rita Crouch](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 11:48:47 PM

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I am a staff member at Loving Municipal Schools as well as a parent of a student that attends Loving Municipal Schools. We have been going for days a week for the past 12 years and our students have been doing amazing on state test requirements. And as a parent I feel it is very important that our children continue to go 4 days a week so give them much needed time with family. I DO NOT WANT MY CHILD GOING YEAR ROUND IF THAT IS THE CAST I WILL REMOVE HER FROM THE NMPED AND I KNOW ALOT OF PARENTS WILL DO THE SAME. THESE KIDS HAVE TO HAVE TIME AWAY FROM SCHOOL TO LEARN REAL LIFE SKILLS AND HAVE FAMILY TIME AS WELL AS THE STAFF NEED TIME TO BE WITH THEIR CHILDREN. STOP CHANGING THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN WORKING PERFECTLY FOR OVER 12 YEARS. AS A STAFF AND PARENT I AM AGIANST THESE CHANGES.

**From:** [Lee White](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: 6.10.5  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 22, 2023 11:50:02 PM

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PED Staff,

The proposed rule change that pertains to House Bill 130 is an attempt at circumventing the entire legislative process! I am appalled that this proposal would even be considered, as it completely alters NMAC 6.10.5 from its adopted state. The legislative finance committee and some legislators continue to point fingers at school districts in New Mexico for not providing outputs that meet expectations. However, PED continues to contradict themselves when they rave about the performance of 4-day schools, but rant about the need for more student time. If you were to actually look at the data YOU put out on NM Vistas, you would find that 85% of 4 day schools were ranked traditional or higher. As for 5 day schools, their ranking of traditional or higher was only 67%. The overall state average ranking comes in at 77% of all schools meeting the traditional or higher ranking. Now while the rhetoric of this rule change does not directly state that current 4 day schools must go to 5 days per week, it does however mean that if districts choose to remain at 4 days per week the students would still have to attend 180 days. Using this “logic”, 4 day schools would then have to become “year round” schools. I, for one, remain concerned that the lack of teachers in this state will only be exacerbated by this rule change. My current district has been a 4 day district for nearly a decade and our results speak for themselves. We are a community provision school (100% free breakfast/lunch based on 41% recipients with SNAP) and our FY23 student results were: 45% proficiency in ELA (Grades 3-8) and 75% of the students (grade 3-8) were within 1 question of being proficient or above on the state assessment. If the powers that be truly want education to meet the needs of every student then you MUST stop applying an equality model to an equity need. As diverse as we are throughout New Mexico, you would think PED would understand how to use differentiation, but then again you have to have stability and consistency; of which you have none!

Lee White



**From:** [Sandra Rowe](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMPED overreach on HB 130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 23, 2023 8:43:50 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Cliff schools in the Silver City school district, in Cliff, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A very concerned parent and staff member

[Yahoo Mail: Seamless Account Control](#)

**From:** [Clint Martin](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition of HB130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 23, 2023 8:46:16 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Cliff School in the Silver Consolidated school district, in Cliff, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

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Sincerely,  
A concerned parent and spouse of staff

**From:** [Sandra Martin](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposing HB130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 23, 2023 8:56:18 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Cliff schools in the Silver City school district, in Cliff, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A very concerned parent and staff member

[Yahoo Mail: Seamless Account Control](#)

**From:** [Haley Wilson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 23, 2023 10:32:00 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my thoughts, concerns about the proposed calendar change that will require all NM schools to go to a five day school week.

As an educator, our job is to meet the needs of all kids, no matter what they need to learn. Every child has a different need and we meet those needs. You need to take into consideration that not all schools have the same needs.

Corona Public Schools is a very rural school with a small population. We don't have the same learning needs as the big city schools. Our students get on buses at 6 am and get dropped off at 5 pm. Our current 4 day school week allows for this day of much needed rest for our students.

Adding a fifth day will only increase the amount of information that we are trying to get these kids to learn. It is too much and retention will be low. Our school system is in the top five in the state of NM as far as test scores and attendance is concerned. We don't need an additional day to teach our students. They are learning what they need too and performing at the top.

Adding a fifth day will cause many highly qualified teachers to leave the field. The state is already lacking in qualified teachers, why cause more harm. Corona Public schools obviously have highly qualified teachers, as our test scores prove.

These decisions should be left up to our local school board. Hence, not all schools have the same learning needs. If you have schools not performing, make them go to a five day week. Why change what is working for most.

Thanks,  
Haley Wilson  
Teacher  
Parent

**From:** [ashley cullum](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 23, 2023 11:08:18 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Tucumcari public schools school district, in Tucumcari, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

A concerned Parent (parent, student, educator, staff member, community member)\_\_\_\_\_

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [abel cullum](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 23, 2023 11:11:36 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Tucumcari public school district, in Tucumcari, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Sincerely,  
A concerned \_Parent

**From:** [Hesper Heimann](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 23, 2023 11:16:44 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

As a Principal in NM, I STRONGLY disagree with HB 130. The idea of changing from instructional hours to required days will ultimately drive more teachers away from our state, where we are already struggling to get and retain teachers. Local administrators and school boards should be able to retain their autonomy to do what is best for their districts.

**From:** [Robin Myers](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: 4 day school week.  
**Date:** Thursday, November 23, 2023 3:20:17 PM

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Robin Myers it is [rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov)

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To whom it may concern:

I graduated four children through the Texico New Mexico school district. My oldest was possibly in junior high when we made the change to the four-day school week.

For our area, it was a very best thing. I don't pretend to know if it would work everywhere in New Mexico but you shouldn't either. I hope your job is to find out the fax and compare results. If the rule area children/students and teachers are getting better results, and better graduation rates then why would you try to change that? Perhaps you could learn from it and find a way to replicate it in the bigger schools.

No matter what just like anything in life there's not a one size fits all that really works. We have a chance now in this date to actually improve our education position. The whole time I was growing up in New Mexico, graduated from Clovis, New Mexico, and raised my for children in New Mexico education I always heard we were at the very lowest end of the spectrum on education. The state has been investing money in our teachers and I pray every day we can see results. I have a daughter who is teaching in the Clovis system, and I have a son who hopes to teach there next year.

Watching my children grow up in Texico with a small school world and a four-day work week compared to watching my daughter teach in Clovis in a much different world. The only thing I can tell you is to compare results. You have the data; use it.

What works? What keeps our kids in school, which kids are ready for college or career and how do we produce well rounded, good citizens that can read, Write, know math, and perform with problem solving skills.

Thank you for your work and your efforts. We all pray for your success, but don't change things just for the sake of change.

Robin Myers  
Mortgage Superstore  
420 Commerce Way



Clovis, NM 88101  
575-769-9006  
[www.superlender.net](http://www.superlender.net)

**From:** [Leah Cotton](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NM School Calendar  
**Date:** Thursday, November 23, 2023 9:27:23 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements Subject: Urgent: Oppose Proposed Changes to School Week and Calendar

I trust this message finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed changes by the NMPED to enforce a mandatory 5-day school week and a 180-day calendar for all schools.

Our school, which has successfully operated on a 4-day week for over 12 years, stands as a testament to the fact that different models can yield positive results. The attempt to enforce this rule, coupled with the insertion of language not present in New Mexico Statute, raises serious questions about the department's authority and potential encroachment on local autonomy.

Beyond the bureaucratic concerns, the proposed changes threaten the unique fabric of our community and way of life. We take pride in our strong educational values, rigorous academics, and successful athletic teams, distinguishing ourselves from schools that face constant challenges.

It is essential to convey that a one-size-fits-all approach does not acknowledge the diversity and success achieved by schools operating on alternative schedules. I urge you to join us in voicing opposition to these proposed changes and protecting the autonomy that has allowed our school to thrive.

Together, let's make our voices heard by leaders and lawmakers, emphasizing that local solutions tailored to our community are crucial.

Thank you for your support in safeguarding our school system and preserving the values that make us unique.

Sincerely,  
Leah Cotton  
Grandparent  
Texico School

Leah Cotton - Town & Country Real Estate, Inc. 505leahc@gmail.com.

**From:** [Sonia Trujillo](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 23, 2023 10:52:49 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Lordsburg Municipal school district, in Lordsburg, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
Sonia Baisa Trujillo  
A concerned parent

**From:** [Cindy Patterson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 Rule 6.10.5 Proposed Amendment to Act 22-2-8  
**Date:** Friday, November 24, 2023 9:58:02 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

NMPED,

This morning I am writing to express my concern with the proposed changes in this bill. First of all, I feel like the state is encroaching on the freedoms of school districts. Each district should be allowed to set their calendar based on what works for their district.

If we think about what is best for children, the 4 day week has many benefits. As a parent, my student does much better with the shortened week. It gives him a chance to regroup and start fresh each week. His attitude about school is much better. He has the opportunity to work on Friday and Saturday without missing school. If he needs a doctor appointment we can schedule them on Friday and don't need to worry about him missing a day of school or having to do make up work.

One of the biggest things I noticed this year was a big improvement on his SAT scores. For my child, who is ADHD and on a 504 this is huge! His education is definitely enhanced by having a 4 day week!

I have been an educator for 28 years and this is the second district I've worked in in New Mexico with a 4 day week. I feel refreshed and ready to start each week by having the 3 day weekend. I can spend more time with my family, I can make appointments for Friday without missing a day of work, I can spend extra time planning lessons if needed and still feel like I have time to relax. We have a designated Friday each month for Professional Development so we can plan accordingly. Some months we have 2 Fridays but it still works.

Student athletes have the opportunity to participate in more activities when they don't have to worry about missing another day of school. This makes it easier on parents to be able to travel to watch their student athlete(s).

Students have the opportunity to participate in other activities like: FFA, 4-H, jobs, community service, helping out families, etc. on the extra day out of school. I feel they are more willing to be in school when they know it's a four day week.

Attendance improves as well. Most students that are not real interested in school will attend for 4 days. It breaks it down and makes it doable for them!

Districts save on their in house costs as well. They save on transportation costs and utilities when their are no students.

More states are transitioning to a 4 day week because the models and research show that it is a benefit for all! Students, staff, parents, and communities all benefit!

The four day work week also helps attract and retain quality teachers. In my district we have multiple teachers who are National Board Certified and several that are working on it. The extra day gives them an opportunity to work on the process. Teachers can attend trainings on Fridays without worrying about planning for a substitute.

Our district has a substitute shortage so being able to utilize Fridays is huge for us. Teachers can make plans for Friday without needing a substitute!

When it comes to required testing, 85% of 4-day week schools in New Mexico are scoring efficient or better. That is a huge accomplishment! High school graduation rates have improved as well!

In closing, districts should retain the right to chose a school calendar and work week that works for them! Let our elected school boards work for their districts!

I am an educator for Fort Sumner Municipal Schools in Fort Sumner, NM! The 4 day

work week is what has kept me in education the last 12 years! I was ready to quit and find another profession because I was stressed out all the time! Now I have the opportunity to regroup and start each week fresh!

Sincerely,  
Cindy Patterson

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** [Joleene Starr](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] proposed Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Friday, November 24, 2023 10:47:04 AM

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I am in favor of the proposed rule. Including professional learning and development time within the school calendar year is important. Educators need additional time for planning and learning outside the work day.

--

Kind regards,  
Joleene Starr

**From:** [Caitlyn Smythe](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Friday, November 24, 2023 12:26:42 PM

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Hello, we are a very rural area. Meaning most of our grocery shopping and Dr appointments are an hour away. This being said I am currently 8 1/2 weeks pregnant meaning I am going to be having a lot of dr appointments coming up. If we go to 5 day weeks I will have to take off a lot for work just to make these appointments. Even if I make early/ late appointments I would still be missing half a day for travel. Not only does the 4 day weeks help out on leave taken but it also allows the kids to have longer school day's throughout the week and more recovery time for them during the weekend. Being a small town means there are never enough teachers. The main reasons we get teachers is because of the four day weeks. For a small community four day weeks are very beneficial.

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**From:** [Jerri Rush](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] keep the four day school week  
**Date:** Friday, November 24, 2023 3:34:56 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I was a parent of high school students when the decision was made to go to a four day school week in our district.

As a parent, I really liked the new schedule, and as a substitute teacher, I liked it too. I still sub and I still like it.

Fast forward several years and I am now a County Commissioner in Quay County.

Every school in Quay County is on the four day week. Last winter we made the decision as a commission I to implement the four day workweek in our County offices and courthouse. Our employees really like this because they are on the same schedule as their children.

In rural NM the four day week just makes sense because of the distances that people have to drive to school and work.

This is a decision that should be left to the local school district. The school board has been elected by the people to make good choices in each community.

Please keep the option open for each district to decide what is best for them and their families.

Thank you

Jerri Rush  
Quay County Commissioner  
Distrist 2



**From:** [Katie Hammack](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Friday, November 24, 2023 3:51:13 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Grady school district, in Grady, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

Katie Hammack  
A Very Concerned Parent

**From:** [Holly Jacquez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Friday, November 24, 2023 7:41:38 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of LMS school district, in Lordsburg New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
Holly M. Jacquez  
A concerned parent and educator

**From:** [Char Rector](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Friday, November 24, 2023 8:31:29 PM

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@highlight

To: rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov  
Subject:HB130

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Floyd school district, in Floyd, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned community member/Floyd High School Alumni

Charleta Rector

**From:** [Kyla Hooten](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In support of 4 day school week  
**Date:** Friday, November 24, 2023 8:53:01 PM

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To whom who may concern:

I am in support of schools that are 4 days a week. When your school has hit exemplary ratings in academics, including a National Blue Ribbon, there is not a need to change. One size does not fit all! Local school boards should be the deciding factor in what is best for their school and community.

Sincerely,  
Kyla Hooten  
Texico School Parent

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Shayna McCurdy](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB-130  
**Date:** Friday, November 24, 2023 9:57:28 PM

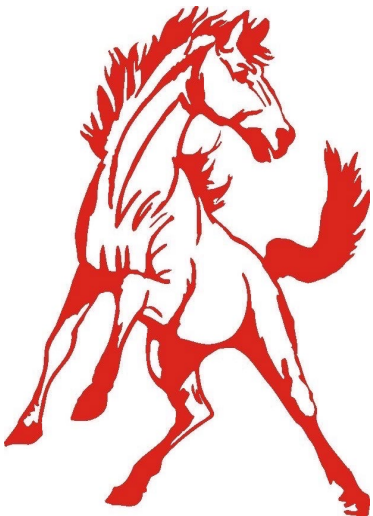
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Good evening my name is Shayna McCurdy I am a Level 2 teacher for the Mountainair Public Schools. I am also a mom to two students who attended the Mountainair Public Schools. I had previously served as a police officer and school resource officer for the town of Mountainair, and served as Deputy for the Valencia Sherrifs department. I had decided to take this teaching position because I wanted to be with my boys more, and I knew with a 4 day consistent schedule I would have that precious family time, and also time to schedule things my sons have to attend like Drs. Appointments etc. the 4 day week allows us as a family to do that. It allows me time to prepare my classes and be a mom. Both my students and my kids are thriving with this type of schedule. It is definitely one of the main reasons I want to stay working for the Mountainair Public Schools. And I feel if we are mandated to get rid of our 4 day week it will not only hurt our students but my coworkers as well.

## **Shayna McCurdy**

PreK-12th P. E. Teacher  
Jr. High/ Varsity Cheer Coach  
Mountainair Public Schools  
(505) 847-2333 ext. 1054  
(505) 504-0271- cell



**From:** [Rana Yahoo](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Friday, November 24, 2023 11:07:15 PM

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To NMPED,

I am writing on behalf of Texico Elementary Schools, in direct opposition of HB 130.

HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. State law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

***YOU, the NMPED, published in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.***

The freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities, have an extra down day to help with burn out... are a few benefits to having a 4-day school week.

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent

**From:** [RENEE RUSS](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Saturday, November 25, 2023 11:40:10 AM

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As the Superintendent of Clovis Municipal Schools, I am expressing opposition to the proposed changes for 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements. Firstly, the manner in which this change is being handled and the timing of the proposed hearing and potential amendments lead me to philosophically disagree with the "how" of this potential rule change. It is reminiscent of the controversial manner in which the rulemaking process was employed when the new Social Studies Standards were under consideration.

I also significantly question and struggle with the "why" behind the proposed changes. I believe there are so many other factors rather than additional time that can have a positive impact on student outcomes. Ironically, the decision-makers seem to hold no value for what educators could contribute to the conversation about how to improve student outcomes without simply just adding on more time. Educator insight, experience, and knowledge is a powerful resource yet to be tapped in finding our way forward in improving outcomes for New Mexico students.

We have only been beyond the restrictions imposed on education during COVID for about 18 months and it is evident by reviewing growth in school scores in NMVistas that we are shifting the trajectory in the right direction. There was so much to overcome - in large part because our state prevented our children from accessing meaningful in-person learning for so long and we drove teachers out of the profession...and yet, here we are, making a real comeback!

We need time, we need smaller class sizes, we need to continue the tremendous progress in bringing highly qualified individuals into the teaching profession, we need to bring real accountability to FAMILIES for student attendance, we need to continue considering the profile of a graduate and expanding pathways to keep kids engaged so they become college and career motivated and ready, and we need some consistency with administration of standardized assessment in order to really compare apples to apples over time.

I respectfully ask that you put a halt to making any changes to the current rule. Let's engage educators in finding new solutions and also give some of the great things already happening some time to work instead.

***Renee Russ***  
***Superintendent***  
***Clovis Municipal Schools***

**575-769-4300**

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**From:** [erika.potts81@yahoo.com](mailto:erika.potts81@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Saturday, November 25, 2023 2:07:43 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am witting in opposition of HB130. 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week districts on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4 day a week schools than 5. New Mexico is facing a critical teacher shortage and school districts who have 4 day school week are able to attract and retain teacher's due to the schedule. These are teachers that we need to keep in our state! A 4-day school week also reduces operating costs for schools which benefits both state and local governments. Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletic and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched. These longer weekends improve overall school attendance.

Sincerely,  
Erika Potts  
Parent

**From:** [Robin Alden](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day work week  
**Date:** Saturday, November 25, 2023 2:45:47 PM

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To: [rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov) Subject: HB130

To Whom it May Concern, I am writing on behalf of Santa Rosa consolidated school district, in Santa Rosa, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen. It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education. Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report. Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults. Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched. Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal? Sincerely a concerned staff member,

Thank you  
Robin Alden

**From:** [Aaron Jacquez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Saturday, November 25, 2023 9:03:36 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of LMS school district, in Lordsburg New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
Aaron Jacquez  
A concerned parent and coach

**From:** [Marco Silva](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 days weeks  
**Date:** Saturday, November 25, 2023 11:13:00 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello I am regarding the change of the 4 day weeks. We are the number one school in the state.

I actually have proof we are 1st place in prodigy, we were fourth place in the nation we get **BETTER** education than any other school in state we get better education than clovis, portales,hobs,marshal and many more we get more mental rest and we are proud to say **WE ARE DRUG FREE!** In conclusion we feel that 4-days is enough **The government has never heard our voices** but we change that now.

Sincerely,Number 1 school

**From:** [Carmen Marquez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 1:58:50 AM

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Do what's best for the kids. Go back to 5-days. Compare school ratings of 4 day and 5 days. Even just 2 Fridays a month. Our kids need to be getting out of school at 3. Not at 4. They aren't getting home until 6:30 or 7 and then are being asked to do homework. Kids have no time in the evenings. Don't give in. GO BACK TO 5 days. Especially in Socorro. The district is corrupt.

**From:** [brenda.dominguez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] House Bill 130  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 6:12:04 AM

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Keep the 4-day school week!! It is extremely successful!!

Education is not all about the money!

Brenda Dominguez  
Gila, NM

**From:** [Sibyl Martinez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 Response  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 7:55:43 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Reserve and Cliff school districts, in Reserve, New Mexico and Cliff, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

The long days and long bus rides are already a concern for rural parents. The days are long enough, especially when you include their 45 min to 1 hour bus ride twice a day. These children get up at 5 am to be to the bus stop or dropped at the school on time. They then get to the bus stop at 4:45 to 5:15 pm. These children go to bed at 7 pm. There is not much time for homework or family time after dinner. My 6 year old has to be woken up on the bus when I pick him up in the evening. More hours and days are going to create exhausted children and major burnout.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned Parent,

Sibyl Martinez  
575-313-0988

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Kyle Spurgeon](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 8:46:36 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

This is to inform you that I strongly oppose HB 130 and the idiotic ideas therein. I am so sick of you people and your woke liberal ideologies being forced upon everyone and now our kids. Do not change our kids school days and the 4 day week simply because your woke liberal curriculums are causing our youth to suffer. It has nothing to do with the amount of time the kids are in school. Perhaps you should focus on why the PED is one of the worst in the United States. Fix yourself.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Amber Shay](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 9:12:18 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I am a teacher in the Cobre School district and mother of 2 students in the Silver City school district. I oppose an increase in calendar school days and a 5-day week for Cliff School and Cobre Schools.

4-day weeks have proven to be effective. They increase student engagement, attendance, student performance, staff moral, and work/ life balance.

Please keep the 4- day week and seriously consider expanding the 4- day week calendar to ALL New Mexico schools!

Sincerely,  
Amber Shay

Sent from Samsung Galaxy smartphone.  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [barbara hardin](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 11:21:46 AM

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You should know that more does not always make things better. Forcing schools to adhere to a minimum of 180 days is not the solution. The small schools around my town that go 4 days a week, making them go 5 days a week would put a lot of stress on some of the families who have to travel to get thier kids to school. Quality and not Qunaty is what you should be looking at. Come on!

Barbara Hardin

**From:** [Carol Schrader](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposed to Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 1:42:10 PM

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I am opposed to Rule NMAC 6.10.5 to extend the school year

As a public school teacher I think this ruling would have unintended negative consequences for our public schools, and our students. We already suffer from the effects of an extreme teacher shortage that leaves positions open and schools scrambling to fill vacancies and teacher absences. Adding on to an already stressful school year will cause more teachers to retire early or to choose other career pathways. This will exacerbate the teacher shortage instead of helping to build the profession.

Students need higher quality classroom experiences, not more of the classroom experiences that they are already habitually absent from. Adding another school days to the year is a case of "more of what is not working is not better."

We need legislation that enables districts to find creative ways to make the school day more engaging, with more individualized attention to students to enhance learning, not simply extending out to more weeks.

Best regards,

Carol Schrader  
505.660.4246

**From:** [Judy and Ted Rush](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 3:19:14 PM

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As a teacher in the New Mexico school system for 25 years, I would like to comment on the proposed loss of the 4 day school week. During the years I taught in the 5 day system, the students and I were exhausted at the end of 5 days and I noticed that often teachers were not teaching much on Friday. To an extent, it was a wasted day.

When I began teaching at Grady on the 4 day system, I was amazed at the amount of content that we could cover in a day. The amount of time for each subject was extended and less time was wasted getting things out and putting them away so that we could go on to another subject. With the 4 day system, the students were able to complete each book and we often had time to do more reading activities. The test levels were higher than they had been in the 5 day system. There were fewer absences.

I believe RL Richards did a study on this that you would find interesting. His contact information should be in the Education Department records .

Sincerely,  
Judy Rush

--

Ted & Judy Rush  
RUSH RANCH  
2675 QR 40  
McAlister, NM 88427

**From:** [Jason Hawley](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Elimination of 4-Day School Weeks  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 4:28:06 PM

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NM PED,

The elimination of districts being allowed to offer a 4-day school week is discriminatory to small, rural districts. As an educator and cancer survivor, our current 4-day schedule allows me to make the majority of my numerous health appointments on our days off. The nearest hospital and specialty doctors to our community are at least 45 minutes away by car. Many of my appointments with specialty doctors require a two or four hour drive. Nearly all other school employees and students face similar problems. An elimination of our 4-day week would create missed learning opportunities, stress and heartache for much of our community. I know that I am not the only educator who has put educating above my own health. This problem would only be exacerbated by forcing our district to choose a schedule that isn't the best for our community.

Thank you for considering our voices,

Jason Hawley

**From:** [Stefanee Ricketson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 4:33:26 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am writing on behalf of Texico Municipal school district, in Texico New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned Parent.

**From:** [Courtney Hall](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.30.16 NMAC, Extended Learning Time Program  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 5:03:52 PM

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My Name is Courtney Hall,

My children attend Texico Elementary and Texico Junior high school. I am writing because I oppose, extending Texico's school calendar. For the past 12 years Texico has been a 4-day a week school, and the children have not struggled. Kids are actually progressing more and missing less school due to the 4day a week calendar. I don't believe people who don't live in our county and observe our students daily have the right to make a decision that could be detrimental to students. I also don't believe kids should have their summer shortened and forced to start school in July. School is tough and straining. Let students enjoy their breaks. I believe all New Mexico schools should be a 4day a week school, this is actually cost effective and can save on budgets.

Thank you for the time and opportunity to speak.

Sincerely yours,

Courtney D. Hal

**From:** [Evelin Matus](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Tenemos que respetar la autonomía de la escuela, por lo que opino que seria mejor que los alumnos de nuestra institución tuvieran un horario de 4 días a la semana.  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 5:13:09 PM

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**From:** [MELISSA PARKIN](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule Change  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 6:05:54 PM

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Good evening,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that suggests adding more days to the academic calendar. While the intention behind this proposal may be to enhance student outcomes, I believe that the correlation between the number of instructional days and improved student performance is not as straightforward as it may seem.

Firstly, I would like to emphasize that quality, rather than quantity, is the key determinant of successful education. Research consistently suggests that the effectiveness of education lies in the methods of teaching, the engagement of students, and the overall learning environment. Simply increasing the number of days in the academic calendar does not necessarily address these critical factors.

Several studies have indicated that the quality of teaching and the relevance of curriculum play pivotal roles in student achievement. Investing in professional development for educators, updating curriculum to meet contemporary needs, and fostering an environment that encourages active learning are measures that have shown to be more impactful in improving educational outcomes.

Moreover, the proposal to extend the academic calendar may inadvertently lead to burnout among both students and teachers. Longer school years can result in increased stress levels, fatigue, and reduced enthusiasm for learning. This, in turn, could have adverse effects on students' mental health and overall well-being.

Additionally, it is important to consider the diminishing returns associated with extended instructional time. Studies have suggested that beyond a certain point, the benefits of additional instructional days plateau, and the gains in student achievement become marginal. It is crucial to strike a balance that prioritizes meaningful learning experiences over an extended but potentially less effective academic calendar.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the proposed rule of adding more days to the academic calendar. Instead, let us focus on measures that have proven to be more impactful, such as improving the quality of teaching, updating curriculum content, and creating a positive and engaging learning environment. Quality education is the foundation for successful student outcomes, and I believe that redirecting efforts towards these aspects will yield more meaningful and sustainable improvements.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I trust that, together, we can

work towards creating an educational system that truly prioritizes the needs and well-being of our students.

Sincerely,

~Melissa Parkin  
7th/8th Grade ELA, Theatre  
8th Grade Track Coach  
Teacher Leader  
Gattis Middle School

Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work.

~C.S. Lewis

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**From:** [Brenda Logan](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 day Calendar  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 6:21:20 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I would like to express my concern to proposed changes to our school day calendar. I am a teacher at Texico Schools, and I have been teaching for 26 years. Our school has been a 4-day week school for over 12 years and has had many successes! Most recently we won TWO state championships, and according to the NM Vista Reports, we are rated as an EXCELLENT school. We are not the schools who constantly rate as low performing schools. We have strong educational values, strong academics, strong athletic teams that continuously provide excellent results.

4-day school weeks also save on energy costs. If this new schedule goes into effect, wouldn't it cost the state more money? Also, if we are putting more time in, wouldn't we need to be paid more? Where would the money come from? There is a teacher shortage in our state as well as a substitute shortage. I have already heard if this rule passes, several teachers will quit. I am up for retirement in 2 years and would definitely retire then instead of staying.

I understand that NM is rated very low in education. I honestly believe that it is NOT because of a 4-day week. In fact, I believe that making students come to school longer will not help our educational system at all. Kids absolutely need a break from the classroom. Every year by the end of April or the first of May, my students are done, burned out. They want to be outside and play. Their mind is no longer on school. This proposed schedule will cause even more burnout for students and teachers alike. It will not be a motivator to learn. Education starts at home, with supportive parents. That is one reason our school is successful. Our parents see that their child gets enough sleep, food to eat and they make sure they get their homework done. They respect our school; our values and they support their child's teachers. They want their child to grow up and be successful.

I don't know what the solution to NM schools' ratings is, but I encourage you to visit small schools that are on a 4 day a week schedule, get to know us and our students and see why we are successful. Please realize that one-size does NOT fit all and please let us be in control of when and how long our students should come to school. We know what is best for them. We have proven it over and over. Believe me, we want nothing more than for our students to succeed and be at the top of the educational spectrum.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and I would appreciate your consideration to the points that I have brought up.

Sincerely,

**Brenda Logan**

**From:** [Coni Jo Lyman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 6:42:42 PM

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To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Texico School District in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned grandparent,  
Coni Jo Lyman

**From:** [Micah Thompson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 8:53:54 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Texico school district, in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Sincerely,  
A concerned parent,  
Micah Thompson

**From:** [JOSHUA MARTIN](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Concerns and Opposition to NMPED's 6.10.5 NMAC Proposal for a 180-Day School Year  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 9:17:23 PM

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Good evening,

I trust this message finds you well. While the aim of enhancing educational standards is commendable, we believe that this proposed mandate may not be the most effective means of achieving that goal. Here are several reasons why we express our opposition to this initiative:

Lack of Supporting Research:

The proposal appears to lack a foundation in research, which consistently indicates that increased instructional time alone does not guarantee improved student outcomes.

Quality vs. Quantity of Instruction:

We believe that the focus should be on the quality of instruction rather than the sheer number of days in the academic year. Research suggests that factors such as regular attendance, student engagement, and the presence of highly qualified teachers are critical contributors to academic success.

One-Size-Fits-All Approach:

Imposing a uniform 180-day requirement may not consider the unique characteristics and needs of individual school districts. Each district has its own challenges and strengths, and flexibility is essential in addressing those variations.

Potential for Burnout:

A prolonged school year may lead to increased stress and burnout for both students and educators, potentially diminishing the overall effectiveness of the learning environment.

Impact on Family Time:

The proposed mandate could affect the balance between academic and non-academic aspects of students' lives, reducing the time available for family activities and personal development.

We acknowledge the importance of continually striving for excellence in our educational system. However, we believe that a more nuanced and evidence-based approach would better serve the diverse needs of our students and communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your thoughtful consideration and support in advocating for policies that truly enhance the quality of education in our state.

Sincerely,

**Josh Martin**  
**7th/8th Basic Foods**

History Department Head  
Gattis Middle School

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**From:** [Kammi Whitted](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule Change  
**Date:** Sunday, November 26, 2023 10:01:37 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

While I am against changing our schedule from a four day week to a five day week, I think that each district should be allowed to make their own decisions. Different schedules could be beneficial for different situations. I would also seriously consider the fact that there are several teachers who have purposely moved to teach at schools that offer a four day school week. I would be worried that this might cause more staffing problems than there are currently. For example, our school is located in a very rural community and some of our teachers travel from neighboring towns to come to teach. If we were to change from a four to five day week the costs might begin to outweigh the benefits, causing those teachers to look elsewhere for employment. I strongly believe that change our schedule could do more harm than good.

Sincerely,  
Kammi Whitted  
Lordsburg Municipal Schools



**From:** [Amber Shay](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 7:56:07 AM

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Hi,

Please consider a 4-day week for all New Mexico schools. The 4-day week has been proven to be effective. It increases student attendance, student engagement, student performance, staff morale, and work/ life balance.

I am a teacher at Hurley and Bayard Elementary Schools in the Cobre School District.

Thank you for your time,

**From:** [Crystal Hicks Reese](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 8:00:12 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico School District, in Texico, New Mexico, in direct opposition of HB130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
Crystal Reese  
A concerned parent and community member

**From:** [Lori Webster](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 School Instructional Time Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 8:02:00 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my concerns with the proposed regulations outlined in 6.10.5 School Instructional Time Requirements. All regulations issued by the Public Education Department must be founded in law. In the 2023 session, the New Mexico legislature, in HB130, established a minimum requirement of 1140 instructional hours, of which 60 hours (elementary) or 30 hours (secondary) could be teacher work hours. Under what authority does the Department require schools to have 180 instructional days exclusive of teacher work hours? If the legislature wants schools to adopt a 180 day calendar for instruction that does not include teacher work hours, they should do so. Until then, the Department should follow the guidance provided by the legislature.

This rule allows schools to schedule teacher work hours on days other than one of their 180 "instructional days." However, it is unclear if schools can count a conference day, for example, as an instructional day for the purpose of qualifying for K-12 funding, which the legislature clearly intended.

Similarly, it seems clear that the legislature intended to allow schools with a 4 day week, as this is specifically provided for in HB130. If the legislature doesn't want schools to operate on a 4 day week, they could pass a law making this the case. The fact that they did not do so should make it clear that the Department should not overstep its authority trying to prescribe a five-day week.

In SB4, the legislature requires schools to provide a 20 minute seated lunch, as quoted below: "A. students in grades kindergarten through five shall have at least twenty minutes of seated lunch time each school day to provide sufficient lunch periods that are long enough to give all students adequate time to eat. To the extent possible, recess should be conducted before seated lunch time in grades kindergarten through five." Because the required lunch period is already defined in law, the Department should not require schools to provide a 30 minute lunch period, as this rule does.

I would like to point out that HB130 required school districts and charter schools to make significant shifts to their schedules. Families and students experienced disruptions and dismay when school calendars and schedules had to change to adapt to HB130. Asking districts and charters to go back to families and make significant changes again for the second year in a row does not support the Department's goals of increasing trust in and support for public education. Rather, families and students who are frustrated and disconnected become even more so, and blame schools for not meeting their needs. When students and families aren't bought into a longer school year, increasing the number of required days won't make a difference. Instead, students just won't show up for school, and right now, there is no provision in the compulsory attendance law that would compel them to do so.

I look forward to hearing the Department's response to these concerns and hope that the

Department can establish rules regarding instructional time requirements that do not conflict with the parameters established in law.

Best, Lori

--

Director, Mountain Mahogany Community School  
(505) 341-1424  
[l.webster@mountainmahogany.org](mailto:l.webster@mountainmahogany.org)  
Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

**From:** [Stephanie Blumer](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 8:39:55 AM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

Good evening,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that suggests adding more days to the academic calendar. While the intention behind this proposal may be to enhance student outcomes, I believe that the correlation between the number of instructional days and improved student performance is not as straightforward as it may seem.

Firstly, I would like to emphasize that quality, rather than quantity, is the key determinant of successful education. Research consistently suggests that the effectiveness of education lies in the methods of teaching, the engagement of students, and the overall learning environment. Simply increasing the number of days in the academic calendar does not necessarily address these critical factors.

Several studies have indicated that the quality of teaching and the relevance of curriculum play pivotal roles in student achievement. Investing in professional development for educators, updating curriculum to meet contemporary needs, and fostering an environment that encourages active learning are measures that have shown to be more impactful in improving educational outcomes.

Moreover, the proposal to extend the academic calendar may inadvertently lead to burnout among both students and teachers. Longer school years can result in increased stress levels, fatigue, and reduced enthusiasm for learning. This, in turn, could have adverse effects on students' mental health and overall well-being.

Additionally, it is important to consider the diminishing returns associated with extended instructional time. Studies have suggested that beyond a certain point, the benefits of additional instructional days plateau, and the gains in student achievement become marginal. It is crucial to strike a balance that prioritizes meaningful learning experiences over an extended but potentially less effective academic calendar.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the proposed rule of adding more days to the academic calendar. Instead, let us focus on measures that have proven to be more impactful, such as improving the quality of teaching, updating curriculum content, and creating a positive and engaging learning environment. Quality education is the foundation for successful student outcomes, and I believe that redirecting efforts towards these aspects will yield more meaningful and sustainable improvements.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I trust that, together, we can

work towards creating an educational system that truly prioritizes the needs and well-being of our students.

Sincerely,

Estephanita J. Blumer

108 Calan Ct

Clovis, NM 88101

575-693-0097

**From:** [Jayme Craig](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 8:49:21 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Elida school district, in Elida, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Heather Woodard](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] length of school year proposed increase  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 9:15:04 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello. I am writing with feedback about the proposed increase to the number of required school days in New Mexico.

I was recently made aware that the PED is attempting to increase the number of required school days to 180 school days per year, which is a change to the NMAC, where there is nothing currently written. I believe this is outside of the authority of the NMPED.

There are several reasons this is not the best move in New Mexico:

- 1) We all know how difficult it is to find, hire, and maintain teaching staff in New Mexico. Adding this requirement will make teacher retention more difficult for many districts, whose allure is provided by having a somewhat shorter year.
- 2) There is no research that shows that a longer school year will benefit students. Students need highly qualified, effective teachers for the time they are in school, not more time with long term subs (because, let's face it, that is who is in many of our classrooms). In fact, many districts with shorter calendars and even four-day work weeks have better scores than those with five-day weeks and longer calendars.
- 3) Removing local-level autonomy will cause more friction between districts and the NMPED. We saw this during COVID, when districts attempted to go against the NMPED and state guidelines. Our local leaders know our communities better than anyone at the state ever could. Let them decide what our students need.

Instead of trying to solve a problem by simply adding more burden, the state should instead look at ways to increase teacher retention and skills.

Thank you for your consideration of these points.

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Heather Woodard



**From:** [Brian Culberson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 proposed rule change  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 9:15:39 AM

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Good morning.

I teach in a small, rural district. We currently attend school on a 4 day week. If I'm reading the proposed rule change correctly, PED is trying to change the rule to mandate a 5 day week. I am not in favor of this proposal.

In looking at the state's requirements, my school district is already providing more hours of instruction than is required.

Many of the staff in my district work hard to make the hour-plus trips to shopping and the doctor on Fridays, when we don't have school.

This situation reeks of politicians trying to earn brownie points with voters by doing "something" to improve education in NM, while not looking at the entire picture. One of the largest reasons NM schools are where they are is because for several years, NM students weren't in school - they were at home as per the governor's order. All NM students lost at least 12 months of school time for that.

During that time, to protect NM's image, PED refused to make the end-of-year testing count for several years in a row, knowing how poor student performance would be. There was also no possibility of student retention. Students (and parents!) figured out that there were no consequences for not attending classes at all (both online and when we began to meet in person again) and not doing any of the work, and so expended very little effort in their school endeavors. This is an ongoing struggle.

Finally, as with many changes that are made and/are proposed in education, while teachers and local schools are blamed, a primary stakeholder is ignored. Parents are not held to any kind of account when their children:

- miss school;
- come to school dirty or hungry or tired or whatever;
- behave poorly;
- are disruptive;
- refuse to work/turn work in;
- and so on.

One more thing: since this rule will primarily affect rural schools (if it requires a return to a 5 day week), it would be appropriate to have in-person meetings in places other than Santa Fe, where those in schools like mine, that are a minimum of 6 hours away from Santa Fe, might have more of an opportunity to attend.

Respectfully,

Brian Culberson

Teacher, Lordsburg Municipal Schools

**From:** [Jeffrey Tull](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 9:24:14 AM

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Greetings,

I am writing in response to the proposed change regarding calendars. Having taught secondary school for 15 years and spent another 9 years in administration, I am opposed to this rule for a number of reasons. Socorro is a district currently on a 4 day week, and it has proven vital to the growth of our students.

If I were still a teacher, there would be no such thing as a 4 day school week... between lesson planning, data analysis, and assessment the 5th day would be worked! It just wouldn't be done on Saturday or Sunday like it was back in the day. Giving teachers that room to breathe is necessary. If the state is so paranoid that teachers are just abusing a 4 day week, require that staff calendars be at least 180 days and let the districts determine how the staff are held accountable for work.

As IT Director, I've spent years helping offices streamline the process of robo calls home for unexcused absences, documentation of calls home, and letters home. It is not uncommon to see students miss more school than they attend. So adding more days is magically going to make students show up? What needs to be put into place is parent accountability. Schools support parents, and there is no reason that parents cannot work something out with schools to assist in difficult situations. Put as much effort into keeping parents accountable to get their kids to school as you do changing the calendar rules and perhaps then education can improve regardless of what calendar is used.

Our world is changing, and too much has been asked of educators. Truth be told, I end up working most Friday's anyway so a 4 or 5 day calendar makes no difference to me personally. I am not opposed because I don't want to work on Friday. I'm opposed because I do not think this change will have the intended impact and will, in all likelihood, have many unintended consequences that will make the state of education worse.

Thank you for your time.

--

**Jeffrey Tull**  
**SCSD Technology Director**  
Office: 575.838.3137  
Mobile: 575.517.9329

**From:** [Kelly Newell](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130 Proposed Mandatory 5 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 9:38:47 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you today to please consider this proposed rule change (HB 130) with care. Study after study shows that 4 or 5 day weeks do not change the learning outcome of students. Many of the rural schools in New Mexico are on a four day weeks because our students are part of agricultural families and they work on their family farms and ranches. As a parent of two, very successful students from a rural, NM school I can't stress enough how important the four day week was to my family, our business and the extra curricular activities my sons participate in. My oldest son graduated from Capitan Municipal Schools in 2017 and from NMSU in December of 2021. He is operating his own business now. My youngest son is a freshman this year and has straight A's for his third year in a row. He participates in many extra curricular activities which are carefully planned on most Fridays so that he doesn't have to miss as much learning time in the classroom. All of this is possible because of the four day week.

Please, Please, Please do not force successful four day a week districts into five days because of other unsuccessful schools.

Sincerely, Kelly Newell

**From:** [Kelly Newell](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition of HB 130  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 9:42:58 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Capitan Municipal school district, in Capitan, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely, Kelly Newell  
A concerned parent and educator,

**From:** [Laurie Ocampo](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4-day school week, vs. a 5-day school week  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 10:23:14 AM

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I wanted to leave my feedback on how our district, the Socorro Consolidated School district, in addition to over 30 more school districts in New Mexico, currently have 4-day school weeks. There is a reason for this.

Our district struggles to get teachers, as we are a small community that many young teachers might not be willing to move to. Our closest neighbors are Belen, Magdalena and Los Lunas, and I currently have seven teachers (out of 30) who live outside of town and commute in to teach. The four-day week acted as a major incentive to hire these teachers. Without the 4-day school week, we would have 7 longterm subs. This would be detrimental to our students' instruction.

We have added time to our school day, and we have added days to our year to accommodate for the 4-day school week, so our students are not losing instructional time.

Thank you,

Laurie Ocampo  
Principal  
Parkview Elementary School  
107 Francisco de Avondo  
Socorro, NM 87801  
(575) 835-1086  
[locampo@socorroschools.org](mailto:locampo@socorroschools.org)  
Socorro Consolidated Schools

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**From:** [Gwendolyn Mosimann](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5.9 NMAC – Rp, 6.10.5.9 NMAC, 1/16/2024  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 10:31:41 AM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-50nfqifk.png](#)  
[6.10.5-NMAC PreApproved-for-Web RR-Tracked Markup.pdf](#)

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Good morning,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed change to the law regarding school hours. When we were re-adjusting after COVID, the state sought to catch students up to their proficiencies by increasing the school day/year. My district chose to add an hour to each day and it was, frankly, a disaster. Students don't learn more because they're in class longer, they just get burned out faster. That was the last year I taught, the added time made both me and the students miserable and was part of what drove me from the classroom.

**all public school calendars shall include at least 180 instructional days per school year, exclusive of teacher professional work hours**

So, we're punishing teachers for having professional development? For having to hold parent/teacher conferences? Why are we adding more to an already huge work load for teachers?

**All students shall be in instructional hours, exclusive of lunch, lunch recess, and lunch passing periods, for a minimum of 1,140 instructional hours per school year. Secondary students shall attend a minimum of four class periods per instructional day, unless a secondary student provides evidence of participating for an equivalent amount of time in an apprenticeship, a work study program, or in employment.**

Why are we now punishing high schoolers who are on track for graduation? If a Senior only needs a couple of classes to graduate that's something to celebrate, not punish. Why should they have to have a job to not have to take extra, unneeded, classes? This isn't the 1800's, we don't and shouldn't depend on child labor to keep the country going so what is the point of requiring them to have a job or take classes they don't need? Why are we punishing students for being on track?

I find this whole law to be more nonsense about how quantity is better than quality and does nothing to address why our students are underachieving. Instead of pointlessly forcing students and teachers to do the unnecessary, focus on addressing some of the actual problems:

- Teacher retention. No one wants to be a teacher any more, it's not worth the pay or the hassle. Get the state and administration out of teacher's way and let them do what they've been trained to do. Instead of thinking more time in a useless classroom run by a substitute will solve student learning, focus on what the teachers are telling you needs to change and how they want it changed.
- Student attendance. If the student isn't in school they're not learning. Yet, despite the fact my district has a dedicated attendance team to address it, students are not coming to school. The parents know there is no consequence for not sending their student to school and so they don't. I fully agree with the law being supportive of family needs, but there needs to be an actual consequence or some families will never send their

students to school.

- Student and parent accountability. When the students act out, it's the teacher's fault. When the parents don't send their kid to school the teacher is supposed to do something about it. A student refuses to do anything to learn and it's the teacher's fault. When will there be accountability for the student's actions? For the parent's actions? Little Johnny throwing his chair across the room every day is not the teacher's fault but they are expected to deal with it, frequently with no support, because it's his "least restrictive environment." When do we consider the environment for the other kids in the classroom? When do we hold the student and parent accountable for their behavior instead of just telling the teacher to deal with it?

I would like to end by stating again: quality is not the same as quantity, and quality is what actually matters which is why the school time requirements should not be increased.

Thank you!



**Gwen Mosimann**  
McKinney-Vento Liaison  
Belen Consolidated Schools  
505-966-1190 office  
505-895-3425 cell

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## PROPOSED AMENDMENT - STRIKETHROUGH

~~Strikethrough~~ represents language the Department is proposing to delete.

Underline represents language the Department is proposing to add.

### TITLE 6 PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION CHAPTER 10 PUBLIC SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION - PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS PART 5 SCHOOL ~~CALENDAR~~ INSTRUCTIONAL TIME REQUIREMENTS

**6.10.5.1 ISSUING AGENCY:** Public Education Department, hereinafter the department.  
[6.10.5.1 NMAC – Rp, 6.10.5.1 NMAC, 1/16/2024]

**6.10.5.2 SCOPE:** This rule applies to school districts and charter schools.  
[6.10.5.2 NMAC – Rp, 6.10.5.2 NMAC, 1/16/2024]

**6.10.5.3 STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** ~~[This rule is promulgated pursuant to]~~ Sections 9-24-8, 22-2-1, 22-2-2, 22-2-8.1, 22-8-23.14, 22-13-1, 22-13-1.1, 22-13C-10, and 22-22-1 et seq. NMSA 1978.  
[6.10.5.3 NMAC – Rp, 6.10.5.3 NMAC, 1/16/2024]

**6.10.5.4 DURATION:** Permanent.  
[6.10.5.4 NMAC – Rp, 6.10.5.4 NMAC, 1/16/2024]

**6.10.5.5 EFFECTIVE DATE:** ~~[December 31, 1998]~~ January 16, 2024, unless a later date is cited at the end of a section.  
[6.10.5.5 NMAC – Rp, 6.10.5.5 NMAC, 1/16/2024]

**6.10.5.6 OBJECTIVE:** ~~[This rule establishes criteria for establishing a variable school calendar pursuant to the Variable School Calendar Act (Sections 22-22-1 to 22-22-6 NMSA 1978) and for determining a school year]~~  
This rule establishes criteria for determining the length of a school year and day, instructional hours for students, and professional work hours for teachers; and for establishing a school calendar for the school year.  
[6.10.5.6 NMAC – Rp, 6.10.5.6 NMAC, 1/16/2024]

#### **6.10.5.7 DEFINITIONS:**

~~\_\_\_\_\_ A. “Condensed year calendar” means a calendar for a school district, school or charter school operating on a four day schedule each week.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ B. “Department” means the public education department.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ C. “Local board” means a board of education of a school district or a governing body of a charter school.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ D. “Secretary” means the secretary of the New Mexico public education department.~~

~~\_\_\_\_\_ E. “Variable school calendar” means a calendar for a school district, school or charter school operating on a 10, 11 or 12 month period or portions thereof in excess of nine months, which permits student attendance on a staggered schedule.]~~

\_\_\_\_\_ A. “Instructional day” means a calendar day designated by the local board for instructional hours with students that meets the length of school day requirements in Subsection D of Section 8 of this rule but shall not include professional work hours.

\_\_\_\_\_ B. “Instructional hour” is a period at school during which students receive instruction aligned to academic content and performance standards and includes:

\_\_\_\_\_ (1) a school program set forth in Sections 22-13-1 and 22-13-1.1 NMSA 1978;

\_\_\_\_\_ (2) enrichment programs that focus on problem solving and cognitive skills development;

\_\_\_\_\_ (3) content that provides technical knowledge, skills, and competency-based applied

learning;

\_\_\_\_\_ (4) research- or evidence-based social, emotional, or academic interventions; and

\_\_\_\_\_ (5) instruction that occurs at the same time breakfast is served or consumed in accordance with the breakfast after the bell program or federal requirements.

\_\_\_\_\_ C. “K-12 plus day” means a calendar day designated by the local board as an instructional day or a school day that is scheduled in excess of the minimum requirement of 180 instructional days specified in Section 8 of this rule.

\_\_\_\_\_ D. “Local board” means a board of education of a school district or a governing body of a charter school.

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E. "Optional instructional programs" means a school district instructional program in which eligible students may enroll instead of participating in the general course of study offered by the local school.

F. "Professional work hour" means time during which a teacher participates in professional work aligned to challenging academic content and performance standards, including:

(1) home visiting or parent-teacher conferences;

(2) educator training or professional development; and

(3) mentorship, coaching and collaboration between school employees.

G. "Public schools" means school districts and charter schools.

H. "Remote instruction" means when students are engaged with the curriculum through an online platform while not physically at the school site.

I. "School day" means a calendar day designated by the local board that may include either instructional hours with students or professional work hours or a combination of instructional hours with students and professional work hours.

J. "Secretary" means the secretary of the public education department.

K. "Synchronous remote instruction" means remote instruction when students are receiving instruction by teachers on an online platform in real time.

[6.10.5.7 NMAC – Rp, 6.10.5.7 NMAC, 1/16/2024]

**6.10.5.8 REQUIREMENTS:** [While department approval is not required, any local board planning to operate under a condensed year or variable school calendar shall justify a decision to implement such a calendar based upon the results of public input and other considerations as set forth in this section.

A. Approval procedure: To operate under a condensed year or variable school calendar, the local board shall, at a duly noticed public meeting held prior to the condensed year or variable school calendar's implementation date, declare in a detailed written resolution its intention to operate under a condensed year or variable school calendar.

(1) The local board's approval procedure shall include the following:

(a) an identification of the schools, by grade level, to be operated under the calendar;

(b) public input at a public meeting on how student and school achievement and financial issues would be impacted by the proposed condensed year or variable school calendar;

(c) public input at a public meeting on the anticipated impact of the proposed condensed year or variable school calendar upon the school district, charter school, family and community;

(d) public input at a public meeting on the impact of the proposed condensed year or variable school calendar on: facilities, capital needs, operational budget, transportation services, personnel needs, staffing patterns, and instructional programs within the school district or charter school;

(e) verification of substantial community support for implementation of the proposed condensed year or variable school calendar; and

(f) public input at a public meeting on how the proposed condensed year or variable school calendar will ensure that a school year will consist of the minimum number of full instructional days required by Paragraphs (1) and (2) of Subsection B of 6.10.5.8 NMAC.

(2) Any resolution adopted by the local board to implement a condensed year or variable school calendar shall contain an assurance that each of the criteria set forth in Subsection A of 6.10.5.8 NMAC have been satisfied.

B. Length of school day beginning with the 2011-2012 school year:

(1) Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, school districts and charter schools operating under a condensed year calendar shall operate under a calendar consisting of at least 150 full instructional days per year exclusive of lunch and any release time for in-service training. Specifically, students shall be in school directed programs, exclusive of lunch, for a minimum of the following:

(a) if in kindergarten for half day programs, three hours per day or for full day programs six hours and 36 minutes per day;

(b) if in grades one through six, six hours and 36 minutes per day; and

(c) if in grades seven through 12, seven hours and 12 minutes per day.

(2) Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, school districts and charter schools that operate on a regular or variable calendar, shall operate under a calendar consisting of at least 180 full instructional

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~~days per year exclusive of lunch and any release time for in-service training. Specifically, students shall be in school directed programs, exclusive of lunch, for a minimum of the following:~~

~~(a) if in kindergarten for half day programs, two and one half hours per day or, for full day programs, five and one half hours per day;~~

~~(b) if in grades one through six, five and one half hours per day; and~~

~~(c) if in grades seven through 12, six hours per day.~~

~~(3) School districts and charter schools may establish a school year or length of school days in excess of the minimum requirements established in this section provided that they do so only after holding a duly noticed public meeting at which public input is permitted. Charter schools shall not be required to obtain permission from their authorizer to extend their school year or length of school days but shall provide them with written notice of the proposed change prior to implementation. Budget implications should be carefully addressed when consideration is given to exceeding the minimum requirements.~~

~~C. Days or parts of days that are lost to weather where Days or parts of days that are lost to weather where that weather related loss exceeds two hours, or lost to in-service training or lost to other events that are not school directed programs shall be made up so that students receive a full instructional school year.~~

~~D. Upon approval of scheduling by the school principal, teachers may:~~

~~(1) use up to 33 hours of the full day kindergarten program for home visits or for parent-teacher conferences;~~

~~(2) use up to 22 hours of grades one through six programs for home visits or for parent-teacher conferences;~~

~~(3) use up to 12 hours of grades seven through 12 for consultation with parents or to develop student next step plans.~~

~~E. Length of school day requirements during the 2010-2011 school year shall be satisfied by complying with the minimum requirements set forth in Section 22-2-8.1, NMSA 1978 as they existed in law prior to the 2009 changes that contained a delayed year effect. School districts and charter schools may, however, voluntarily commence complying with the new requirements set forth in Subsection B of 6.10.5.8 NMAC above.~~

~~F. The secretary may, on a case by case basis, waive the minimum length or number of school days where such minimums would create undue hardships provided that the school year is adjusted to ensure that students in the requesting school district or charter school receive the same total instructional time as students in the same grade elsewhere in the state. A hardship shall include but not be limited to:~~

~~(1) severe and prolonged acts of nature that render travel dangerous or impractical;~~

~~(2) natural disasters that affect a community after which rescue, repair and grieving are critical to the community's recovery;~~

~~(3) community or statewide health emergencies as where warnings about pandemics or epidemics have been issued by the department of health or the department;~~

~~(4) the passing or prolonged illness of key school staff;~~

~~(5) violent or other disruptive acts committed on school property that necessitate a lockdown or closure of a school.~~

~~G. No waiver request need be made to the secretary where, if based upon hardship, a school district or charter school declares a district-wide or school delay of two hours or less.]~~

A. All students shall be in instructional hours, exclusive of lunch, lunch recess, and lunch passing periods, for a minimum of 1,140 instructional hours per school year. Secondary students shall attend a minimum of four class periods per instructional day, unless a secondary student provides evidence of participating for an equivalent amount of time in an apprenticeship, a work study program, or in employment. Instructional hour requirements for students with individualized education programs (IEP) shall follow the requirements of the IEP.

B. Remote instruction may comprise no more than four instructional days, or 32 hours per school year, and at least fifty percent of remote instruction must be synchronous remote instruction, except for:

(1) hardships included in Subsection G of this section; or

(2) optional instructional programs, charter schools in accordance with the contract between the school and its chartering authority, or schools without attendance boundaries.

C. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year:

(1) all public school calendars shall include at least 180 instructional days per school year, exclusive of teacher professional work hours;

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(2) all public schools shall schedule more than fifty percent of school weeks as five-day school weeks; and

(3) all public schools shall be deemed to operate on five-day school weeks for the purposes of K-12 plus program funding calculations in Section 9 of this rule.

D. The length of instructional days and school days shall be a minimum of five and one-half instructional hours per full day and a minimum of three and one-half instructional hours per half day. Instructional days shall be no longer than seven and one-half instructional hours.

E. Student lunch time shall be a minimum of 30 minutes. Lunch recess and passing periods to and from lunch do not qualify as instructional hours.

F. When instructional hours are lost to weather or other events that cause the total school year instructional hours to drop below 1,140, or that cause a reduction in the total number of instructional days or school days, the school calendar shall be amended so that students receive a full school year pursuant to Subsection A of this section and so that the number of scheduled K-12 plus days are maintained.

G. The secretary may, due to hardship and on a case-by-case basis, waive for the current school year the length of instructional days provided that the school year is adjusted to ensure that the students receive a minimum of 1,140 instructional hours per school year. A hardship shall include but not be limited to:

(1) severe acts of nature;

(2) natural disasters that affect a community after which rescue, repair, and grieving are critical to the community's recovery;

(3) community or statewide health emergencies, where warnings about pandemics or epidemics have been issued by the department of health or the department;

(4) the passing or prolonged illness of key school staff; or

(5) violent or other disruptive acts committed on school property that necessitate a lockdown or necessitate total or partial closure of a school.

H. Up to 60 instructional hours per school year for primary grades and up to 30 instructional hours for secondary grades may be used for professional work hours, provided that professional work hours are scheduled before, after, or on a day other than the required minimum 180 instructional days. When calculating a school's total number of instructional hours, time shall not be double counted as both instructional hours for student learning and professional work hours.

[6.10.5.8 NMAC – Rp, 6.10.5.8 NMAC, 1/16/2024]

**6.10.5.9** ~~[TEMPORARY PROVISION: Due to the passage of Laws 2010, Chapter 68 during the 2010 second session of the 49th legislature which finds that school districts need flexibility to meet state fiscal solvency requirements, for the 2009-2010 through 2011-2012 school years, the secretary may waive requirements in the Public School Code and corresponding rules pertaining to the length of school day.~~

~~A. No waiver under this provision may be granted or acted upon prior to May 19, 2010.~~

~~B. No waiver granted pursuant to this provision may extend beyond the end of the 2011-2012 school year.~~

~~C. The department shall monitor the issuance or denial of any such waivers.~~

~~D. The secretary shall report to the legislative education study committee and the legislative finance committee on any issues or actions of a school district that appear to adversely affect student learning.]~~ **K-12 PLUS PROGRAM:**

A. Each school district or charter school with board-approved calendars longer than 180 instructional days shall be eligible to receive K-12 plus program units for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade.

B. The number of K-12 plus program units is determined by multiplying the membership in each eligible school by:

(1) the cost differential factor of 0.012 and then by the number of K-12 plus days between 181 and 190 days; and

(2) the cost differential factor of 0.016 and then by the number of K-12 plus days between 191 and 205 days.

C. No later than October 15 of each year, a school district or charter school that wishes to adopt a calendar of between 181 and 205 instructional days for the next fiscal year shall submit to the department the actual number of students enrolled in each of its schools in the current year and an estimate of the number of students that the school district or charter school expects to be enrolled in each school in the next year.

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~~Strikethrough~~ represents language the Department is proposing to delete.

Underline represents language the Department is proposing to add.

[6.10.5.9 NMAC – Rp, 6.10.5.9 NMAC, 1/16/2024]

**HISTORY OF 6.10.5 NMAC:**

**Pre-NMAC History:** The material in this regulation was derived from that previously filed with the State Records Center and Archives under State Board of Education Regulation 93-24, Variable School Calendar Application, Review and Reporting Process, filed March 3, 1994; and State Board of Education Regulation 92-3, Variable School Calendar Application, Review and Reporting Process, filed April 3, 1992.

**Other History of 6.10.5 NMAC:**

6.10.5 NMAC – School Calendar Requirements, filed 12/31/1998 was repealed and replaced by 6.10.5 NMAC – School Instructional Time Requirements, effective 1/16/2024.

DRAFT

**From:** [Genoveva Vigil](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule making proposal  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 11:15:47 AM

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Good morning,

When I heard about the rule making for this upcoming year I was surprised to notice some of the highlights required for public schools such as the 50% of the school's weeks must be 5 days long. I have just been hired on to the school district and have recently graduated from high school in 2020.

I can see both sides of this from both a student and staff perspective, and can attest that having a four day school week is beneficial for these kids and for this staff. As a student, going to school from 8:25-3:55 is full of instruction and time spent taking notes, taking tests with barely time in between for homework/studying. Once the school day finishes, these kids also join after school activities such as sports or clubs which can take up more of their time from 4:00-5:30. Once they get home it's time for dinner and socializing with family or friends for about an hour as well and they have little time for homework. A lot of our student population also have jobs they go to on Friday's and the weekend. This helps build their work ethic, work experience and helps them save for college once they finish with high school. By having the five day school week, this takes away their three day weekend to destress from school, work on homework/studying along with other responsibilities that come with it such as their jobs outside of school. This easily burns kids out mentally and physically and many of my previous classmates have agreed as well when we were in high school. When I started college, we had a four day school week which was great to complete assignments, spend time with loved ones and be able to get the help I needed from peers on the Friday we didn't have school. I flourished in college with this 4 day school week and I was able to spend more time on school than I did in high school which reflected on my grades and mental health.

As someone who is hired on within the school district, this allows for breaks as well to destress from meetings, IEPs, and other testing that may need to happen. This also allows educators to work on PDU's and CEU's to become better teachers and therapists for the student's they provide service for and who they teach.

Despite the physical and mental exhaustion, we also come from a poor community that struggles to bring many of their kids to school as well due to the cost of gas. This also pertains to the buses who will be spending more in transportation fees as well to pick up kids who live 30+ minutes away in neighboring towns. By increasing the school days this is going to increase the cost of transportation, food and energy costs which is not what a poor community can afford. This can be detrimental to student's grades if they're unable to make it to school which can affect their chances for college.

This problem of having a four day school week can easily be resolved with adding an extra 5-10 minutes onto the school day along with an extra day or two of instructional days in the beginning of the school year or near the end.

**From:** [Colette Cross](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regulation 6.10.5 - VOTING TO KEEP 4 Day School Weeks  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 11:28:46 AM

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To whom it may concern:

I am in favor of keeping the 4 day a week schedule for Logan, NM and the rest of the surrounding area communities.

You can look at the rankings for the Logan, NM schools and see that our children that attend Logan, NM are thriving. Our little school has HIGH ratings for education in the state!

By keeping the 4 day a week schedule:

- Parents can schedule doctor appointments on Friday, and their children don't have to miss school.
- Games can be scheduled on Fridays and our kiddos that play sports don't miss important class time with teachers - learning assignments.
- The State of New Mexico employees and County employees are on 4 day a week schedules.

The 4 day a week schedule is working very well for our little communities and for our children. There is no need to "fix" something that is not broken!

**MY VOTE IS TO KEEP THE 4 DAY A WEEK SCHEDULE FOR NEW MEXICO, ESPECIALLY LOGAN MUNICIPAL SCHOOL!!**

Thank you for your time,

--

***Colette Cross***

Garnett Insurance Agency, LLC  
116 S. Hwy 54 - P.O. Box 563  
Logan, NM 88426-0563  
Phone: (575) 487-0515 - Fax: (575) 487-0516

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**From:** [Fabela, Tiona](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for:  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 11:29:08 AM

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Note: When submitting feedback, we kindly request that you specify which rule(s) you are submitting feedback for. This is especially helpful when the Department is accepting feedback for multiple proposed rules at the same time.

### 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements

Good Morning,

My name is Tiona Fabela and I am the School Counselor at Jal Public Schools. We are a 4 day wee school and it works extremely well for us. Our attendance has significantly changed, as more students are coming to school and not missing since they have Fridays off. Teachers and Staff are less stressed and enjoy coming to work. Our school has been extremely blessed to be able to have a four day schedule and our numbers of students just keep increasing. Testing scores are looking way better and students grades are at an all-time high. We have next to none major discipline issues. Students are more relaxed, having that extra day on the weekend to rest. It is the best interest of our students and staff that we stay a four day week. Thank you for listening to my feedback. I hope you consider my information and let us, as well as other four day districts, keep our School schedule as it is now.

Thank you,

*Tiona Fabela*  
*School Counselor*  
*Jal Public Schools*  
[Tiona.fabela@jalnm.org](mailto:Tiona.fabela@jalnm.org)  
*Office: 575-395-2277*  
*Cell: 575-441-8881*



**From:** [Judy Romero](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Four day school  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 11:38:21 AM

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As a single parent who's children have been going to a four day school I want you to know that I wouldn't change a thing! I get to have more time with my kids. Family time is important!!! Also four days has kept them in school more because I can now make appointments on Friday's.

This plan works in Loving NM!!

*Judith Romero*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

**From:** [Alle Kirkland](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 12:36:44 PM

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As a level 3 New Mexico public educator and NEA member, I would like to express concern and disagreement with the proposed rule change to Rule NMAC 6.10.5

180 instructional days for students PLUS extra days for PD and teacher prep is in contradiction of state statute, passed last session. This intentionally included those hours within the total instructional hours.

Adding additional hours/days/weeks for teachers is not the answer to truancy and other student issues. Adding PD days (with questionable compensation) outside of these days will make teachers' difficult jobs even harder, and break the promises made.

Sincerely,  
Alle Kirkland

--

Alle Kirkland, M.A.  
Secondary English Language Arts, ELD and P.E.  
Monte del Sol Charter School  
"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire"  
- William Butler Yeats

**From:** [Kristi Wilson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 12:56:05 PM

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Dear PED OF NM,

The Capitan Schools have had the four day week for many years now, I believe since 2007. It is a part of our daily life and in my family we use our Friday as our day to get extra errands done around the ranch, buy groceries, visit the doctor's office if their hours allow Friday appointments, and many other things we do not get done during the week.

From my understanding, the school district reports have said that they save on electric bills, food purchased, and transportation costs, just to name a few.

If this four day school week works for our school, our district, and our families; why on earth would you take that choice away from us?

It is not fair to take our choice away if it has worked for us for this long. What you will see is more absences because you are taking our day for appointments and other important things during an actual week day.

I am writing this first and foremost as a parent, although I am also employed by the school. As a parent, I love the four day school week. It gives extra time for travel if we need it.

I ask you to keep the choice for four day weeks with the local school districts.

Thank you for listening.  
Kristi Wilson  
Parent and EA

**From:** [ismael molina](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 1:05:57 PM

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I work for maintenance at Loving Municipal Schools, our 4 day week works out great! It's good for staff morale. The kids are doing better as far as grades and testing and attendance. The attendance is better than ever. As a staff member , it's better as a parent to have that one Friday I can get bills and appointments done. Spending more time with family is important. Also knowing our kids are excelling in academics and sports

**From:** [Shelby Norton](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In Favor of 4 Day school weeks  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 1:09:28 PM

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Good afternoon,

I am a 29 year old mother of three, school employee, and NM high school alumni. Some rural schools in SE NM, like Tatum High School where I grew up, started the 4 day school week schedule back in 2007-2008. I grew up on a ranch and would ride the bus into school every morning. Back when we got the extra day for the weekend it was refreshing to have another day to recoup from the school week, practices, and games.

Fast forward to 2023, I am now an employee of the Jal Public Schools in Jal, NM. I have a 4<sup>th</sup> grader, Kindergartener, and a 1 year old baby attending the local daycare. Our Fridays off have let me have the opportunity to stay at home with my kids for an extra day as my work schedule has adapted with their schedule. This has been the schedule I have always known and appreciated for myself and now my kids! We are grateful to have the extra day to stay home, catch up on to do's, go out of town, or whatever you can think of.

I believe retracting our 4 day week and resuming back to 5 days of school would exhaust these young minds more than they already should be. Our children don't get the same amount of outdoor recess or PE classes as we did back in the late 90's-early 2000's. There are studies that show young children need physical exercise, fresh air, and time for play. Restricting their freedom to play, rest and recuperate fails them to grow and learn how children should.

Please consider the younger generations growth and development in your decision to let school districts decide to keep their school weeks as they have.  
Thank you!!

***Shelby V. Norton***

Director

[Jal Bright Beginnings](#)

[\(575\) 395-2840 Ext. 3121](#)

**From:** [Roberta Saiz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 1:10:58 PM

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As a parent who's children attend a school who has 4 day school weeks we are against the bill to push for 5 day school weeks. It works well for our students and our community! If things aren't broken no since in trying to fix them!

Thank you

**From:** [Catherine Aragon](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] school hours  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 1:34:50 PM

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I am writing on behalf of the Magdalena Municipal School District in Magdalena, New Mexico in

direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email/letter to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing state law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14 th ,

2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school weeks on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school

graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than in 5, again published by you, the NMPED in the most recent NM Vistas Report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed “one of the

worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico Districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico you are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day school week for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be better-rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

A Concerned (parent, student, educator, staff member, community member)

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**From:** [Kristin Lopez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule Change  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 2:36:47 PM

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Hello,

My name is Kristin Lopez and I am a Special Education Teacher working in Lordsburg, New Mexico.

I am against the proposed rule change. I utilize Fridays to complete errands and schedule appointments for myself and my daughter. Having a 4 day week decreases absences for myself and my daughter since she is in 1st grade.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion and hope you will consider to keep the 4 day schedule as is.

Best Regards,

Kristin Lopez



**From:** [Margaret Green](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4-day Week  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 2:44:20 PM

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I am writing regarding my opposition to requiring 4-day a week schools to convert to 5-days.

I attended a 4-day week school for 12 years (1st-12th, 1990-2002), worked at a 4-day week school since 2015, and have a child who attends a 4-day week school (2013--present); therefore, I have experience with a 4-day week.

Some facts about a 4-day week:

- Schools on a 4-day week save costs regarding transportation and energy.
- The 4-day week serves student attendance, particularly in rural areas where distances to routine medical and dental care are much greater than in urban areas.
- The 4-day week is an important teacher recruitment and retention factor for rural districts in a time of teacher shortage.
- Graduation rates and test scores for schools on a 4-day schedule match or outperform that of schools on a 5-day week.

So, I ask...WHY ARE SMALL RURAL 4-DAY WEEK SCHOOLS BEING PUNISHED FOR THE POOR PERFORMING 5-DAY WEEK SCHOOLS?

I would like to know what is fueling this sudden issue with 4-day weeks.

Thank you,  
Margaret Green  
575 447 3688

**From:** [Catherine Aragon](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day work week  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 2:54:52 PM

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I am writing on behalf of the Magdalena Municipal School District in Magdalena, New Mexico in

direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email/letter to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing state law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14 th ,

2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school weeks on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school

graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than in 5, again published by you, the NMPED in the most recent NM Vistas Report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed “one of the

worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico Districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico you are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day school week for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be better-rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

A Concerned educator

Benefits of a 4-day Week:

- Cost reduction associated with building operations, maintenance, transportation and food-service.
- Improved Staff morale as well as recruiting and retaining staff.
- Time off allows more time with family, friends, hobbies, sports, or working for older students.
- 85% of NM 4-Day schools are efficient or better.

<http://www.edweek.org/leadership/4-day-school-weeks-new-research-examines-the-benefits-and-drawbacks/2021/10>

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**From:** [Taylah Mata](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reference to HB130  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 3:06:01 PM

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In Reference to HB130

I do not agree with the changes that are being proposed. The four-day work week has not only improved our students' testing scores but also our attendance rates. Regular attendance, student engagement, smaller class sizes, rigorous learning opportunities, highly qualified teachers, high quality learning materials, and robust family and community support are proven contributors to academic success, and the four-day week aids in all of these points. Jal is a small school in a remote area that it is harder to get qualified employees to move to this location and the four-day work week helps promote relocating here. Your proposed changes take away our right to local control, which allows us to make the best decisions for our student, parents, and educators. Please reconsider, our students, parents, and educators have proven why the four-day weeks helps everyone thrive.

Thank you,

Taylah Mata  
StuCo & Yearbook Advisor  
Teacher  
Jal High School  
575.395.2277

**From:** [Amy Smythe](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Change in Instructional Hours  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 3:23:50 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam:

I am writing this letter due to the proposed rule change that would mandate all school districts in the state to adhere to a minimum of 180 days per year. In Magdalena, we are currently on a 4-day week schedule, which has been in place for years. I came to this district from Socorro Consolidated Schools 3 years ago. At that time, I quickly realized how beneficial the change in schedule was. There are several reasons I feel the 4-day week works best, such as the following:

- \* attendance - both staff and students have the opportunity to utilize Fridays for necessary appointments, family functions, and trips out of town. This eliminates the need for unnecessary substitutes and also improves the attendance rates for doctor appointments for both staff and students.
- \* teacher incentive - there is a teacher shortage across the USA, and having a 4-day work week, where teachers can utilize Fridays for lesson planning, appointments, and self-care, is highly attractive. This also is morale boosting, knowing you don't spend all your time on weekends, devoted to planning.
- \* Students are in school longer on a 4-day week, but we have students for an equal amount of time throughout the day, where we can devote more focus to lessons and strategies that we are trying to teach.
- \* Lastly, I feel there are cost-effective reasons for having the 4-day week as well, such as the utility costs, operational costs, as well as food service costs.

Overall, I have never felt more like going to work than I do now that I am at Magdalena Middle School. Our students are amazing and value the 4-day schedule, just like staff for the reasons listed above. I appreciate your consideration in this matter. I know I am a year away from retiring, and should they change the schedule, I would definitely take advantage of it.

Thank you for your time,

Amy R. Smythe  
MMS Language Arts

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**From:** [Holly Hagy](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Change in rules for schools  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 3:32:21 PM

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We here in Magdalena have students who travel 30-60 miles one way to get to school. School begins at 7:30 - We go to school 4 days a week for several reasons - one is so students don't have to travel that distance and get up so early 5 days out of the week. We live in a rural community and many of the students are needed for chores at home. so the three days together work for them. Also the cost of running busses 5 days a week instead of 4 - with gas and staff would increase our overall expenses.

It is not a good change for rural communities.  
Holly

--

Holly Hagy, BSN-RN  
School Nurse  
CTE-CNA & Health Teacher  
She, Her, Hers  
Magdalena Municipal Schools  
575-854-8030  
609-218-3080

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**From:** [Turner, Monica](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule Changes - HB 130  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 3:36:17 PM  
**Importance:** High

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

I am writing on behalf of Texico School District in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my letter to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 should it be chosen.

As a parent and educator I am furious at the proposition of forcing all New Mexico schools to become 5 day per week.

It is abundantly clear HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8-1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing state law creates a dangerous precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week districts on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day week for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well-rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

An extremely concerned parent and New Mexico educator

**From:** [Ingrid Halverson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rulemaking for PED  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 3:44:20 PM

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I am writing to offer feedback regarding the following rules:

- All public schools must have at least 180 instructional days (this does not include the 60 hours of staff pd).
- At least 50% of the school weeks must be 5-days long
- Instructional days will be a minimum of 5 ½ hours and a maximum of 7 ½ hours

I am a regular education teacher in the Socorro Consolidated School District. I am in favor of 180 instructional days.

However, I am concerned about the lack of accountability for parents regarding attendance, valuing education, and working with teachers.

I am also in favor of five day weeks. We have a four day week in Socorro. Students come to school every Monday showing significant learning loss from the three day weekend.

The school day is too long in our district: elementary students do not have the stamina for our 7:50 to 3:00 schedule. More days, shorter in length, would be an improvement.



**From:** [Beth Thornton](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 4:14:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [180 days.pdf](#)

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## Beth Thornton

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Phone: (575)482-9520

Email: [bthornton@texicoschools.com](mailto:bthornton@texicoschools.com)

Address: 520 Griffin St., PO Box 237, Texico, NM 88135

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To Whom This May Concern:

I want to express my opposition to the new proposed 180-day calendar. Texico Schools has been a four-day school for twelve years. I have taught in this district for over thirty years, and I have seen the advantages of the four-day week. Texico has maintained extremely high standards for students. We are always among the highest ranked schools in the state. This year, Texico Elementary earned a rating of Excellence, Texico Middle School earned a rating of Excellence, and Texico High School is considered a Spotlight School.

This proposed change will not benefit our school or community in any way. Adding more days to the school year is not the answer to the educational problems we face in this State. Most of the schools with a four-day week are among the higher rated districts. We have strong educational values, strong academics, and strong athletic teams that consistently achieve excellent results.

Attendance is good because families and staff have a day to schedule appointments, which for small rural communities, is often hundreds of miles away. There is already a huge shortage of teachers and substitutes. The additional days added to the calendar will increase staff absences when the students need their teacher to be there to teach, not at an appointment they could have scheduled on an off day. We are also an agricultural community where many of our students still work and help on family farms and ranches.

Cost savings were a big part of the reasoning behind the original four-day week. This would be a substantial cost increase for school budgets. There are many reasons the four-day week works well for the rural communities. This one-size fits all does not work well for rural New Mexico.

Please reconsider this proposal.

**From:** [Kim Henkel](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to HB 130  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 4:18:02 PM

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I am currently the K-12 Visual Arts Instructor at Magdalena Schools. The 4 day work week has been working here for us for over 30 years. We are a small district of under 300 k-12 students, a very remote community, some students commute over 40 miles to attend school, we are limited on services here in our area,

Our 4 day week benefits:

- Cost reduction associated with building operations, maintenance, transportation and food-service.
- Improved Staff morale as well as recruiting and retaining staff.
- Time off allows more time with family, friends, hobbies, sports, or working for older students.
- 85% of NM 4-Day schools are efficient or better.

I am writing on behalf of the Magdalena Municipal School District in Magdalena, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email/letter to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing state law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14 th ,

2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school weeks on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school

graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than in 5, again published by you, the NMPED in the most recent NM Vistas Report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed “one of the

worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico Districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico you are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day school week for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be better-rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally

competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

Kimberly Henkel, MFA Level III  
Visual Arts Instructor K-12  
Magdalena Municipal Schools

***This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.***

**From:** [Roselynn McNeal](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 4:45:56 PM

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Greetings,

I am writing to share the benefits of a 4-day school week in our small community. My perspective comes as a parent and a staff member studying to be a teacher.

-A day off during the week allows for out of town doctor appointments to occur. There are few medical professionals in our community creating a need to drive 4 hours round trip for to see a doctor. I took my son on this long trip just to get an eye appointment as new patients are not being accepted. I take this long trip twice per month to see a specialist.

-For older students who participate in sports on Fridays, a school day is not missed with the current schedule when the athletes travel several hours for games.

-Our largest employer is the local mine. Several parents work 4 day, Monday-Thursday weeks. Some live locally for their work week then spend their long weekends where they call home.

-Students whose families depend on the children to help on their ranches benefit from the three day weekends.

-A shortage of substitutes in our small town will make coverage more challenging when teachers take a day off during the week for appointments or professional development. I realize there is a substitute shortage everywhere, but in a rural area, it's more difficult to recruit.

-I foresee increased attendance challenges if our local area goes to a 5 day school week, which contradicts the importance to have students in the classroom. Allowing districts to determine how to spread the required school hours is the method I'd like to see remain.

Respectfully,  
Rose McNeal

**From:** [Maggie Elliott](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Changes to 4 Day Week  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 7:17:52 PM

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Thank you for taking the time to read my feedback. I moved out of Texas to spend more time with my family. We moved to the Cimarron School district because my husband and I met many years ago in this area and we were so excited when the science teacher position opened and he got his dream job working at Philmont as well. We are able to do more activities with our family and spend time outdoors together. Having a 4 day school week allows my kids (6 and 7) the ability to enjoy other programs on Mondays that they would not be able to do if we were in a 5 day week. Our kids both enjoy the Angel Fire Ski team and have the opportunity to spend Mondays on the mountain learning new skills and being outside.

I feel like many of the parents in our district are the same as us and enjoy this opportunity to spend time outdoors. The slopes and trails are often too busy on the weekends and there is less opportunity if they can not go on Mondays. I feel like attendance will reflect the fact that parents moved here for this "perk" and will just pull their kids out to go and ski or hunt.

I am not sure what could be accomplished by a 5 day week vs. the longer day of the 4 day week. I feel like districts should be able to choose what suits their area and community to be able to service the families of our communities. The hours "rule" can be done any way a district sees fit as it benefits its community. Not all communities in NM are the same and we should not be forced to fit into a plan that does not benefit all.

--

Maggie Elliott  
Eagle Nest Middle School  
Middle School Science 5 - 8th Grade  
Middle School Track and Cross Country Coach  
575-377-6991 ex. 420  
[melliott@cimarronschools.org](mailto:melliott@cimarronschools.org)

**From:** [Amanda Sanchez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 8:20:41 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Cobre school district, in Bayard, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned level III teacher  
Amanda Sanchez

**From:** [Demetrio Sanchez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 8:22:52 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

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It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

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Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
**Artie Sanchez**  
**Assistant Principal/Athletic Director**  
**Cobre Consolidated Schools**  
900 Central Ave/PO Box 1000  
Bayard, NM 88023  
Snell: (575) 537-4030 Ext 1302  
Cobre: (575) 537-4020 Ext 1219  
Cell: (575)-936-9185  
Fax: (575) 537-5455



**From:** [Rodney Paris](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 8:28:28 PM

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I am writing you today to demonstrate my opposition to the proposed rule change. I will try to keep the reasons for such opposition short although it may be difficult.

1. 4-day school weeks have been a way of life for a large portion of school districts for as long as I can remember. I am not resistant to change if it makes good sense but when reading this rule, I have trouble seeing that sense. I was raised and graduated from a New Mexico school district with a 4-day week. As a student I was not a scholar but was successful. It can be agreed to by most that college programs are not for everyone. I was one of those. A 4-day week allowed me to explore other interests in my secondary years. This led me to a successful career, and onto a second career over the last 27 years. I know being from a rural community that work ethic and common sense is something that we are lacking in society. So how does taking options for employment away from High school age kids a benefit to our communities? Simply said it is not.
2. Rural schools with a 4-day week have consistently proven to produce some of the top students and academic scores. If it is not broken, why do we want to try to fix it? I believe this is simply because we feel that we should make everyone the same. One shoe does not fit everyone so why are we trying to make it?
3. In 2023 we are more diverse then ever in our society. I find it troubling that the public education department believes that we should take the diversity away from local school districts. By limiting the power of local school boards and administrations you will continue to lose interest of local communities and officials. The elected school boards are and should be more then scape goats for budget and policy decisions at the local level. We should be working together to encourage new ways to get positive results. These results should be analyzed in more ways than just a post pandemic power move to change what has been working.
4. Teacher recruitment and retention has been an issue for years. NM has created programs to help with this over the last few years to include pay, insurance, and programs to help future educators into the profession. I am married to a teacher and volunteer at my local school district. It has been shown that a a society in general a 4-day work week is a huge recruitment tool. So how do you plan on replacing this. If it is with pay it will not work. I know as a supervisor most of the current generation is not motivated by money but by freedom and creativity in the workplace. So again, if that is the plan it will not work.
5. Attempting to do this through a rule change is horrendous! I know how the rule change process works and that my concerns and many others may go unheard or simply in pile that you are not interested in. If PED believes this is the magical cure, then put it on the ballot and let's see what happens.
6. Minimum pay that has been implemented across school districts has served as a needed shot to retain teachers. Although, while current budgets maybe able to afford even higher salaries, it was not long ago that we were all hoping to be able to survive without laying off employees

or cutting services. These times will come back, and I am afraid will be worse then ever when they do return. Based on the change that would mean an increase just in pay of \$12,000 to each level 2 teacher.

I do see that we have students that need more instruction time. This may include tutoring, summer programs, or other special activities to benefit them. Instead of implementing a financial burden with added days, could we fund some of the above. These programs are needed both for struggling students and those AP students that need a higher level of education to continue their growth. As a parent I would love to be able to place my son or daughter into a program to get this type of assistance with out having to qualify based on a testing score, ethnicity, or poverty level.

In summary, I do not in any way see the benefit of this rule change. There are simpler and more beneficial options that should be explored. By taking away local control you are losing community interest in their school districts. The belief that the funds will always be there is not true. If anyone supporting this type of rule change believes it will then you may want to enroll in a history class yourself.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and I pray that common sense prevails in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Rodney Paris  
Parent, Coach, Teacher's spouse, and community member

**From:** [Maria Rocha](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 8:28:52 PM

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The 4 day school week is important to our students and families because it lets us be A FAMILY! The schedule balances out our homes we get to have our students at home with us longer instead of just Saturday and Sunday. This I turn let's us help our students with any school work they have.

**From:** [Shelby Bradberry](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] STRONG OPPOSITION TO 6.10.5 NMAC School calendar changes  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 10:46:40 PM

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Dr. Shelby Bradberry  
212 Hwy 180 W  
Silver City, NM

November 27, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: ***Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department***

***My personal remarks are added in bold.***

**I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of two gifted students who are thriving in Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community.** It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children. **My children are high-achieving A students, and my youngest son skipped second grade under Cliff's instruction and is still one of the top scorers in his new class.**

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least

1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools. **As residents of Silver City, the 30-mile commute each way to Cliff schools is more than worth it – for the reputation of better instruction and higher testing scores, when compared to other Silver Schools, as well as the freedom the four-day school week provides. Our sons are able to travel to medical and orthodontist appointments on Fridays, appointments they would otherwise miss a whole day for, as many of the best medical treatments are almost two hours away in Las Cruces, even further for Cliff residents.**

**It also provides them the opportunity to travel out-of-state for Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu instruction – advanced instruction that they cannot receive here in rural New Mexico. They are currently becoming highly ranked martial artists in their age divisions because of the three day weekend freedom.**

**The impact on improved family life and quality family time is paramount. As veterinarians of our own practice, we have adopted a four-day work week (with coverage the fifth day by our associate veterinarian) around family time during the three day weekends. We are able to get all of the required household and pet-related weekly upkeep accomplished with two days to spare for quality family time.**

**This has allowed us to visit ailing and dying extended family members many times, as well as travel for leisure as a family.**

**When my boys are old enough to begin working, having three full days to work establishes a healthy work ethic and the opportunity to add more to savings, college funds, and (still important) spending money. For others in our rural community, an extra day for age-eligible students to work could provide noticeable assistance to families who often face poverty and food insecurity.**

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development. **In a world where work-life balance is not often taken into consideration, teachers, who already have one of the hardest jobs in our country, benefit greatly from the four-day school week. While burnout and toxicity is currently seen in nearly every industry, a four-day week best allows teachers a healthier work-life balance. Most of our teachers live in Cliff, and they need days to make the 30 mile each way trip to Silver City (or further) for medical care, grocery shopping, and more.**

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive

research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support – areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

**Citing [Effects of 4-Day School Weeks on Older Adolescents: Examining Impacts of the Schedule on Academic Achievement, Attendance, and Behavior in High School](#)**

**Emily Morton. Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, June 2022. “Results indicate that 4-day school weeks decrease per-pupil bullying incidents by approximately 39% and per-pupil fighting incidents by approximately 31%,” writes the author, [Emily Morton](#), a research scientist at NWEA, a nonprofit research organization formerly known as the Northwest Evaluation Association. —**

**In a world where bullying and violence in America’s schools is at an all-time high – violence even leading to shootings and students being beaten to death at school, these observations should be taken very seriously.**

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community. **While there are conflicting studies on test scores and achievements in four-day school week schools, the resounding conclusions are that it works for some communities, while it does not work for others. The current four-day week resoundingly benefits our students, shown by higher test scores than other schools in the**

**districts, and the improved quality of life for the students, parents, and teachers.**

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. **As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are absolutely a step backward in achieving these goals.**

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I will encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

**Thank you for considering my views and the immense negative impact that changing our school weeks would impose academically, personally, and on mental health and quality of life.**

Sincerely,

Dr. Shelby Bradberry

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**From:** [Dr. Britton Bradberry](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] STRONG OPPOSITION TO 6.10.5 NMAC School calendar changes  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 10:49:11 PM

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Dr. Britton Bradberry  
212 Hwy 180 W  
Silver City, NM

November 27, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: ***Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department***

***My wife's personal remarks, which I endorse, are added in bold.***

**I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of two gifted students who are thriving in Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community.** It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children. **My children are high-achieving A students, and my youngest son skipped second grade under Cliff's instruction and is still one of the top scorers in his new class.**

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In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. **As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are absolutely a step backward in achieving these goals.**

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I will encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

**Thank you for considering my views and the immense negative impact that changing our school weeks would impose academically, personally, and on mental health and quality of life.**

Sincerely,

Dr. Britton Bradberry

--

**Britton R. Bradberry, DVM**



**From:** [Lillian Galloway](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, November 27, 2023 11:53:55 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing to comment on the proposed rule change to 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements, increasing required instructional days to 180 and requiring more than half of the weeks of the year to be 5-day weeks. Personally, as a working parent, a 5-day week may fit my schedule better, but I oppose the rule change. Increasing instructional time is not the most effective solution to problems with student performance. Strategies like making smaller class sizes are more helpful. It is best to leave local districts some flexibility in their schedule options to fit the needs of their communities. I will cite Cliff School, part of the Silver Consolidated district, as an example, as I am sure many other commenters will.

Thank you,  
Lillian Galloway  
Silver City

**From:** [Tarah Heyer](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 7:14:52 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I would like to voice my concern over the proposed NMAC 6.10.5. Adding additional school days to the year has not been proven scientifically to increase testing scores. The issue is attendance. I have taught in two districts within New Mexico and they have both had struggles with attendance. There is a direct correlation that when a child consistently attends their scores improve, and when they don't their scores stay the same or drop. However, adding more days to the school year without fixing the attendance issue will not fix the problem. The attendance problem needs to be addressed and fixed before any other changes are made. Adding more days to the school year could cause more absences, because parents will just pull their children out for vacations and so forth, if they feel they do not have enough time off to take their vacation.

Thank you for your careful consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Tarah Heyer  
Reading Interventionist

**From:** [MELINDA HEWITT](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 7:32:23 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to the New Mexico Public Education Department to voice concerns regarding 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements. Firstly, as a current elementary teacher for New Mexico, I strongly support local school district autonomy in creating school calendars to meet the needs of the diverse students, parents, and educators across the state. The changes proposed in 6.10.5 will not meet the needs of our diverse populations or guarantee better student performance. The language used usurps local control and allows the NMPED authority they should not have. It is an infringement upon the free people of New Mexico.

Secondly, mandating longer calendar days is not the answer to the challenges our students and teachers face. Quantity of instructional time alone is not a research based answer as it does not guarantee improved student outcomes. Regular attendance, student engagement, rigorous learning opportunities, highly qualified teachers, high quality learning materials, and robust family and community support are proven contributors to academic success. Local school districts must be able to meet the needs of all these factors to the diverse communities they serve and employ, and 6.10.5 NMAC would prevent this. Why is NMPED not basing its proposals and actions according to research?

Finally, I have grave concerns regarding NM teacher and student retention. The state's overreach of power will only continue to exacerbate the problem. Highly qualified teachers, especially ones living close to other state borders or nationally certified teachers, can easily leave New Mexico for better employment conditions. Parents are increasingly seeking homeschooling and private education options due to the issues public schools face. Currently, as a highly qualified teacher and parent of a young pre-elementary child; I am debating what my professional and family life will be in the next 5 years. Do I quit to homeschool my child? Do I continue working for NM public schools to pay for a private school? Do I move out-of-state to a community with better private school opportunities? Do I move



from public school employment to private school employment? If the proposed changes of 6.10.5 NMAC occur it will demonstrate NMPED unwillingness to support local autonomy and control, understanding of research based factors effecting student performance, and parental concerns regarding the quality of public school institutions. It is my belief, it will not sway parents and educators to stay employed or keep their children within the public sector of education, but further harm opinions regarding NM public education governance and policy.

I strongly urge the NMPED to reconsider this proposed calendar change. Please consider other avenues to student performance and invest our limited public funds: to reduce class sizes, upgrade materials, expand student access to essential services, provide bilingual resources, support attendance outreach, etc. Parents and educators need to have restored faith the NMPED supports the diverse communities throughout the state because it supports local governance, believes in the capabilities of the free people of NM to make correct educational decisions regarding its children, and values parental control and rights. The multicultural and diverse students of NM do not belong to the state; they belong to the loving communities and adults who support and educate them at the personal, local level.

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Smiles,  
Melinda Hewitt  
3rd/4th iAcademy  
Office: 575-935-3259 Ext. 7414

**"Creativity is allowing yourself to make mistakes. Art is knowing which ones to keep." Scott Adams**

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**From:** [Colleen Kulback](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Five-Day School Week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 7:39:03 AM

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Dear PED,

I am firmly against this new proposal because of the several reasons listed below:

- The Public School Code (22-2-8.1) only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days.
- The Public School Finance Act (22-8-23.14) explicitly authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations cannot prohibit something that is otherwise authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.
- The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 79% reading proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 38%.
- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%.
- An extra instructional day has proven less effective than a four-day school week in scholastic success.
- A four-day school week allows extra-curricular activities not to interfere with instructional days.

Sincerely yours,

Colleen Kulback  
Junior High and High School Teacher  
Logan Municipal Schools  
PO Box 67  
Logan, NM 88426  
(575) 754-0091

**From:** [Carol Courtney](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 8:03:42 AM

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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I am writing on behalf of the Magdalena Municipal School District in Magdalena, New Mexico in opposition of HB 130 which arbitrarily changes the amount of mandated school days. I give consent for my email/letter to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18, 2023 should it be chosen.

I believe that this bill, HB130, is an overreach by NMPED. Presently, the state statute mandates the total number of instruction hours at 1,140. It does not mandate a certain number of school days. The proposed change of setting a specific number of days at 180 seems arbitrary and unnecessary to me and would upset the operation of several local school districts.

The existing state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of local children. Magdalena's four day school week adequately serves the needs of our community and has done so for many, many years, Thus, there is no need to create a rule that overrides the currently existing state law.

NMPED's own 2023 NM Vistas report of November 14th, 2023 supports my view of the value of a 4-day school week. It stated that: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school weeks on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. Also, this same report concluded that high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than in 5 day a week schools. Additionally, the 4 day school week allows for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, and NMAA sanctioned athletics.

In conclusion, I do not support HB 180. I trust that you will give due consideration to my views on this issue.

Respectfully,

Carol A. Courtney, Paraprofessional  
Magdalena Municipal School District

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**From:** [Amanda Dominguez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 8:16:22 AM

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Hello I am Amanda Dominguez and I am a Pre-K teacher for the Cobre district. I am emailing in regards to the suggested calendar change that is going to affect our 4 day week because it is not seen as beneficial. I am here to tell you that it is, our absences are lower than they have ever been, our students are excelling in their curriculum, and teachers are less burnt out. That extra day makes the world of difference and it is not having a negative impact on our students ability to learn. I know almost all of my colleagues in my school and in the district along with other districts will agree with me. Thank you so much for allowing us to put in our opinions!

**From:** [Shay Biebelle](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 8:20:13 AM

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I have received information stating that our 4 day school week is in jeopardy. I am the principal at San Lorenzo Elementary School, where we are currently on a four day week schedule.

We have been an A rated school for several years and for the last two years have been a spotlight school. We live in a rural area where students travel some distances to come to school.

It is my observation students have less burn out as well as teachers with the 4 day week. It would be a disservice to our families and staff to do away with the 4 day week schedule as it has been very positive for our school and community. Our state test scores have been positively affected with our current schedule as well as our student and staff attendance.

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Phone: 575-537-4070

Fax: 575-536-9490

[sbiebelle@cobreschools.org](mailto:sbiebelle@cobreschools.org)

**From:** [Michelle Greeman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [Terrazas, Luis](#); [crystal.diamond@nmlegis.gov](mailto:crystal.diamond@nmlegis.gov); [siah.hemphill@nmlegis.gov](mailto:siah.hemphill@nmlegis.gov); [Woods, Pat](#); [gail@gailfornewmexico.com](mailto:gail@gailfornewmexico.com); [Ezzell, Candy S.](#); [townsend@pvtn.net](mailto:townsend@pvtn.net); [Harlan.Vincent@nmlegis.gov](mailto:Harlan.Vincent@nmlegis.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposing HB 130- 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 9:04:32 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Cliff Schools in the Silver Consolidated School District, in Cliff, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education. This is blatant bureaucratic overreach which negates both state statutory law and local discretion over our children's education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report. Cliff Schools specifically are designated by NM Vistas ([nmvistas.org](http://nmvistas.org)) as exemplary schools with Cliff Elementary School as a School of Excellence in the top 10% of schools, and Cliff High School as a Spotlight Campus in the top 15% of all schools.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These amazing educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults. My students are thriving at Cliff Schools, and are part of a caring community of teachers and staff, with the students best interests at the forefront of everything they do.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4-H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities- including work and on the job training before graduation, are simply unmatched. The 4-day week also allows for students to not miss days due to travel for said extra-curricular activities because they are satisfying attendance requirements by attending

in minutes during their regular school day.

Also keep in mind that many schools that utilize a 4-day week are very rural, and students have to sometimes travel considerable distances to school. Adding an additional school day not only increases time on the bus for these students, but also expenses for the district in terms of transportation and bus drivers, or for parents that have to transport their children to school.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal? I simply ask- do you truly have our students best interests at heart?

Sincerely,

Michelle Greeman

Cliff Schools Parent



**From:** [Portia Short](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10:05:10 AM

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To Whom it may concern,

My name is Portia Doughty and I am a member in the US. Air Force stationed in Clovis, NM. I am writing on behalf of keeping 4-day school weeks which I know can be changed if this is passed. One major benefit that I have seen since we transferred our son to a school that has a 4-day school week is his productivity increased drastically and this may be simply because of this extra day of rest that he has. His school has done wonders for him and offered him an education that we could not find in the previous school he attended. Is this the benefit for all children, maybe not, but for many yes and this change could definitely reverse the improvements that have been made. I believe 4-day school weeks benefit the children and the administration the same. Please take heed to the voices of the people. I know that I am not from New Mexico, but the few schools near Clovis that offer this 4-day school week are some of the best schools and our children benefit greatly and I would like to think that this would be taken into account as well. When getting stationed here and looking at the ratings of the education system, we were worried to be honest especially coming out of Covid, but Grady has been a blessing and the school will be truly missed when we have to leave.

Thank you for your time.

V/r

Portia Doughty

**From:** [KENNETH GONZALES](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed 5 day 50% schedule  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10:18:00 AM

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My name is Kenneth T. Gonzales, a CTE teacher at Socorro High School. The proposed shift to a 5-day school week would pose a significant threat to the thriving program I have cultivated here.

Currently, I oversee a robust 4-hour after-school welding program in collaboration with New Mexico Tech University every Friday. Through this initiative, I guide students to achieve certification in the AWS D1.1 structural weld test. The success of this program extends beyond the classroom, as I actively collaborate with various companies to secure employment opportunities for my graduating seniors. In the last academic year, we certified 20 students, and the results have been remarkable. Four have enrolled in CNM's welding program, two have joined the military, and an impressive 14 are gainfully employed.

The impending shift to a 5-day school week threatens not only the continuity of this successful welding program but also jeopardizes other essential initiatives our school has put in place. We are on the brink of expanding our after-school offerings to include opportunities in Film and Television Program, Automotive Paint and Body Repair, an Apprentice Electrician Program, a Plumbing Apprentice Program, a Dental Assistant Certification Program, and a Certified Nursing Assistant Program.

Our community relies on these programs to equip our students with crucial skills, enabling us to cultivate a skilled labor workforce vital for our community's sustainability. These initiatives are not merely educational; they are integral to keeping our community alive and thriving. Your support in maintaining the current schedule is crucial for the continued success and growth of these impactful programs.

In conclusion, I wish to express that the transition to a 5-day work week would not only pose a significant challenge to the continuity of the programs I oversee but could also lead to personal and professional repercussions. As an educator deeply invested in the success of my students and the programs I've built, I find it necessary to convey the gravity of this potential change.

Personally, I must candidly state that I would be compelled to resign from my position if compelled to adhere to a 5-day work week. While I acknowledge the individual nature of this decision, it is my belief that I may not be the sole educator contemplating such a course of action at Socorro High School. The collective departure of experienced educators could have far-reaching consequences for Socorro Consolidated Schools and the broader community of Socorro.

This prospect, if realized, would undoubtedly be devastating, not only in terms of the impact on educational initiatives but also in terms of the potential loss of dedicated educators who contribute significantly to the academic and professional development of our students. I trust that thoughtful consideration will be given to the potential ramifications of such a shift, both for educators and the community we serve.

**From:** [Nikki Vazquez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10:20:27 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Tucumcari School district, in Tucumcari, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give permission for my email to be read aloud at the meeting scheduled on December 18th, 2023.

It is abundantly clear that HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED for several reasons. It is my understanding, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore to create a rule that negates the currently existing Stale Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than the 5 day, again, as mentioned and published by you, NMPED in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing a great additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico Youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, 4H and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

In conclusion, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

A concerned Parent, educator and community member.

[Nikki Vazquez](#)

Director of Library Services

Mesalands Community College

911 S. Tenth

Tucumcari, N.M. 88401

575-461-6621

575461-6601

**From:** [Ragland, Terri](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [Snider, Brian](#); [karen.komar@jalnm.org](mailto:karen.komar@jalnm.org)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10:25:56 AM

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**From:** Ragland, Terri  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2023 4:08 PM  
**To:** Snider, Brian <[brian.snider@jalnm.org](mailto:brian.snider@jalnm.org)>  
**Cc:** Komar, Karen <[karen.komar@jalnm.org](mailto:karen.komar@jalnm.org)>  
**Subject:** HB 130 Is this ok with you to send?

To whom it may concern:

I currently teach in a four-day week school district; Jal Public Schools and have remained here for several years even though I meet the mandated requirements for retirement. The fact that NMPED is proposing a rule change that would mandate all school districts in the state to adhere to a minimum of 180 student days per academic year, rather than to simply meet the 1,140 hour requirements stated in the statute, seems quite unfair and frankly I feel it strips away the essential element of local control and undermines the ability to make decisions that best serve our students, parents and educators.

NMPED is attempting to enforce this rule by inserting language into the rule that does not currently exist in New Mexico Statute, and by doing so will be exerting authority they do not have. It is a move, that frankly, raises questions about the department's power and the potential infringement on our local autonomy.

The proposed change is not supported by research, which consistently shows that increased instructional time alone does not guarantee improved student outcomes. Instead, factors such as regular attendance, student engagement, smaller class sizes, rigorous learning opportunities, highly qualified teachers, high quality learning materials and robust family and community support are proven contributors to academic success.

Being able to work in a district that has four day work weeks has been such a good experience for me, personally, because I rarely have to take a sick day for a doctor's appointment, I feel I am more rested and ready to work hard for the four days I am at

school and I feel that I am a happier and more efficient teacher. I believe in a small district like ours, in an area where there is not a lot of natural beauty having the "hook" of the four day work week attracts quality teachers and furthermore helps keep said teachers educating our students.

My hope is that NMPED will listen to the smaller districts and realize that they are showing growth and have less absences and are willing to stay in their districts for the long term. Everyone's voice needs to be heard and listened to on this matter.

Terri Ragland  
Jal Elementary  
Jal Public Schools

**From:** [Thompson, Bretta](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10:29:55 AM

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Note: When submitting feedback, we kindly request that you specify which rule(s) you are submitting feedback for. This is especially helpful when the Department is accepting feedback for multiple proposed rules at the same time.

I do not agree with Proposed rule NMAC 6.10.5. I feel this will contribute to even more absenteeism. Our rural school system relies on most Fridays off for students to travel, sometime out of the country, or return to their hometowns because a good amount of our students is here only because of their parents work necessities and not permanently. It is hard to find good educators for rural areas and the 4-day week is a good attraction for them. Please consider further investigation and studies before making this law. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bretta Thompson RN school nurse. Jal, NM

**From:** [Alison Anderson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10:37:33 AM

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Hello,

YES, abolish the 4 day school week. It is terrible.

I taught in rural New Mexico for 15 years. 3 on the Alamo Navajo Reservation, 9 in Roy, NM, and 3 in Anton Chico, New Mexico which is Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools. I moved away at the end of the 22-23 school year to go to a state with greater opportunities for my own elementary aged children and with what news lists rank as "better schools". I left because I could -- I don't own a huge ranch, I don't have family ties. Most people cannot make a move like I did. The money, the lack of support, the fear of financial collapse. I am very very lucky to have been able to get out and relaunch my children somewhere else.

Children in 4 day school week schools are overwhelmingly rural. Overwhelmingly they are either poor, or tied to land. Those kids cannot get away. They cannot do anything to improve their prospects -- unless they enlist in the military or get some kind of basketball scholarship -- have a look at those disproportionate numbers. The feedback circle is closed and those schools are not offering programs other than what has always been -- Ag, basketball, more basketball, rodeo. You could argue that is cultural, or to the community's taste. What about the kids? What would they do if they had options? Theater? Language? STEM? Music?

As a teacher there are simply not the contact hours to address anything over bare bones content. In Roy I had multiple grades in a single classroom. Math and reading were priority. We never got to history. Elementary never did science. In Anton Chico students were constantly being pulled for a multitude of "extra" interventions -- to the point that there was almost never a full class. Great. So I just reteach everything when those kids come back, while the original group does? Really. Have you been a teacher? Who goes on busy work? Don't try to tell me there is funding for actual enrichment that a small group can be working on while I don't do whole group because I don't have the whole group, I'm just playing catch-up whack a mole. Don't dare ask administration. No teacher likes to get screamed at for mentioning the Emperor's lack of clothing.

If you want to make a difference in these schools set aside a dedicated FTE for an art/music/STEM teacher. Nothing else. Don't let admin steal that money for yet another worthless (sports or instructional) coach. Not another set of out-moded technology. Give a real teaching position to a real teacher so other real teachers can have time to prep to do their own real teaching work. Enrich kids. Employ New Mexicans. Build and sustain culture. Make a future.

Curriculums are written for 5 day week schools. Do 4 day week schools get through the book? Even with pacing guides, teachers on the ground do not have the advanced degrees to make the decisions of what can be cut and skipped to get the most important but still enough in order to make sense content through. Don't tell me districts do anything to support that. Geometry is almost always last in the books. Take a look at those scores.

How about something as simple as spelling tests. Are 3 nights enough to learn however many words have been assigned? Why not send them home the week before. Yeah, shove tomorrow's work into yesterday. That will work. Kids and families need more of that. I'm sure they do.

I lived in these areas and I had these discussions. I was always the lone voice trying for more programs, more days, better scheduling. No one wants to hear it.

Why do teachers and families and kids in these areas like 4 day weeks? Because they like 3 day weekends. Bottom line. That is what they are really saying. They won't stand up and say it, but that is the entirety of the chatter at the coffee table.

And no, I'm not a teacher anymore. My students and parents loved me. My test scores were strong. But administration wins. It's just not worth it. I got my own children out. That was the only thing I could do. At least those two kids have a chance at a future.

Alison



**From:** [Stacey Burdett](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for:  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10:40:50 AM

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Note: When submitting feedback, we kindly request that you specify which rule(s) you are submitting feedback for. This is especially helpful when the Department is accepting feedback for multiple proposed rules at the same time.

Good Morning,

The rule I am writing about is rule number NMAC 6.10.5 such that 4 day school weeks will be eliminated.

I am currently an educator in a rural community, Capitan Municipal Schools. I am writing to you to express my concern in eliminating the four day school week. If you take the time to look at the success of our students here in Capitan you would realize that the four day school week is working for our students and their success in education. Most of our families have ranches and farms and live a long distance from the school. They take the 3 day weekend they are given to work on their ranches and farms as families. The majority of our families commute long distances to bring their children to school as well as the majority of the staff. This includes not only the educators, but the cafeteria workers, maintenance workers, and custodians.

The decision to stay as a four day school week should remain at a district level instead of being dictated by the Governor or Secretary of Education that has no idea what goes on in our small community. Please allow our Superintendent, School Board, School Employees, but most of all our families that attend this school to make this important decision.

Sincerely,

Stacey Burdett  
4th grade teacher

**From:** [Jacquie Thornton](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 Proposed Amendment to Act 22-2-8  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 10:43:28 AM

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To NMPED,

This is a response to the 6.10.5 proposed amendment to act 22-2-8:

As a resident of Fort Sumner and a parent whose two children have attended Fort Sumner Municipal Schools (FMS) elementary and high school, I am opposed to changing FMS' current 150-student-day calendar to your proposed 180-student-day per school year calendar.

One of my children attended five different NM public schools including elementary, middle, and high school (all of which were on a 180-day per school year calendar) through grade 10, and he was academically unsuccessful in every one of them. It was not until he started attending 11<sup>th</sup> grade in 2021 with FMS that he started having academic success. Not only did he engaged in school sports, but he was able to graduate with his class at FMS in 2023! My daughter started preschool, attended Kindergarten, and is currently in 1<sup>st</sup> grade with FMS, and she has been academically successful, engaged, and interested in school every year.

Not only do both of my children thrive academically on FMS' current academic calendar, but they thrive from being able to spend one extra day at home with their family. With FMS' current academic calendar, my children do not fight me to go to school every day because they are able to spend more time at home, which means better attendance and less academic burn-out resulting in better academic engagement; I cannot say the same for any of the 180-student-day per year public schools that my son has attended in the past.

Due to my older child's struggles with school prior to attending FMS, I did a lot of research, and I can say with confidence that there is limited -if any- research proving that increased instruction time alone guarantees improved student outcomes. There is however, an abundance of research indicating that the following attributes are proven contributors to academic success: smaller class sizes, rigorous learning opportunities, highly qualified teachers, high-quality learning materials, and a robust family and community support system; I can also say with confidence that FMS has all these attributes without being on a 180-student-day per school year calendar.

In addition to being opposed to implementing an amendment that has no proven benefits to my children's academic success, I am also opposed to the introduction of language not currently present in New Mexico Statute which raises questions about the department's authority and potential encroachment on our local autonomy. FMS staff (not limited to teachers) have created and maintained a close and supportive academic relationship with both of my children, and in doing so have gained a personal understanding of my children's individual academic needs. FMS staff have also proven their ability to maintain a relationship with their parents and community to better

support their student's academic needs. With that said, I am certain that FMS is not only intimately aware of my children's academic needs but has their best interest in mind which is why the ability to make decisions that best serve our students, community, parents, and educators should remain with FMS and our local community.

Thank you for your consideration,

**Jacquielyne Thornton**

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**From:** [Chuck Gerheart](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 11:01:06 AM

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I do not feel that removing a 4 day school week is an answer to improving education. As an educator of 28 years, more time does not always mean improvement in learning. The proposed movement on 6.10.5 is not in the best interest of education, teachers, retention of staff, and students.

I am against this amendment .

Chuck Gerheart  
Cobre Schools

**From:** [Jackilyn Dixon](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NM HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 11:45:33 AM

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I am writing to add my voice to the others opposed to HB-130. It is important local communities retain the right to make determinations regarding this issue. I am fine with this letter being shared, happy to answer questions and more than willing to participate in discussions to improve our educational system.

To Whom It May Concern:

All interested stakeholders want to see New Mexico's students' skills improve. Associating increased time in the classroom with increased student performance seems intuitive. However, the data does not appear to support this hypothesis. Rather, the data seems to indicate students in four-day schools perform better than those in five-day schools. This higher performance may be linked to the less obvious but critical advantages of and opportunities derived from utilizing a four-day week.

One such advantage is the opportunity to reduce lost instructional time due to absences. Having a day during the standard work week allows for staff and students to make needed appointments outside of regular school days as often as possible. It is a personal goal to make needed appointments on Friday. Consideration may need to be given to selecting a day of the week during which local health and dental clinics remain open; however, absenteeism among staff and students has long been a challenge. Any effort to minimize these absences must be firmly supported.

Another advantage of the four-day school week is the opportunity to utilize transportation savings to support more off-campus instruction. Students value and benefit from visits to different college campuses, trips to watch live performances, outings to explore science concepts in person, opportunities to travel for cultural events and more. These trips are in addition to sports and academic events. The opportunity to engage in this experiential learning substantially enriches the learning and lives of the students.

Students also benefit from the additional time out of school to participate in community-based activities. The students of this community use this time to engage in activities such as FHA, rodeo, the local Science Cafe, the local library activities for students, as well as family and cultural activities such as hunting, cutting wood, working the family ranch, feasts and ceremonies. This is a community that provides important opportunities for its young people to develop individual talents, employability skills, community belonging, and values critical to long-term success such as service to others, mutual respect and cooperation among individuals and ethnic groups. The benefits students realize from the time and opportunities to participate in these community-based and family-based activities cannot be measured nor can they be replicated in a classroom setting.

In conclusion, while requiring a uniform five-day week in all New Mexico schools appears to be a logical, self-evident step in the journey all agree New Mexico's educational system needs to undertake, the reality is students in four-day-a-week schools will lose far more than they

could hope to gain by transitioning to a five-day school week. The benefits students reap through having the time and opportunity to participate in school-based and community-based activities enriches their lives in precisely the way young people need most at this time. In this District, the social-emotional healing as well as the experiential learning students so desperately need following COVID and can now enjoy would be severely and unnecessarily curtailed by moving to a five-day school week.

Sincerely,

Jackilyn Dixon, Special Education Teacher

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**From:** [Catherine Aragon](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] four day work week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 11:50:12 AM

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Additional facts about the four day work week.

- Twenty-five states are practicing 4-Day Weeks. Once a practice reserved for rural districts, the idea is catching on in suburban and urban areas as well.
- Proponents claim a four-day work week helps attract and retain quality teachers.

Signed concerned teacher

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**From:** [Frankie Cansler](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130 Feedback  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 11:58:01 AM  
**Attachments:** [Letter re HB 130.docx](#)

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27 November 2023

RE: HB 130

Dear Sir/Madame,

I understand that you are planning to propose a change in New Mexico Educators' and School Boards' ability to control their local calendars and adjust the school year from 1140 hours to a mandatory 180 days in the school year. I believe this change is inadvisable for many schools in New Mexico for the following reasons:

- 1) New Mexico has a rich heritage and culture that incorporates a variety of different cultures and societies. Forcing schools into 180 days would force schools into 5-day school weeks, or year-long school. This would prevent many students from attending cultural events or force them to choose between their culture and their education. Many students also contribute to their family's earnings through part-time jobs or summer jobs. This change would make that contribution much harder.
- 2) This new bill and wording would take away local control and prevent schools from adapting their calendars to meet the needs of the local communities. As has been proven over and over again, schools succeed best with the backing of their local communities, especially in many of the smaller/rural districts. Creating a schedule that conflicts with local needs is ill-advised at best.
- 3) It is also well known, that instructional time is not the only hallmark of student success. Regular attendance, student engagement, smaller class sizes, and rigorous and relevant learning are exponentially more important and valuable in student achievement than the number of days in class. Highly qualified teachers and learning materials, a strong family and community support are also exceptionally important in student achievement.
- 4) There is a small but significant cost reduction in a 4-day school week. These savings come with building operations, maintenance, transportation, and food service savings. These savings allow schools to spend funds on other programs or hiring additional staff that make a much greater impact on our students' learning and achievements than most people are aware.
- 5) A 4-day week also improves staff morale and encourages the recruitment and retaining of highly qualified staff.
- 6) Having a 4-day week allows staff and students more opportunity to spend time with friends, and families, engage in hobbies/sports, or even hold part-time jobs which are often instrumental in families being able to maintain a basic standard of living.
- 7) 4-day weeks also allow for medical appointments and games to be attended on non-school days increasing attendance and decreasing out-of-class time for athletes.
- 8) Although there have been some studies that show a drop off in student achievement over a 4-8 year period, 85% of New Mexico 4-day schools are rated as efficient or better.
- 9) As an educator, I also believe that schools will have a serious attendance problem going from a 4-day to a 5-day week, as many students and families will be highly resistant to returning to a 5-day week.

Days and hours alone do not ensure that students will make adequate gains in their learning. Attendance, retention programs, and student engagement are equally if not more important. Schools should retain control over their own schedules and the 1140 hours ruling should be maintained.



Frankie Cansler

Teacher, Magdalena Schools.

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27 November 2023

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- 2) This new bill and wording would take away local control and prevent schools from adapting their calendars to meet the needs of the local communities. As has been proven over and over again, schools succeed best with the backing of their local communities, especially in many of the smaller/rural districts. Creating a schedule that conflicts with local needs is ill-advised at best.
- 3) It is also well known, that instructional time is not the only hallmark of student success. Regular attendance, student engagement, smaller class sizes, and rigorous and relevant learning are exponentially more important and valuable in student achievement than the number of days in class. Highly qualified teachers and learning materials, a strong family and community support are also exceptionally important in student achievement.
- 4) There is a small but significant cost reduction in a 4-day school week. These savings come with building operations, maintenance, transportation, and food service savings. These savings allow schools to spend funds on other programs or hiring additional staff that make a much greater impact on our students' learning and achievements than most people are aware.
- 5) A 4-day week also improves staff morale and encourages the recruitment and retaining of highly qualified staff.
- 6) Having a 4-day week allows staff and students more opportunity to spend time with friends, and families, engage in hobbies/sports, or even hold part-time jobs which are often instrumental in families being able to maintain a basic standard of living.
- 7) 4-day weeks also allow for medical appointments and games to be attended on non-school days increasing attendance and decreasing out-of-class time for athletes.
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Days and hours alone do not ensure that students will make adequate gains in their learning. Attendance, retention programs, and student engagement are equally if not more important. Schools should retain control over their own schedules and the 1140 hours ruling should be maintained.

Frankie Cansler

Teacher, Magdalena Schools.

**From:** [Crystal Rosales](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In Reference to HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 12:11:12 PM

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In Reference to HB130

I do not agree with the changes that are being proposed. The four-day work week has not only improved our students' testing scores but also our attendance rates. Regular attendance, student engagement, smaller class sizes, rigorous learning opportunities, highly qualified teachers, high quality learning materials, and robust family and community support are proven contributors to academic success, and the four-day week aids in all of these points. Jal is a small school in a remote area that it is harder to get qualified employees to move to this location and the four-day work week helps promote relocating here. Your proposed changes take away our right to local control, which allows us to make the best decisions for our student, parents, and educators. Please reconsider, our students, parents, and educators have proven why the four-day weeks helps everyone thrive.

Thank you,

Crystal R. Tavarez  
Jal High School  
ITV  
Edgenuity

**From:** [Dana Cook](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 12:14:24 PM

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To: [rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov)  
Subject: HB130

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Elida Municipal School District, in Elida, New Mexico, in direct opposition of HB 130. I give my consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023, so should it be chosen.

HB 130 is a clearly a dangerous and concerning overstep by NMPED in several areas. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum number of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Also, this drastic bill seems to be founded on one national study. One study is not a foundation for such a limiting and controlling bill to be passed on New Mexico schools. Our demographics are not the same as other states. We must look at our own statistics. You, NMPED, published in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week districts on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in a 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Furthermore, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has named "one of the worst in history," removing the additional 4-day week bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. Attracting well-trained, highly educated teachers is critical in our districts to ensure that New Mexico students are educated and prepared to enter the adult world.

Likewise, the 4-day school week allows the students time and freedom to excel at character building extra-curricular activities such as FCA, FCCLA, 4H, FFA, and NMAA sanctioned athletics. These experiences and activities lay the groundwork for strong, competent adults and the benefits are immeasurable.

In conclusion, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that are proven to be more well-rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their places as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society. That is the ultimate goal.

Sincerely,

A concerned Elida Municipal Schools educator

***Dana Cook***  
**Third Grade Teacher**  
**Elida Municipal Schools**

**From:** [ELIZABETH LOPEZ](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 12:52:54 PM

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As a teacher and a parent, I find the continuous addition of days and hours to the school year to be ridiculous. As leaders I believe you have forgotten that you are where you are today not having had to go to school as many days and hours and we do now. You are obviously successful and were able to accomplish this with 3 months of summer vacation! Can you imagine. The lack of growth from students isn't from the length of time we are in school, it's from the constant changes being made to what we must teach and the inability you as "leaders" give us to **actually** teach. With districts being unable and unwilling to work with and let their teachers teach what we know students need in order to learn and with PED constantly making changes without being in the classroom you continue to sabotage teachers in order to get and make more money for yourselves. It is not my responsibility nor that of students to make the superintendent money by coming to school and having to be here more days. Stop talking to administration and start talking to teachers, parents, and students.

**From:** [Jaylene Haley](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 12:55:57 PM

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Jaylene Lawrence  
736 E 38th St.  
Silver City NM 88061  
[jaye\\_haley@yahoo.com](mailto:jaye_haley@yahoo.com)  
(575) 313-0972  
November 27, 2023

Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen and educator in the area surrounding Cliff Schools in the Silver Consolidated School District. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the community and educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children in rural New Mexico. I have included my arguments in the following points:

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days:

The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt the well-being and academic progress of our students.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model:

Our Cliff Schools community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change puts unnecessary strain on the agricultural and community needs in the rural area that we live in. This proposed change also seems to disregard the unique needs and culture of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation:

The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias would lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education. This will also put already financially struggling families in the area in an increasingly difficult position, thereby affecting attendance rates and funding models, further complicating the needs of our rural community.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time:

Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers absolutely need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development. Teacher stress across the country is at an all-time high and removing these hours from instructional time would put unnecessary additional strain on teachers to commit even more time than they already do, outside of contract hours, to accomplish the tasks necessary for providing quality education in our district. Finding and retaining teachers to teach in our rural area is already a concern, one that our community should not be concerned about, and would only be further complicated by requiring more time apart from their families. This blatant disregard for educators' time will not result in better student outcomes.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes:

There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel. By approving this measure, this put unnecessary pressure on the community to comply without any assurance of positive return on investment. The effectiveness of a school district does not equate to hours spent inside the school building.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have been the voice for our area that education is a necessary area to improve upon. However, this proposal would have devastating and detrimental effects on our rural communities that are thriving in the four day school schedule. I also agree with the legislators that have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research to support these proposed changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community and educators.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent and educator, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my children and the children in our community, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I am encouraging other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jaylene Lawrence



**From:** [band019990](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 1:07:22 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Tatum school district, in Tatum, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

When my son with learning challenges, started in Tatum on a 4 day a week program I was questioning it. But it has helped him so much! He doesn't get bored so it helps eliminate the bad behaviors!

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned Tatum Parent

**From:** [Nevaeh Valdez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130/ 4 Day week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 1:45:13 PM

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I think we should keep the 4 day week because, I get to work so I can help out my parents.

**From:** [King LoKo](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hbl30/4dayweek  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 1:48:13 PM

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Dear government Im a senior at jal high school I think having a 4 day weekend is more beneficial to our schools minds when we have a refresh day to let our brains rest just like if it were a job it gives us more time to study on test their for getting better results on our test thank you sincerely Julian Ortiz

**From:** [Nevaeh Valdez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130/4 Day Week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 1:49:05 PM

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I am a senior at Jal High-school and I am against the HB 130 that will change our 4 day week to back to 5 days because I am able to help my parents and I am able to work sincerely nevaeh.  
Thank you

**From:** [ll Broom ll](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130/ 4 Day Week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 1:50:53 PM

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I am a senior at Jal High School and i am against the HB130 that will change our 4 week back to 5 days a week because i and some other people have jobs and commitments that we must do.

Thank you, Mason Broom

**From:** [Aricely Tavaréz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130/ 4 day week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 1:51:00 PM

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I am a senior at Jal High and I think the 4 day school days should stay it gives me as a senior time to work and personally is less stressful and improves mental health.  
Sincerely Aricely, Tavaréz

**From:** [Ga Ga](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130/4 Day Week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 1:51:33 PM

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I am a senior at Jal High School I do not side with HB 130 that will change our 4 day week into a 5 day week. My name is Brandon Houston I live alone and pay my own bills and take care of my 11 year old brother I struggle to make ends meet as is but I am managing with the cycle that I have developed. Changing our 4 day week into a 5 day week will cause me to fall behind and I will not be able to graduate. Sincerely Brandon Houston thank you for your time.

**From:** [Caitlyn Goodwin](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130/4day  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 1:52:02 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am a senior at Jal High School and I am against the HB130 that will change our 4 day week back to 5 days because, with a 4 day week im not as stressed as i used to be and im able to focus and do better in school and im able to get more sleep and wake up well rested, also im able to help out and spend more time with my family.

Sincerely caitlyn

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**From:** [Jessica Camunez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130/4 Day week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 1:53:39 PM

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I am a senior at Jal High School and I am against the HB 130 that will change our 4 day week back to 5 days because most Fridays I work which helps support my family. If I am not working my parents or myself set doctors appointments on Fridays to not miss school.

Sincerely,  
Araly Camunez

**From:** [Anna Ross](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130/4 Day Week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 1:53:56 PM

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I'm a senior at Jal High School and I'm against the HB 130 that will change our 4-day week back to 5 days because the one extra day I have I am able to help my parents with whatever they need help with since they work on Friday's. I can run errands, clean, do the laundry and cook so my mom or dad does not have to. I can also work because like I said, I'm a senior and I need to start saving up for college.

Thank you for reading and listening,

Sincerely,  
Anna Ross

**From:** [Jaycie Parsons](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130/ 4 Day Week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 1:54:06 PM

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I am a senior at Jal High School and I am against the HB 130 that will change our 4 day week back to 5 days because both of my parents work. I help with my little sister and I help keep the house in order. If we went back to having Fridays I would not be able to get my groceries, take my dogs to the vet, or take my sister to get things she needs. I already am struggling with school and home. It would bring more stress on me. Please take my email into consideration.

Thank you, Jaycie

**From:** [Preston Garvey KFP worker](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130/4Dayweek  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 1:57:13 PM

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Dear Legislator, or whoever reads this Email.

I have heard of you wanting to change the schools who go for four (4) days a week, to five (5) days per week instead.

As a student of JAL High School, I would like to write my displeasure of your ill thought of decision.

I have a life, and having a three day weekend is barely enough to keep up with my work, and life.

Your decision to try and change it would cause mass disruption to not only my life, but those of many others who attend Jal High School, and many other four (4) day per week schools.

I would like you to look how many other emails you've gotten, and how many of them are negative to your decision.

I know the negative WILL outweigh the positive. You do NOT have the people behind you.

Sincerely, George Robinson

**From:** [Sanchez, Daniel](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130/4 Day week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 2:02:44 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

I am a senior at Jal High School, and I am against the new HB 130 that will change our 4-day week back to 5 days because the extra day will no longer be able to give us time to relax and refresh our minds so that we can be able to perform at our fullest in school when we go back, and it will also prevent us from working our jobs to provide for our families and to also prepare us for life and help pay for college.

Sincerely, Daniel Sanchez

**From:** [Luke Guinn](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 / 4 Day Week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 2:08:22 PM

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I am a senior at Jal High School and I am against the HB 130 that will change our 4 day week back to 5 days. I am against this new rule because the extra day will take the ability away for us to relax our minds in order to be refreshed and be able to perform to our best abilities in the classroom. A lot of us students are now adults and work Fridays to prepare us for the future and to get early experience. A lot of us also are providing for our families and this extra day will prevent us from being able to provide for our loved ones. If this goes into effect, this will change every students lives in a huge way.

Sincerely,  
Luke Guinn

**From:** [Penny McFall](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements.  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 2:17:38 PM

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I am a nurse at Maxwell Municipal Schools. I dont believe anyone actually reads the feedback sent to you, but if someone actually does, there is not a doubt in my mind that any sane person would see that a 5 day school week would be in no way beneficial for our student's education.

If you have read any of the emails sent to you already you would have to know there are many many reasons why 5 day school weeks are a bad idea. There is no point in relisting all of them if you truly have read all the emails. You will have seen what a strong opposition there is to this ridiculous politically motivated mandate.

Penny McFall-Rice, RN



**From:** [Hayden Green](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 Days  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 2:56:32 PM

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Hey my names Hayden Green from Jal High-school . The schools are able to save more money with the four days compared to 5 days those Fridays add up. And for my self I work after school I have more hours making money to have the future I want I'm saving money for college's and future bills. Plus my family love the four days school they get more time for are family.



**From:** [Peggy Scott](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Amendment/Rule Change  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 4:40:03 PM

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The proposed rule change is ridiculous and of contrary to State Statute. This rule change challenges the efficacy of the current school calendar and threatens the local School Board's ability to tailor the school calendar to the unique needs and values of the local district.

It also removes the ability of small school districts to continue with a full-time four-day per week schedule. This system has worked extremely well in the 40+ years that it has been in effect.

More school days does not make better students nor better test scores.

Do not make this proposed amendment law.

*Peggy*

[psscott50@outlook.com](mailto:psscott50@outlook.com)

**From:** [Raven Rooney](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New Proposal  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 5:25:33 PM

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To Whom It May Concern;

I am a 10 year educator of a small district that has been on a four day schedule.

Our small community thrives on a four day schedule for the following reasons: From my experience, the four day allows for families to take ownership with sharing in parental duties permitting for grandparents and other family members to play an integral role by helping parents that have work on Fridays. This unique closeness fosters our school community.

On Mondays, students are well rested and have had ample time to bond with their family and community commitments thus, they are rested and ready to learn. Teachers have plenty of time to plan and create engaging hands-on activities.

Our district has higher test scores than many five day schools including our neighboring district. Not to mention, our community and parents voted for it!

Please think hard, this affects us all in a negative way.

Respectfully,

2nd Grade Teacher

Cobre Consolidated Schools

**From:** [Suzanne Wilson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 5:45:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [HB130.pdf](#)

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Sent from my iPad

To: rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov  
Subject:HB130

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Elida school district, in Elida, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned Grandparent

**From:** [Kristen Saucedo](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Not in favor  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 7:11:28 PM

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To whom this may concern:

I am not in favor and very much opposed on going back to five day school weeks. I believe we should stay at four day school weeks as this helps my child and accommodates her schedule better as well as mine. I am able to take my child to appointments on these days that is needed without them missing school or needing to make up any schoolwork. My child enjoys and seems to very much succeed with the four day school week as well as making things beneficial for her health and appointments she has. I ask that you please leave the school week to only four days.

Thank you kindly,  
Kristen Saucedo

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Gail Davis](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 7:44:05 PM

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To: [rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov)  
Subject: HB130

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Grady school district, in Grady Village, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
Gail Davis, A concerned grandmother of a Grady High School student.

**From:** [Kelsey McCollum](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 Proposed Amendment to Act 22-2-8  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 8:29:50 PM

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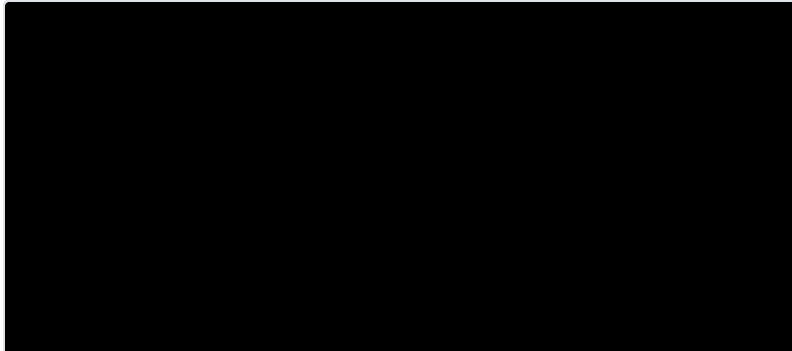
**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter in regard to 6.10.5 Proposed Amendment to Act 22-2-8. I urge you NOT to accept the proposed amendment that would eliminate a 4-day week for NM schools.

My two children attend Fort Sumner Municipal Schools (grades 5 and 8, respectively), and are A-students there. Fort Sumner is a farming and ranching community on the Eastern plains. My husband's and my family both own cattle ranches, which require all available family members to help out whenever possible. The four-day weeks allow our families to schedule workings on Fridays when the kids are not in school. This is a win-win situation so that the kids can help out but also do not have to miss school as in years past (like when I was growing up in the 90s). In addition, I am able to schedule many different medical appointments for the kids on Fridays so that they do not have to miss school.

Fort Sumner High School was recently named to the top 30 schools in the state amongst many larger schools in an article by Stacker in April of 2023. ([New Mexico best public highschoools \(krqe.com\)](#))



### Best public high schools in New Mexico

(STACKER) – As filmmaker and writer Nora Ephron said during a '96 commencement address at Wellesley College, "Yo...

This is just one example that having a 4-day week is not harming our students academically. In fact, my daughter commented that having Fridays off of school is very helpful for her mental health; to give her a break from the stress of the week, since weekends are typically very busy with sports and other extracurricular activities.

I realize that a 4-day week may not be a solution for some larger schools. However, I would ask that you allow each school district to make the decision that is best for them within the structure of the hourly requirements currently in place.

I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelsey McCollum  
1161 Pecan Drive

Fort Sumner, NM 88119  
575-799-0765



**From:** [York, Fredrick](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 Day School Fair  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 8:18:46 PM

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**From:** [York, Fredrick](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 Day School Week  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 8:30:48 PM

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Hello,

As a 2023 graduate of Fort Sumner High School, New Mexico, I feel that a five day week is a much better option for our state than the four day option my school followed in high school. I have been subjected to an 8-5 Monday - Friday work day work since leaving, and I feel that a 4 day week at school made me way too comfortable to transition into that. College also typically has five day weeks and I have had a rough time changing to that from a comfy high school schedule. I think it isn't an accurate preparation for the real world and hopefully we can face that issue by changing it.

Thank you

Fredrick York

**From:** [Julianna White](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 8:58:40 PM

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PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS PASS.

New Mexico Legislators,

I am writing on behalf of Fort Sumner and Santa Rosa school districts in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen. It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education. Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report. Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults. Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched. Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Additionally, what a shame to think our state government would take an action that undermines the authority of the school districts. Too much government overreach has been incredibly detrimental to New Mexicans, with the highest impact falling on the shoulders of our students. If we truly prioritize education, we need to trust the districts to ensure our students are being served most appropriately according to OUR needs. Each district is to be held accountable by their communities, no need for rules that make it harder to do our best at meeting the needs for our rural communities. We are barely picking up traction from the disastrous disservice bestowed upon our students during COVID times. PLEASE do the right thing and focus on the tasks at hand that the citizens of New Mexico have elected you to do. The 4 day school week is not broken so we do not need the NMPED or our elected officials to “fix” it.

Sincerely,

Julianna L. White

A concerned parent and campus administrator (School Based Health Clinic)

**From:** [Kasey White](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 28, 2023 9:00:00 PM

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PLEASE DO NOT LET THIS PASS.

New Mexico Legislators,

I am writing on behalf of Fort Sumner and Santa Rosa school districts in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen. It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education. Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report. Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults. Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched. Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Additionally, what a shame to think our state government would take an action that undermines the authority of the school districts. Too much government overreach has been incredibly detrimental to New Mexicans, with the highest impact falling on the shoulders of our students. If we truly prioritize education, we need to trust the districts to ensure our students are being served most appropriately according to OUR needs. Each district is to be held accountable by their communities, no need for rules that make it harder to do our best at meeting the needs for our rural communities. We are barely picking up traction from the disastrous disservice bestowed upon our students during COVID times. PLEASE do the right thing and focus on the tasks at hand that the citizens of New Mexico have elected you to do. The 4 day school week is not broken so we do not need the NMPED or our elected officials to “fix” it.

Sincerely,

Kasey White

A concerned parent

**From:** [Terry Whitener](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [Dee, Timberlake](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule changes for public schools  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 7:37:33 AM

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Leave us alone!

I want to give my input on the proposed rule changes that would revert 4-day week schools on a shorter day schedule back to 180 days and a five-day week. Not all of us are falling behind. Some of us are excelling and making great strides with what we do. Our students here, and our school are being commended state-wide in reports that show growth and strength in academics.

While you may need to intervene and adjust schedules for some school districts that have poor numbers, leave us alone.

It is foolish to try and fix something, and require that everyone participate, when it isn't broke for EVERYONE!

Thank you,

**Terry Whitener**

Texico High School

FFA and Ag mechanics

P.O. Box 237, 520 N. Griffin

Texico, NM 88135

Office: 575-482-3801, ext. 5

Cell: 575-644-5951

**From:** [Christopher Baxter](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Subject: HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 8:25:28 AM

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I am a freshman at Jal High School and I am against the HB130 that will change our four-day week back to five days because while we have our 4 day week kids at Jal High aren't missing a lot of classes. With the four-day week, the students have more availability to schedule a doctor's appointment. I also feel as though there is no point in going 5 days a week because we get the same amount of class time in a four-day schedule. We go to school from 8 am to 4 pm, with this there are 6 classes all of them 54 minutes long. The shorter the class the worse for us students to engage in a subject and ask questions to our teacher. I feel also as though there will be a lot of absences of teachers and students, I believe that will a four-day week teachers and students will be able to plan and manage their school and home lives better.

Sincerely, Christopher Baxter at Jal High



**From:** [April Peugh](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 8:32:04 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am a Freshman at Jal High School and I am against the HB130 that will change our four day week back to five days because, we have more time to deal with personal matters such as family emergencies, and doctors appointment's. With a four day week we have time to learn more without having to deal with missing school as often. It gives kids a break from learning and not be so drained after school. It also helps with sports events because, they could have a game that day and be fully energized. We have more hours in classes and it can be helpful by letting us learn more things. Overall it would be helpful for kids and parents to have a four day week.

**From:** [Caydence Rodriguez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 8:34:11 AM

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I am a freshman at Jal High School, and I am against the HB130 that will change our four day week back to five days, because I feel that it's unnecessary. I feel that way because with a four day week, we get more class time rather than a five day week, and the three day weekend is just enough time for us to recharge, and relax before we have to go back to school. It gets very tiring having to go to school for four days; by the end of it I feel drained, and my day of just resting is friday, and on saturday I can go and do fun stuff with my family and friends, and finally on sunday I get to rest up for the next day. My parents also find it great that we have a four day school week, because we have more time on the weekends to do things as a family.

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**From:** [Olivia Ramirez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 8:38:56 AM

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I am freshman at Jal high school and I'm against the HB130 that will change our four day week back to five days because I won't get to see my dad, or go on doctor appointments because most of them are set on Friday since there isn't school and if I need to go somewhere we go on Friday because there isn't school.

Sincerely,  
Olivia Ramirez

**From:** [April Peugh](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 8:44:51 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am a Freshman at Jal High School and I am against the HB130 that will change our four day week back to five days because, we have more time to deal with personal matters such as family emergencies, and doctors appointment's. With a four day week we have time to learn more without having to deal with missing school as often. It gives kids a break from learning and not be so drained after school. It also helps with sports events because, they could have a game that day and be fully energized. We have more hours in classes and it can be helpful by letting us learn more things. Overall it would be helpful for kids and parents to have a four day week.

Sincerely, [april.peugh@gmail.com](mailto:april.peugh@gmail.com)

**From:** [Kelly Newell](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] facts about 4-day school weeks  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 9:15:46 AM

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Facts!

These are facts about 4-day school weeks.

1. 25 States practice 4-day school weeks.
2. School districts reduce overhead costs.
3. 4-day weeks help retain high quality teachers, especially in rural schools in which teacher shortages are typical.
4. Graduation rates of a 4-day week outpace those schools of a 5-day week.
5. 85% of 4-day school weeks in NM are scoring efficient or BETTER!
6. Studies show student attendance improves with a 4-day school week.
7. Four day weeks lead to calmer and safer schools which see less fighting and bullying.

I urge you to look at the facts, and at schools individually before you blindly mandate 5 day weeks.

Sincerely, Kelly Newell  
Very Concerned Parent and Teacher

**From:** [AmericanLegion Post 101](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] STOP AND THINK about 5 day school weeks and the effect on students and teachers  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 9:19:47 AM

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I implore you to consider taking away 4-day school weeks. It is the quality, not the quantity of instruction that will make a difference in schools. We do not need more time in the classroom. Think about it this way: would you consider having schools run until 8pm? Of course not, that's absurd. Student brains need a break. Teachers need to reset. The emotional wellbeing of all stakeholders craves REST. Society in general is preaching and practicing "self-care" and social emotional awareness. New Mexico definitely needs to catch up on this push.

With this shift, I fear students will be programmed to think that school is life. Teachers will further be pushed to the limit. Be prepared to repair and overcome an exponentially larger teacher shortage should you mandate a 5-day school week.

As a teacher and parent in a rural school district, we rely on and embrace a four-day week. Living 1.5 hours away from doctors and dentists, pharmacies, grocery stores, banks, mechanics, etc., we need Fridays to conduct business and meet essential needs without taking a day off from school.

This decision should be made at a local level. The district knows the needs of their staff, students and communities. A one size fits all approach to education (or ANYTHING for that matter) has never proven effective. As PED expects us to **differentiate** to meet the needs of our students, the state should do the same for its schools. Practice what you preach. Equity, not equality!

**From:** [Deanne McKinney](#)  
**To:** [Feedback, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130 Support for 4-Day School Weeks in New Mexico  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 9:24:38 AM

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NMPED,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my strong support for the implementation and continued allowance of 4-day school weeks in New Mexico's educational system. I believe that this alternative schedule not only benefits school districts in reducing overhead costs but also has a positive impact on teacher recruitment and retention, student achievement, and the overall well-being of our communities.

It is crucial to note that State Law 22-2-8.1 explicitly specifies the number of instructional hours required, not a minimum number of instructional days. Furthermore, State Law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks. Department regulations should align with these laws and should not prohibit an alternative schedule that is statutorily authorized.

One of the significant advantages of a 4-day school week is the reduction in overhead costs, particularly in building operations and maintenance. This financial flexibility can be invaluable for school districts, allowing them to allocate resources more efficiently and invest in areas that directly impact student learning.

Moreover, the 4-day school week has proven to be instrumental in attracting and retaining high-quality teachers. The flexibility in work schedules offered by a 4-day week can make teaching positions more appealing, contributing to a more stable and experienced teaching staff.

Contrary to concerns, the graduation rates of schools operating on a 4-day week consistently outpace those of schools on a traditional 5-day week in New Mexico. Additionally, student achievement in reading and math in schools on a 4-day week consistently surpasses that in schools on a 5-day week. These positive outcomes highlight the effectiveness of the 4-day model in promoting academic success.

Importantly, the 4-day school week facilitates opportunities for college dual enrollment and extracurricular activities, such as athletics. Without the flexibility of a 4-day schedule, students may face challenges in balancing their academic responsibilities with part-time college enrollment and participation in sports.

In communities like Tucumcari, where a significant portion of the workforce comprises high school students, adding another school day could have adverse effects. It may limit students' ability to contribute to their families and local economies by participating in the workforce.

In conclusion, I urge the Public Education Department to continue supporting and

facilitating the implementation of 4-day school weeks in New Mexico. This alternative schedule has demonstrated positive outcomes for both schools and students, aligns with existing state laws, and enhances the overall educational experience. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I hope for a continued commitment to the success and well-being of our educational system.

Sincerely,

Deanne McKinney



**From:** [Kathleen Reagan](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 9:30:39 AM

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Members of NM PED:

I am writing to you in regard to the proposed change to the NM Public School calendar. I grew up attending NM Public Schools. My children grew up attending NM Public Schools. I am a retired NM Educator. My grandchildren currently attend NM Public Schools.

I am asking if you have considered all of the following:

- \*Schools are communities. Whether the only school in the community, or one school in a very large town or city.
- \* A community has its own culture.
- \*Members of a community have the right and desire to control the culture of their community, and to decide what works best for the community.

I would also like to ask if:

- \*there is sufficient data showing that students in 4-day districts perform worse on Standardized tests, ACT, SAT, etc than students who attend 5-day schools.
- \*there is sufficient data showing that students who graduate from 4-day schools struggle more in college or vocational programs than those who graduate from 5-day schools.
- \*there is sufficient data showing that students who graduate from 4-day schools are less successful employees in the work-force than those who graduate from 5-day schools.
- \*there is sufficient data showing that graduation rates are lower in 4-day districts than 5-day districts.

I would ask that you remember:

- \*that districts whose students have been on a 4-day schedule for decades have met the "hours of instruction" requirement over all those many years.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen M. Reagan

**From:** [waynesleep21@gmail.com](mailto:waynesleep21@gmail.com)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 9:32:38 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am writing in regards to the proposed rule change in HB130 which would prevent schools from having a four day week. The decisions on scheduling and what works best for schools should be left up to the local school boards, administrators, and parents within each district. This is not something that should be dictated by the PED. There are many benefits to four day school weeks for some districts and the residents thereof, and the decision to utilize this schedule should be made in those districts. I am strongly opposed to the PED taking away any more local control of schools than they already have.

Thank you,

Wayne Sleep, Fort Sumner

**From:** [Margaret Green](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 9:36:05 AM

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I am writing regarding my opposition to requiring 4-day a week schools to convert to 5-days.

I attended a 4-day week school for 12 years (1st-12th, 1990-2002), worked at a 4-day week school since 2015, and have a child who attends a 4-day week school (2013--present); therefore, I have experience with a 4-day week.

Some facts about a 4-day week:

- Schools on a 4-day week save costs regarding transportation and energy.
- The 4-day week serves student attendance, particularly in rural areas where distances to routine medical and dental care are much greater than in urban areas.
- The 4-day week is an important teacher recruitment and retention factor for rural districts in a time of teacher shortage.
- Graduation rates and test scores for schools on a 4-day schedule match or outperform that of schools on a 5-day week.

So, I ask...WHY ARE SMALL RURAL 4-DAY WEEK SCHOOLS BEING PUNISHED FOR THE POOR PERFORMING 5-DAY WEEK SCHOOLS?

I would like to know what is fueling this sudden issue with 4-day weeks.

Thank you,  
Margaret Green  
575 447 3688

**From:** [Tanya Watson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 9:38:10 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Grady school district, in Grady, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent, educator and staff member

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**From:** [Elizabeth Adams](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed change of instructional days  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 9:53:26 AM

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Good morning. I am a school social worker at Cimarron Municipal Schools on the Eagle Nest campus. We have a four-day school week due to our rural setting and limited service availability. Our students, families, and staff members plan medical and dental appointments on Mondays when we are not in school. This has decreased absenteeism in our district. In addition to student and staff attendance, having a four-day school week decreases our operating costs such as electricity, gas, and transportation costs. We have a few students who ride the school bus just short of an hour and a half to get to school. Having a four-day school week also improves the health and well-being of students as well as staff.

Kind Regards,  
Liz Adams, LMSW

**From:** [M Zamora Hernández](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 10:24:14 AM

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Sent from my iPhone

I am a Sophomore at Jal High School and I am against the HB130 that will change our four day week back to five days because, sincerely I don't believe it's necessary. Being a four day school makes it more simple to do out of school hobbies and people like I to work in out part time jobs at local places. Fridays are usually the day we turn in homework and assignments the we couldn't during the week. During COVID-19 we missed out on so many things but the only thing that didn't change was our four day school so what am asking is please don't take away the only thing we are really used to and love about this school. Maybe these aren't the best reasons why we shouldn't come to school on Fridays but there good enough reasons for us. Please take in consideration this request from a student perspective. Because we all have lives outside of school and a family which parents make plans around our 4 day school.

Sincerely, A Student

**From:** [Joyce Romero](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Changing back to 5-day week  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 10:32:27 AM

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PED,

As a high school counselor I feel that the four day week is working better than the 5 day week because of the following reasons:

1. Students attend school more regularly.
2. Appointments are used on Fridays unless otherwise unavailable
3. Students and Teachers are not so burnt out at the end of the week.
4. We are attending a long day from 8-4 and every 1<sup>st</sup> Friday to help students catch up and receive a tutoring day.
5. We are focusing on those students who need to bring up test scores by creating an environment that is welcoming and positive.
6. We have great leadership to focus on our core requirements by providing extra support called "Community" aka Advisory to deal with the social emotional development of those who do not have that extra support at home.
7. Everyone is communicating and working a team to provide the students with what they need daily.

When we did have a five-day week, I felt that everyone was always tired by Friday and unproductive on Monday, not just students but staff as well. Our shorter week is more focused and productive since we started our 4-day week two years ago.

The other reason I feel that Fridays are not productive is because of athletics and academic activities. Students are gone on Fridays most of the time and since we are a school that believes that extra-curricular activities keep students out of trouble and focused on keeping up their grades, they do much better and it helps them with their self-esteem to be part of a team or group which everyone needs to be a productive adult in the future.

Ms. Romero, SRHS Counselor

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**Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools  
Santa Rosa High School**

**Joyce Romero, School Counselor**

**717 S. 3rd Street**

**Santa Rosa, NM 88345**

**Counselor's Office: 575-472-8036**

**Cell Phone: 575-512-5689**

**Email: [joyceromero@srlions.com](mailto:joyceromero@srlions.com)**





**From:** [Nissa Melancon](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 10:36:24 AM

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I am a Junior at Jal High School and I am AGAINST the HB130 that will change our four day week back to five days because it just simply wouldn't be good for us. I know you probably think we need to go 5 days a week but that's simply not true. We have gotten used to the 4 day weeks and honestly if you changed it to 5 half the kids wouldn't even show up. Like we have school on Fridays a certain amount of days and those days are a literal struggle. Most of us older kids have jobs and sports and others, and the fact we get Fridays off of school helps us in the long run. A lot of us struggle in school in general and having Fridays off is like a mental health day. If our test scores are not the best then trust they'll be worse if we go on Fridays, because everyone would be so tired and exhausted, and like I said half the people wouldn't even show up! I'm a straight A student and it's already hard as it is, but 5 days would kill me. I'm pretty sure all my grades would drop along with a lot of other peoples. So in summary I believe we should keep things as is because if you change it to 5 days things would get worse no joke. So don't be haters everything is great as is.

-Anissa M

**From:** [Oliver Rocha](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 10:37:50 AM

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I am a Sophomore at Jal High School and I am against the HB130 that will change our four day week back to five day back to five days because some of us work after school, and Fridays are when we can work all day because we don't go to school, also because all the parents who don't have anyone to leave their children with on Fridays when they go to the doctor would be very difficult since all our parents schedule doctor's appointments on Fridays and also important things. If it were up to me, I would not put in 5 days of school, since it is better and more practical to come for 4 days, also because if we came for 5 days, some of us would get very stressed and it could cause us some illness since we would be being exploited psychologically because We would be thinking more and also because if they set 5 days we would not have time to enjoy our social life since if they set 5 days we would be under a lot of pressure, anxiety and stress because we would be working all day at school and we would not have much time to relax. enjoy with family.

Sincerely, Oliver

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**From:** [Janice Ramirez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 10:41:45 AM

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I am a sophomore at Jal High School and I am against the HB130 that will change our four-day week to five days because I enjoy having a four-day week but I wouldn't enjoy having a five-day. For this reason,, students have enough school hours to finish their school work. We also get the same amount of time without going on Fridays since we don't get out till 4:00. Students also have work or personal things they might need to do from Friday through Sunday. I also feel like the school has better attendance with four days of school instead of five. It's also healthier for students to have more time to rest and engage in many other activities. Which can lead to better attendance during the week. It will also help remove the stress in students and teachers as well as parents. A five-week could also cause a lot of anger, depression, and illnesses due to a long week. Due to lack of rest and tiredness, which will affect our attendance at school.

Sincerely: Janice Ramirez

**From:** [Connie Garza](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5NMAC  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 11:12:58 AM

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I support a 4-Day work week. Our student attendance is up, students are more engaged in their classes, all around the 4-Day work week has been more productive to our students.

Thank you  
CGarza

**From:** [Lawrence Levario](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 11:22:59 AM

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Not a good idea, less time with our children and for no reason, government trying to control our lives !! NO , to this Schedule!!

**From:** [Jason Gallegos](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Days of school  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 11:49:52 AM

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Yes, I am for the 4days a week of school. I have custody of my nephew who goes to school in Lordsburg. He is a great kid but struggles with school and is on a IEP, due to him having Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Before getting custody of him, he was living with my mom and I would go every night to help him and my other nieces and nephews with school. My nephew's grades were C average and sometimes would get a D. I got custody of him when my mother passed away. That year Lordsburg went to 4 days a week which has helped him a lot. He loves school now and he is in 6th grade and has all A's now  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Bobbie McNatt](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Change  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 12:22:44 PM

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I hope this letter finds you well and ready for a call to action. I am writing because I have become aware of some rule changes being proposed by the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) which I feel would negatively impact our current four-day school week schedule. While it is important to prioritize education and ensure that students receive an adequate amount of instructional time, I believe that the four-day school week has proven to be beneficial for both students and teachers. It allows for more focused learning during the four days in session, while also providing an additional day for extracurricular activities, family time, and rest.

The proposed rule change would disrupt this balance and put unnecessary strain on students, teachers, and families. It would result in longer school days and potentially lead to burnout among students who already face numerous academic pressures. Additionally, it could create scheduling conflicts for families who rely on the extra day off for childcare or work arrangements.

Instead of mandating a specific number of student days, I urge the NMPED to consider alternative solutions that maintain the flexibility provided by the four-day school week while still ensuring quality education. This could include implementing more targeted interventions or enrichment programs during the shorter school week.

Sincerely,

Bobbie McNatt  
Parent and CMS Health Assistant

**From:** [Peggy Scott](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Amendment-Rule Change  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 12:31:32 PM

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Do not follow through with this rule change! Leave school calendars and 180 days of instruction up to the local School Board with input from the local school staff. Santa Fe rule makers do not understand rural New Mexico and the challenges in rural America. Leave this decision/decisions to the local schools.

*Peggy Scott*

(575) 365-5637

[psscott50@outlook.com](mailto:psscott50@outlook.com)



**From:** [Gallowayanthony4](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 12:48:58 PM

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I am a sophomore at jal high school and I am against the HB130 that will change our 4 day week back to 5 day weeks because I work every day and go to school while having good grades, I believe we only need to go 4 days a week bc we go from 8-4 that's enough hours in a day for our education...

Sincerely,

**From:** [Amyrra Stone](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 12:52:09 PM

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I am a sophomore at Jal High School and I am against the HB130 that will change our four day week back to five because not only does it give us an extra weekend but that's where we schedule all of my appointments and with my hip fracture and my knee injury those Fridays are important so I don't miss my important classes. We spend just as much time as everyone else that go five days a week. It also helps with our parents schedule. Fridays are just what I use when I need to miss school and I can get caught up on whatever I'm missing especially math work.

Sincerely, Amyrra stone

**From:** [Steven Cervantez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 12:54:14 PM

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I am a Sophomore at a Jal High School and I am against the HB130 that will change our four day week back to five days because even if we were to go back to five day weeks most people wouldn't show up most of the time anyways and we get the same amount of work done in four days than others do I'm 5

Sincerely, Steven Cervantez someone send me a d1 offer please I play football and basketball.

**From:** [Meny Munoz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:00:06 PM

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I am a sophomore at Jal High School and I am against the HB130 that will change our four day week back to five days because in my opinion we have more a hour in class we get out later than most of other school in the state plus people like having a kid we have there appointment and I'm a person out of town so I take my baby to her appointments Thursday getting out from school get to travel where I have my babies appointments Friday in the morning and this will thing everything I would miss school a lot because I won't have time to take my kid to her appointment and come back the same day so I'm against this HB130.

**From:** [Meny Munoz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:00:11 PM

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I am a sophomore at Jal High School and I am against the HB130 that will change our four day week back to five days because in my opinion we have more a hour in class we get out later than most of other school in the state plus people like having a kid we have there appointment and I'm a person out of town so I take my baby to her appointments Thursday getting out from school get to travel where I have my babies appointments Friday in the morning and this will thing everything I would miss school a lot because I won't have time to take my kid to her appointment and come back the same day so I'm against this HB130.

**From:** [Ayla Yarbrough](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feed back on rule 6.10.5 NMAC and HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:11:03 PM

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Good afternoon

It has come to my attention that a new bill is trying to be passed that will change my child's school week. This bill in question is 6.10.5 NMAC. It states that instead of meeting the hour requirements my child will also have to meet a day requirement. As a parent of the Cloudcroft municipal school district I oppose this change heavily. Having a 4 day school week has proven beneficial to my child's mental and physical health. It allows my family to enjoy Sundays together. It allows my child to focus on there extracurricular activities and life outside of school. Having a four day school week also allows my child's school district to remain amongst the 25% top performing schools across the state. Further more the proposed rule change will strip away the local control of the district and mess up the school calendars.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS LAW

- sincerely Ayla Yarbrough

**From:** [Bretni Kos](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Clovis Municipal Schools  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:13:55 PM

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Hi there,

I am writing to express my concern for the proposed rule changes. I have 2 children enrolled in Clovis Municipal Schools. I am so pleased with the education that my children have been receiving since 2017. Our area is unique and I don't believe that what fits for one district will fit for all. I know my kids and I know that adding more days/hours to their school year will not improve anything, and actually might hinder them. I trust our local board and I trust our local superintendent to make decisions for our district based on the specific needs of our area and our children. Please reconsider this rule change.

--

**Bretni Kos**

Qualifying Broker

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[bretni505@gmail.com](mailto:bretni505@gmail.com)

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**From:** [Ayla Yarbrough](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback on laws HB130 and 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:18:20 PM

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It has come to my attention that a new bill is trying to be passed that will change my child's school week. This bill in question is 6.10.5 NMAC. It states that instead of meeting the hour requirements my child will also have to meet a day requirement. As a parent of the Cloudfcroft municipal School District I heavily oppose this change. Having a 4 day school week has proven beneficial to my child's mental and physical health. It allows my family to enjoy Sundays together and It allows my child to focus on there extracurricular activities and life outside of school. Having a four day school week also allows my child's school district to remain amongst the 25% top performing schools across the state. Further more the proposed rule change will strip away the local control of the district and mess up the school calendars that have been in place for years. Not to mention having a four day school week means that I can make my child's dental and doctors appointments without having to pull them out of school.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS LAW

- sincerely Martha Smith



**From:** [Jocelyn Saucedo](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:44:44 PM

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I am a Junior at Jal High School and I am against the HB130 that will change our four day week back to five days because I have a job and get a break from the stress off school. It is good for my mental health.  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [lynne.mendes](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 days rule  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:45:31 PM

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Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your proposed changes to the NM school calendar.

I wholeheartedly agree with your proposed changes. There should be 180 student instruction days and five full days of school each week, with no more than one early release day per month. Time in classrooms does matter. 180 days is the norm throughout our country. I was a teacher in Massachusetts for 35 years. We always had at least 180 student instruction days, five professional development days and one early release day a month. Early release days were used for parent conferences and professional development. We moved here to help with our two grandsons, one is in first grade and the other in Pre-K, both in Santa Fe.

Please institute the 180 day requirement as you propose.

Sincerely,

Lynne Mendes

**From:** [Adam Juarez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:46:02 PM

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Hello, I am a Junior at Jal High School and I am against the HB130 that will change our four day week back to five days because a four-day school week promotes better work-life balance for students and teachers, potentially leading to improved overall well-being. It allows for extended weekends, providing more time for extracurricular activities, family engagement, and reduced burnout, fostering a healthier learning environment.

**From:** [Daddy Ingle](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:46:34 PM

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I am a junior at jal high school and I am against the HB130 that will change our four day week back to five days a because One reason is that it allows for more flexibility in scheduling. With an extra day off, students and teachers can have a longer weekend to rest, recharge, and pursue other interests or activities. This can help prevent burnout and promote a better work-life balance. Additionally, a shorter school week could potentially reduce transportation and energy costs, as well as decrease absenteeism rates. However, it's important to note that the impact of a 4-day school week can vary depending on the specific circumstances and needs of each school and community.

Sincerely Madison inglet

**From:** [Cheyenne Johnson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:49:13 PM

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I am a junior at jal high school and I want to go back to 5 days a week because we are not getting a good enough education. Jal high schools grades are lower now then they were before. We don't need a break we can do 5 days a week we have before. It's pure laziness behind the 4 day week plus many kids go hungry because they depend on school food.  
Sincerely Cheyenne Johnson

**From:** [Valeria Acosta](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:49:42 PM

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I am a junior at Jal High School and I am against the BH130 that will change our four day week back to five days because it could make student feel unmotivated to come to school, leading to a big absence count. Some studies have shown that reducing the number of school days can actually boost students morale and work-life balance. Plus, it could give people more time to pursue other interests and spend quality time with loved ones.  
Sincerely, Valeria Acosta

**From:** [Acosta, Emily](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:50:42 PM

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First and foremost, having a three-day weekend can provide much-needed downtime for students and teachers alike. This extended break could foster better mental health, reduce stress, and allow everyone to recharge, resulting in a more focused and energized return to the classroom.

Moreover, a condensed school week encourages efficiency. With one less day in the schedule, there's a higher likelihood that each day will be more purposeful and productive. This might lead to better time management, increased engagement, and a deeper understanding of the material.

Additionally, a 4-day school week could open up more opportunities for extracurricular activities. Students could pursue hobbies, sports, or community service on that extra day, contributing to a more well-rounded and balanced education.

From a logistical perspective, it could also result in cost savings for schools and parents, with reduced expenses on transportation, utilities, and even school lunches for that additional day.

Therefore it will also decrease the amount of absents throughout the school year. Considering we only have 4 days so it will be more likely kids will come to school.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message.

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**From:** [Melissa Martinez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regarding HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 1:58:23 PM

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Hello my student is currently a Tisa student who goes to school four days a week, she currently enjoys extra curricular activities on her fifth day she would have school, with the four days of school she is able to attend more sports games and activities on Fridays which makes this so much better for her and makes more room for activities need be I feel as a parent four days of school is good for my student because of these reasons.



**From:** [Moriah Stanton](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 2:03:01 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you about hb130. As a single mother and local business owner I can't express how helpful it is for me to have a four day school week for my daughter. It gives us a chance to see the grandparents (out of town) on a more regular basis, my daughter gets to explore and engage in outside activities more often and as a full time worker I rely deeply on the after care I receive from her current school, TISA.

Sincerely,  
Moriah Stanton  
Taos resident.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [April Yates](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 2:03:49 PM

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I stand opposed to the current rule being considered at NMPED, 6.10.5!

Cimarron Municipal Schools has successfully provided a condensed 4-Day School schedule for 50 years and counting. Cimarron was the first school district in the United States to move to a 4-Day School Week in 1972. Although the move was originally made to help with rising fuel costs, the school district, students, staff and families have found that it is a necessary part of our rural life and culture. I am a current parent and teacher at Cimarron Municipal Schools and an alumni who graduated in 1997. After graduating with honors from Cimarron, I completed a Bachelors and Masters degree in Education at ENMU and a PhD in Curriculum and Instruction at NMSU. I have one daughter who graduated from Cimarron in 2022 and I have twin daughters who are currently in 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Cimarron Elementary Middle School.

A 4-Day School Week has many benefits and has become an essential part of rural school districts, in particular the school districts in northeastern New Mexico. A 4-Day School week is beneficial because it saves time and energy, gives students and staff back some of their travel time, allows for quality time with family, helps attract and retain quality teachers and staff that would not otherwise choose to work in a rural setting, and reduces overhead costs/saves money. Most importantly, it helps mitigate the stress, fatigue and burn-out from students and staff who commute great distances to attend school, participate in sporting events, purchase groceries and other essentials and attend medical appointments.

Cimarron and the other school districts in Colfax and our surrounding counties require a significantly longer travel time for practically any necessity or event. The villages in our district include Cimarron, Springer, Maxwell, Wagon Mound, Des Moines, Roy and Mosquero. The families in these communities typically use the 5<sup>th</sup> week day to go grocery shopping, run errands, purchase feed for animals, attend doctor and dentist appointments, etc. For the most part, families in these communities are traveling anywhere from 45 to 160 miles one way to purchase necessities and attend important appointments. Having a 4-Day School Week means that families can do this without missing a day of school. So, while families in more urban areas can take care of these needs in a short amount of time, rural areas need additional time. For example, on November 6<sup>th</sup>, one of our Mondays off, I took my twin daughters and myself to the dentist for a check-up in Raton and then traveled to Trinidad to purchase groceries and necessities from Walmart and feed for our animals. This necessary trip took the entire Monday to complete but I was happy to not miss any school and I am certain that our administration found it helpful as well.

	Cimarron	Springer	Maxwell	Wagon Mound	Roy	Mosquero
Pediatrician	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dentist	X	X	X	X	X	X
Specialist	X	X	X	X	X	X
Eye Doctor	X	X	X	X	X	X
Grocery			X	X	X	X
Feed Store		X	X	X	X	X
Big Box Store	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hair Cuts	X		X	X	X	X

In addition to spending our Mondays off running errands, families can also spend time with their students and students can engage in additional hobbies and resume-building jobs or volunteer work. Many of the families/parents in our area work in the hospitality and tourist industry. Although they might work all weekend while stores, restaurants and hotels are busy with tourists, they often have Mondays off and can spend time with their students. Other students spend time working and helping on their family farms, ranches and family businesses. My daughters often help with feeding or rounding up cattle, working with 4-H animals, and/or feed and work with goats on their Mondays off. Students also spend time with extended family members on Mondays. Most of the families in our area include extended families where students often go if their parents are busy.

Cimarron covers a huge area and our students must spend a lot of time on buses. Some of our students must travel 160 miles round trip (3 hour) from Vermejo each day to attend school. We save these students approximately 114 hours of bus time each year by compressing our school into 4 days instead of 5. Other students travel from Black Lake to Cimarron for 44 miles through a winding canyon which takes 2 hours round trip and saving one day a week eliminates 76 hours a school year of bus time. Long bus rides can really wear on students. Imagine commuting 3 hours round trip each day and how tiring that is for a grown-up, much less a young student. A 4-Day School Week reduces this stress considerably and helps with our students' mental health.

In our small rural areas, we travel long distances to participate in middle and high school sports. Even within our own district, we can travel 20 miles to 90 miles. Because we are so small, the majority of students participate in sports year-round. My own children participate in cross country and volleyball in the fall, basketball in the winter and track in the spring. We seem to be constantly traveling for sporting events. If we have to travel for a basketball game starting at 4pm in Des Moines, student athletes might not return home by bus until close to midnight. Scheduling away games correctly using our 4-Day week can help ease the burden on student athletes, their families and coaches.

Recruiting and retaining teachers sounds like schools offer four days a week as a special extra perk but it is extremely hard to recruit and retain teachers in rural school districts. I have been on several hiring committees where a teacher, principal or superintendent did not accept a contract we offered once they visited the area and realized how far we are away from civilization. For reference, it is 45 minutes to fast food places, 1 hour to the closest Walmart and 2 hours to the closest Target. Unless someone is an alumni that returned to teach in the rural area where they graduated, it is a shock to travel so far for things that most people take for granted. Sometimes, reminding staff of that extra day to make such trips is helpful. Additionally, we schedule teacher in-service/training and parent-teacher conferences on Mondays. This is predictable for students, families and staff and doesn't require any child care juggling on their end.

A 4-Day School week certainly has financial benefits and in small districts, every penny seems to count even more than they might in a bigger district. Compressing school into 4 days instead of 5 saves money on overhead costs such as transportation, building costs, and food services. I am sure that our school district can speak to the overall cost savings related to these categories. All of the current 4-Day School Week districts have built their budgets around this cost-savings and any change can be detrimental to these school districts.

I hope that PED will understand that a one-size-fits-all approach to a 5-Day school week for all is simply not appropriate for the diverse schools in New Mexico. Based on data from the 2018 PARCC testing, 4-Day week schools perform better or the same as the statewide average so the answer to improving outcomes for students is definitely not related to the number of days students are in school. The small rural communities of New Mexico have built their cultures and lives around a 4-Day school week and taking that away would be detrimental to schools, students, families and staff. Because of our rural location and necessary travel distances, we need a 4-Day school week to help mitigate the stress, fatigue and burn-out of students and staff who commute great distances to attend school, participate in sporting events, purchase groceries and other essentials and attend medical appointments. A five-day school week would destroy the budgets of many small rural schools that are currently operating on a compressed 4-Day week and would make it impossible to recruit and maintain staff. I hope that PED will work on revising an application process for schools who wish to switch to 4-Days in the future and grandfather in existing schools or leave the school requirements as hourly.

Dr. April Yates

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April

**From:** [hetero sapien](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 2:04:16 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am a Junior at Jal High School and I am against the HB130 that will change our four day week back to five days a week because we are doing well without having to go to school on Fridays. I also believe that not many people would go if Fridays were reinstated. Going to school four days a week is much better than five.

Sincerely,  
Gabriel Earp

**From:** [Welcome Lindsey](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; ristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 - a NO vote  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 2:07:29 PM

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I am the mother of a student at TISA Charter School in Taos (county and town).

We were alerted to the voting on HB130, which would change mandated student attendance from a total-hour basis to total-day basis.

Please do not pass this. As a mother, I cherish my time with my child and having those Fridays with her makes all the difference. In fact, it's the reason I send my child to TISA (that along with other important reasons, such as small class sizes, dedicated teachers, and arts immersion programs).

Since attendance at TISA is so high, this proves the benefits of the 4-day per week for attendance and adherence to schedule. Other schools may choose their own structure, so I'm not sure why this is something being discussed. Time in school, in curriculum is time in education, regardless of its structure.

Thank you for reading this email. I again implore you to vote NO on HB130 and preserve precious family time.

Sincerely,  
Welcome Lindsey  
409 Martinez Lane  
Taos, NM 87571

**From:** [Monica Walker](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Changing hours to days for schools  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 2:11:19 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I am writing to show my passionate disagreement about changing the NM attendance rules from hours to 180 days per year. My children attend a four day school week and it absolutely wonderful for our family.

Here are some facts about four day school weeks. It helps attract and retain quality teachers, reduce overhead costs of building operation, maintenance and food service. Twenty five other states are practicing 4 day weeks. My childrens' school, TISA, currently is a four day a week school that was recognized as a Spotlight school performing in the top 15% of the state for the last three years.

Compacting school into just four days a week leaves more time with family, friends and outside interests and it increases school attendance. TISA was one of the top schools with school attendance last year. TISA consistently have over 95% attendance.

My children are thriving with this schedule and changing that rule seems unnecessary and would detrimentally affect many families throughout New Mexico. Please take families into consideration.

Thank you,  
Monica Walker

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jamie Barnett](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule 6.10.5  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 2:17:37 PM

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My children have enjoyed the 150 day school year and this has worked out well for our family as well as many other.

Please don't change what's working for our students. Having Monday off has helped my child get May homework done that was given over the weekend along with an extra day to reoperate from any extra curricular activities through the school system.

Thanks

Jamie

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**From:** [Roberto Rangel](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 2:21:32 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am a Junior at Jal High School and I am against the HB130 that will change our four-day week back to five days because I have responsibilities that have to be done on Fridays that cannot be moved to a different day. I have also adapted to my school day; it would be a very abrupt change in my schedule and everyday life. I wonder what will happen to my schedule, I believe that this change, that has to be implemented, will cause lots of problems not only for me, my fellow classmates, but for the whole system here in Jal, New Mexico. Not only does my High School have this system, the Junior High, and the Elementary have also adapted this 4-day system.

Sincerely, Roberto Rangel

**From:** [Yvonne Trujillo](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Why 4-day a Week Schooling works  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 2:25:02 PM

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Greetings Representative Ortez,

As a parent, I recently learned that the New Mexico Public Education Department is proposing to do a rule change in mandating that all schools in the state go to five days a week.

For small schools like the Taos Integrated Schools of the Arts, this can pose issues, for not only the school but the parents as well. Because schools like TISA are small it is already hard on them to attract teachers. The way the school is currently set up, allows the teachers to get their work done and have the extra day to prepare for the upcoming week. It allows the teachers to provide for afterschool tutoring and activities. In the same token it has provided parent financial freedom from having to look for someone to care for their kids afterschool or even parents from missing work to pick the kids up and stay with them at home. In the meantime, the kids are learning new things.

Small charter schools are already barely receiving the finances and if they are made to go to five day a week, we could loose faculty and assistants. Have the four day school weeks also reduce costs of other things like food and maintenance,. Attendance with the four day a week for TISA has proven to be excellent because of this schedule. Part of attracting new parents in wanting to send kids to this school is this schedule.

Many families choose small schools like TISA because they don't want their kids in the public schools because they don't get the attention they have in the smaller schools. It would be devastating to the students, parents and staff to go to the five day a week. This is working right now, why fix something that isn't broken.

Perhaps more studies need to be done before demanding a drastic change take place. We would appreciate your support in four day a week schooling as it has many benefits to it. It has shown in attendance, grades and financially.

We hope that as our constituent you will support our cause to stay four days a week versus the five day a week the PED is proposing.

Kind Regards,

Yvonne C Trujillo, Parent

**From:** [Consuelo Candelaria](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Keep 4 day school week  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 2:25:50 PM

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Hello!

My name is Consuelo Candelaria. I am an employee of Magdalena Municipal School and a former student of Magdalena Schools. I attended PreK-12th grade in Magdalena, went off to college and became a teacher. I am currently in my 18th year of teaching. As a student and as a teacher, all I have known is a 4 day week. I have only seen benefits to a 4 day week and hearing that it could be taken away is devastating to say the least!

I have seen first hand the benefits a 4 day week brings to small, rural districts like Magdalena.

Below are just a few benefits of a 4-day Week:

- Cost reduction associated with building operations, maintenance, transportation and food-service.
- Improved Staff morale as well as recruiting and retaining staff.
- Time off allows more time with family, friends, hobbies, sports, or working for older students.
- 85% of NM 4-Day schools are efficient or better.
- Having Friday off reduces absenteeism of both staff and students so that they could attend doctor and dental visits on Friday's.

Here are some disadvantages of a 5 day week:

- Our School services students who live on ranches over an hour away. These students leave their homes at at least 7:00, some earlier, in order to be at school on time. Adding another day to their week is not very cost or time friendly.
- We run buses out to the county line as well as Alamo. Adding another day to their week is not very cost or time friendly.
- 
- 
- Additional Facts About 4-Day School Week:
  - Twenty-five states are practicing 4-Day Weeks. Once a practice reserved for rural districts, the idea is catching on in suburban and urban areas as well.
  - Proponents claim a four-day work week helps attract and retain quality teachers.

Please do not take our 4 day week away! It would be very detrimental on our town, our school, and our community. This has been our way of living since the school opened in Magdalena. The 4 day week is vital for rural schools like Magdalena. It supports the livelihood of ranchers, students from our reservation and ALL students and staff in general.

--

Consuelo Candelaria  
Teacher/Librarian  
Special Ed Case manager  
Magdalena Municipal Schools  
[ccandelaria@magschools.us](mailto:ccandelaria@magschools.us)  
575-854-8142

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**From:** [Jordyn Bailey](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 2:30:23 PM

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Good Afternoon,

It has been brought to my attention that legislation is trying move everyone to a 180 day, five day/week school year. As a former teacher in a rural community that was a four day school week, and now with children of my own attending a rural school with a four day school week, this is concerning.

I saw many benefits of a shortened school week, with the number one being attendance. When school stopped being held on Fridays, there weren't as many absences. Students can schedule appointments and take days with their families on Fridays rather than on a school day. Students were also more motivated to attend knowing their weeks were short and a three day weekend would approach soon.

The cost benefits are also a factor. If the school isn't having to operate an extra day, the factor of paying hourly employees, electricity, water, and meals for students all lead to reduced costs by the district. Many teachers for rural districts drive 40+ miles per day to get to work. It's beneficial to them to not have to drive an extra day.

Not only that, but now as a mother of school aged children I realize how many hours our kids spend at school. I enjoy the short school week so that I have an extra day to enjoy my kids and love on them. Eighteen years goes by far too fast and our kids spend more time at school than they do at home. I'm so thankful for the little bit of extra time I get them.

From my experience, academic achievement is not affected by the short week. Texico, Melrose, Grady, Elida all are four day week districts and all usually show great data as far as test scores go. In fact, 85% of the 4-day week districts in NM are scoring efficient or better. So my question is what is the reasoning behind the shift and requiring the five day week? Where is the evidence that supports this is the reason NM is falling behind in education? My guess is that most of it stems from the teacher shortage that the state has suffered from the last several years. Now that NM has started compensating teachers better, maybe there will be an increase in the number of licensed teachers rather than long term subs that are teaching our kids. There's more factors in place than just a four day school week that affect the education rankings. Please consider all of this in making the final decision regarding the 180 day calendar.

Thank you for your time,

Jordyn Bailey  
A concerned parent and former educator

**From:** [Stodgell, Katharine](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to rule change  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 2:44:17 PM

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Next week, the NMPED are proposing a rule change that would mandate all school districts in the state to adhere to a minimum of 180 student days per academic year, rather than to simply meet 1,140 hour requirements stated in the statute. The proposed changes would remove the ability for small schools to continue with the fulltime 4-day per week schedule.

My children attend TISA in Taos, NM where we participate in a 4 day school week. Here are some facts about four day school weeks. It helps attract and retain quality teachers, reduce overhead costs of building operation, maintenance and food service. Twenty five other states are practicing 4 day weeks. TISA currently is a four day a week school that was recognized as a Spotlight school performing in the top 15% of the state for the last three years.

Compacting school into just four days a week leaves more time with family, friends and outside interests and it increases school attendance. TISA was one of the top schools with school attendance last year. We consistently have over 95% attendance.

Please oppose the rule change so that families like our can

continue to thrive under a 4 day school week. The quality of education far outweighs the quantity of days.

Thank you,

Katie Stodgell

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**From:** [Stodgell, Katharine](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to rule change HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 2:45:02 PM

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Next week, the NMPED are proposing a rule change that would mandate all school districts in the state to adhere to a minimum of 180 student days per academic year, rather than to simply meet 1,140 hour requirements stated in the statute. The proposed changes would remove the ability for small schools to continue with the fulltime 4-day per week schedule.

My children attend TISA in Taos, NM where we participate in a 4 day school week. Here are some facts about four day school weeks. It helps attract and retain quality teachers, reduce overhead costs of building operation, maintenance and food service. Twenty five other states are practicing 4 day weeks. TISA currently is a four day a week school that was recognized as a Spotlight school performing in the top 15% of the state for the last three years.

Compacting school into just four days a week leaves more time with family, friends and outside interests and it increases school attendance. TISA was one of the top schools with school attendance last year. We consistently have over 95% attendance.

Please oppose the rule change so that families like our can



continue to thrive under a 4 day school week. The quality of education far outweighs the quantity of days.

Thank you,

Katie Stodgell

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**From:** [Kassie Kotara](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 2:53:19 PM

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I'm am writing this as a concerned parent of 3 students in a 4 day week school system. My kids love there school and have excelled in their school. I have a senior this year and she a current gpa of 3.8. She has also taken several college credit dual courses. We do not want to see our school change to 5 days a week. Please do not mandate 5 day weeks.

- State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days.
- State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations CANNOT prohibit something which is authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.
- The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 79% reading proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 38%.
- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%.

These are just a few statistics on how well our school district is working.

Sincerely,  
Kassie Kotara  
1006 school street  
P.O. Box 424  
Logan, NM 88426  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Maria Platz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 - day school calendar  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 3:05:03 PM

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Lordsburg Municipal Schools Board of Education adopted a 4-day school week calendar starting the 2017-2018 school year, after overwhelming support from students, parents, and staff. Over the past six years, this model has served the district well. There has been a decrease in student and staff absences, as well as higher student and staff morale. Additionally, being on a 4-day week has helped recruit and retain highly qualified staff members.

New Mexico 4-day week districts are in consensus that this rule change lacks support from research, which indicates more instructional days for students does not guarantee improved student outcomes. Rather, factors such as regular attendance, student engagement, smaller class sizes, rigorous learning opportunities, highly qualified teachers, high-quality learning materials, and strong family and community support are proven contributors to academic success.

Thank you for your time  
Maria Mesa  
Maria Platz

**From:** [B&M AUTO GLASS INC.](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: TISA needs your help!  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 3:21:19 PM

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This is in regards HB130

I do not support the change you guys are trying to make. As a small local business owner I have seen how much our community needs to stick to how the school is working right now. For our children's best interest. What do I need to do to make sure things do not change??

**Miguel A. Ortiz**  
**B & M Auto Glass Inc.**  
**530 Camino Del Medio Box 11**  
**Taos, N.M. 87571**  
[bmautoglassinc@gmail.com](mailto:bmautoglassinc@gmail.com)  
**(575)770-9631**

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Sadie Acedo** <[sadie@tisataos.org](mailto:sadie@tisataos.org)>  
**Date:** Wed, Nov 29, 2023 at 1:54 PM  
**Subject:** TISA needs your help!  
**To:**

Dear TISA families,

Next week, the NMPED are proposing a rule change that would mandate all school districts in the state to adhere to a minimum of 180 student days per academic year, rather than to simply meet 1,140 hour requirements stated in the statute. The proposed changes would remove the ability for small schools to continue with the fulltime 4-day per week schedule.

This would remove TISA's ability to offer free aftercare to our families.

Here are some facts about four day school weeks. It helps attract and retain quality teachers, reduce overhead costs of building operation, maintenance and food service. Twenty five other states are practicing 4 day weeks. TISA currently is a four day a week school that was recognized as a Spotlight school performing in the top 15% of the state for the last three years.

Compacting school into just four days a week leaves more time with family, friends and outside interests and it increases school attendance. TISA was one of the top schools with school attendance last year. We consistently have over 95% attendance. Please email the New Mexico Public Education Department at [Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov) and your Taos representative, Kristina Ortez and let them know that this is not good for our students and community.

Specify HB130 in your email.

Email  
NMPED  
[Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov)  
and  
Kristina Ortez  
[kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](mailto:kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov)

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"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

~**William Butler Yeats**

Rich Greywolf  
TISA Director  
575-779-9311 cell  
575-758-7755 Ext. 200

PO Box 668  
Taos, NM 87571

Queridas familias TISA,

La próxima semana, el NMPED propondrá un cambio de reglas que obligaría a todos los distritos escolares del estado a cumplir con un mínimo de 180 días estudiantiles por año académico, en lugar de simplemente cumplir con los requisitos de 1,140 horas establecidos en el estatuto. Los cambios propuestos eliminarían la posibilidad de que las escuelas pequeñas continúen con el horario de tiempo completo de 4 días a la semana.

Esto eliminaría la capacidad de TISA de ofrecer cuidados posteriores gratuitos a nuestras familias.

Aquí hay algunos datos sobre las semanas escolares de cuatro días. Ayuda a atraer y retener maestros de calidad, reducir los costos generales de operación, mantenimiento y servicio de alimentos del edificio. Otros veinticinco estados están practicando semanas de 4 días. Actualmente, TISA es una escuela de cuatro días a la semana que fue reconocida como una escuela destacada con un desempeño entre el 15% superior del estado durante los últimos tres años.

Reunir la escuela en sólo cuatro días a la semana deja más tiempo con la familia, los amigos y los intereses externos y aumenta la asistencia a la escuela. TISA fue una de las escuelas con mejor asistencia escolar el año pasado. Constantemente tenemos más del 95% de asistencia. Envíe un correo electrónico al Departamento de Educación Pública de Nuevo México a [Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov) y a su representante de Taos, Kristina Ortez, y hágales saber que esto no es bueno para nuestros estudiantes y nuestra comunidad.

Especifique HB130 en su correo electrónico.

Correo electrónico

NMPED

[Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov)

y

Cristina Ortez

[kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](mailto:kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov)

--

"La educación no es llenar un cubo, sino encender un fuego."

~William mayordomo Yeats

Lobo gris rico

Director TISA

575-779-9311 celular

575-758-7755 extensión. 200

Apartado postal 668

Taos, Nuevo México 87571

**From:** [Simone Smith](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Four day weeks  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 3:28:10 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

Hello,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the proposed change to five-day school weeks. Our current four-day week at Logan Public School has proven to be incredibly successful, with our students thriving academically and personally.

The existing schedule has not only allowed for a more focused and productive learning environment but has also contributed to consistently high scores across various metrics. Our students, teachers, and parents value the current system, and it has become an integral part of our community.

Change, especially when considering something as fundamental as the school week, can have unforeseen consequences. The four-day week has demonstrated its effectiveness, and I believe it would be in the best interest of our students and community to maintain this structure.

I appreciate your consideration of our collective perspective and the positive impact the current schedule has on Logan Public School. Let's continue to build on our successes and keep what is working well for the benefit of all.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Simone Smith

**From:** [Michael Woodson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 3:29:34 PM

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I fully support HB130. Mandatory 180 days of class is necessary. The level of education in this state is minimal at most and at least our kids would be in school learning rather than sitting at home playing games or out on the streets committing crimes. I bet this bill won't pass because it a step in the right direction to PROPERLY educate our children and possibly reduce crime. Of course the NM PED hasn't supported parents or common sense practices in the very recent past so we as parents don't have high hopes.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Natasha Pia Podgoretsky](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](mailto:kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In reference to HB130 | against 180 day mandated Academic Year for schools in New Mexico  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 3:31:37 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello Kristina,

This is not a type of email that I write often however as a parent I feel strongly opposed to the following proposal for New Mexico education.

This email is in reference to HB130, which contains proposed legislature that if passed would mandate schools in New Mexico to adhere to “180 student days per academic year” instead of meeting an 1,140 hours criteria that allows for a 4 day school week. This section of the house bill negates the fact that it is QUALITY in our education NOT TIME AND BY EXTENSION QUANTITY OF HOURS IN DAYS that will improve education in New Mexico state.

This is a state that I invest in and I send my children to school here with it in mind that the Charter school that one of my son attends that practices a 4 day week, has an education structure that facilitates natural curiosity to learn through play, where our child’s well-being and growth is nurtured by a willingness to attend because the family unit and extra curricular programs are honored. An 1,140 hour criteria for schools, honors exploration and prioritizes mental well-being. Our school with its 4 day week, cares for their staff ensuring that the quality of teaching is on point allowing enough time for teachers to assign projects and give focused attention to upcoming syllabuses, homework, educational events (without a rush to fulfill criteria because “off time” is limited) while balancing personal life.

This act should not be up for consideration or discussion and it would seem, seeks to undermine the growth that we have seen in positive results at New Mexico schools including the Spotlighted 95% attendance and results at our local charter, TISA that practice a 4 day week with the 1140 hour criteria.

Twenty five other states are practicing 4 day weeks with consistent recognition and spotlight of attendance retention and improved academic scores.

You can lead a horse to water but you cannot make them drink.

It was Plato that said ‘Do not keep children to their studies by compulsion but by play.’ From a scientific stand point, scientists have discovered that it takes approximately 400 repetitions to create a new synapse in the brain, unless it is done in play, in which case it only takes 10 to 20 repetitions. From a business stand point, businesses that practice a 4 day week have employees that are more cooperative and willing to execute for the teams mission and goals. The point here is not that I am wanting my children to play all the time under the guidance of the state. My point is that a collaborative balance is required to get my children to understand, learn, to feel that they are being nurtured for the greater good and that it can be done in 1 less day per week by working smarter, not harder.

Reinforcement of a 180 day structure encourages apathy and bad behaviours.. By putting in a mandate of days and increasing from 4 to 5 days a week, we strip the time it takes to operate

in a healthy manner, encouraging bad seeded habits to become more automatic. By extension, enforcing a rule even though structurally it would seem you are creating more structure and stability for our youth, you are potentially prohibiting youth from learning in a manner that embraces their natural ability to actually want to at a point in their age where they are seeking to understand the world very willingly unless forced to do so.

I can not agree to allowing our children as a future generation be the state's social experience and am very much opposed to a decision to enforce this ruling.

Best,

Natasha PIA Podgoretsky

Parent in support of Taos Integrated School of the Arts, Taos New Mexico.

—

FROM THE DESK OF

Natasha Pia Podgoretsky

E: NPPXNPP@GMAIL.COM  
C: +1 917 569 9839

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE + DISCLAIMER : This email message, including all accompanying documents, may contain information and intellectual property which is confidential, privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under law. The information is intended only for the person(s) to whom it is addressed. If the recipient of this email is not the designated recipient or the employee or agent responsible for delivering this email to the designated recipient, you are hereby notified that any use, review, disclosure, copying, distribution, alteration or manipulation of this e-mail or its contents is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify the sender and delete the email from your computer system immediately. Thank you.

**From:** [Miriam Jones](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](#)  
**Cc:** [Acedo, Sadie](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 change in student days  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 3:31:58 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Miriam Jones, a parent of a student at Taos Intergraded School of the Arts (TISA) here in Taos, NM. I am aware of the proposed changes in student days in a calendar year. Currently, TISA is on a Monday-Thursday schedule with free aftercare until 5pm with Fridays off & it works out great for our family as well as all other parents that I know.

Please reconsider HB130 change as our family unit (as well as other families) are dependent on not only the free aftercare that the school is able to provide for our kids but also the leniency of utilizing the Friday off to schedule doctors appointments & be involved in activities our kids otherwise wouldn't be able to participate in!

Please reach out if you have further questions.

Thank you for your time & consideration,

Miriam Jones  
575-779-6232

**From:** [Simone Smith](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Don't make the change  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 3:41:54 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my sincere concern regarding the proposed change to five-day school weeks. Our current four-day week at Logan Public School has proven to be incredibly successful, with our students thriving academically and personally. The existing schedule has not only allowed for a more focused and productive learning environment but has also contributed to consistently high scores across various metrics. Our students, teachers, and parents value the current system, and it has become an integral part of our community.

Change, especially when considering something as fundamental as the school week, can have unforeseen consequences. The four-day week has demonstrated its effectiveness, and I believe it would be in the best interest of our students and community to maintain this structure.

I appreciate your consideration of our collective perspective and the positive impact the current schedule has on Logan Public School. Let's continue to build on our successes and keep what is working well for the benefit of all.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Simone Smith

- State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days.
- State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations CANNOT prohibit something which is authorized by statute.
- The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.
- The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 79% reading proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 38%.
- The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%.

**From:** [Savoie, Miki](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposal changes to the school calendar  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 3:47:38 PM

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Hello! My name is Miki Savoie and I am an English teacher for Jal Junior High and High School. I have been teaching for the last 22 years and am certified pre-K-12<sup>th</sup> grades. I have taught grades 2-12. I would like to comment on the problematic proposal to change the school calendar, and I hope you will take my thoughts seriously as I have dedicated all of my 22 years teaching in New Mexico.

I have fellow teacher friends across the nation, and I have talked to many of them to compare and contrast the 4-day week to the 5-day week. Colorado is a state that requires 160 school days in a 5-day week. In discussing performance regarding test scores, Colorado seems to be outperforming students in NM. If Colorado is able to achieve high test scores with fewer school days, then why do you think it will benefit NM students and families if we add more days to the year? I feel that adding days to the school year will show a decline in attendance whether from athletic travel, appointments, or other various reasons. I feel that students will be less engaged in the classroom. Students need rest, and a 4-day week allows for students to get that rest.

Also, there are some districts in Colorado that have a 4-day school week, and yet they have much higher scores than NM. This just shows that the 4-day week is not the only reason NM schools have lower scores. There are a number of reasons that test scores are low in NM that are not directly related to the 4-day week. These factors (such as personal or home life) have an effect on students that we as teachers have no control over. Surely you are educated enough to be cognizant of this. The 4-day week is beneficial for students who are involved in athletics, performing arts, STEM, and FFA/rodeo events. Most of these events occur on the weekends and/or Fridays. Additionally, having Fridays for appointments has cut down on the number of absences that students AND teachers could have if the school week was 5 days. The 4-day week is much more convenient for students, families, and staff. As a teacher I find it difficult to read the proposed changes and think that the 4-day week is in the best interest of our students.

**Miki Savoie**  
**English Teacher**  
**Jal Jr. High/High School**

**From:** [Marilyn Dodge](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 DAY SCHOOL WEEKS  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 3:47:57 PM

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It has come to my attention, NMPED is considering changing from 4 days a week to 5. PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS!! The extra day home for our children has been a blessing for our family. They have more energy, they are not as tired, they look forward to that extra day off, it is an incentive to do well in school. Please do not try and fix something that isn't broken!!!!

--

**Marilyn Dodge**

**From:** [Happy Price](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day week  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 3:50:42 PM

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I was saddened to here that the 4 day week will be cancel. The teachers are overworked and under paid. They no longer have any assistance and the classes are way too large for just one teacher. They seriously need that 5th day to keep caught up with lesson plans- reading papers etc.

Education in this country is in a desperate shape. This new ruling will only making less teachers as the job is too difficult for the salary they get. It isn't enough to live on and a number of teachers need second jobs.

Pleaser- do not cancel the 4 day week

Best,

Harriet Price

**From:** [Elisaida Caballero](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 3:50:44 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am a junior at Jal High School and I am against that will change our four day week back to five days because i work and have a job that i attend to Fri-Sun and i take my friday to attend work.



**From:** [hannahrosemarybecker@gmail.com](mailto:hannahrosemarybecker@gmail.com)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 4:02:14 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I have two children at TISA a charter school in Taos that we specifically chose because it has a 4 day school week. I am writing to ask that you please NOT change the NMPED rule from 1,140 hours per year 180 days per year. This would remove the valuable ability of our school to offer aftercare which is essential for my work schedule. My finances are so fragile as a single parent. Our family thrives in the four day school week. I shared custody with their father having a three day weekend every other week is a very important time for us to be together. This change would be detrimental to our family.

Thank you,  
Hannah Becker

**From:** [Theresa Smith](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Unfair Rule Changes  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 4:18:43 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon,

I am very unhappy to hear about the proposed changes to the school calendar (6.10.5 Calendar Changes). This action will discriminate against our rural schools, like Cloudcroft. Spotlight schools like ours are saving money (thus saving teachers) through a four day work week. Please reconsider before you make a costly error!

Theresa Smith  
Grade 4  
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools  
Cloudcroft, NM

**From:** [chad.belvill](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule change  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 4:54:24 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

It's come to my attention that there is a proposed rule change which would make a 4 day school week impossible. This change would negatively effect my child and many other children and families. My child's school (Taos Integrated School of Arts) is and has been on a 4 day school week. This schedule allows them to recruit a high level of staff, provide exceptional after school care as well as creates valuable time for family activities on Fridays. Changing this rule will cause the after care programs to cease placing burdens on working families. It will also increase maintenance and operational costs. I urge you to table this motion and leave the current rule in place.

Sincerely  
Chad Belvill  
Parent of TISA student

**From:** [Heather Yarbrough](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 5:02:18 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Greetings,

The 4 day school week has been beneficial to both our children's academic and extracurricular activities.

I have two daughters that attend Cloudcroft High School, and they love this school schedule.

If the State tries to force this change upon us, we will choose Home School.

Thank-you,  
Heather Yarbrough

**From:** [frogger\\_1328@yahoo.com](mailto:frogger_1328@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 5:33:50 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern,

Regarding, .10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements.

My children love this schedule they have AB honor roll since they are stress free. They are never absent with this schedule now. Please keep as is.

Regards,  
Concerned parent

**From:** [Roger Steele Jr.](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Urgent Notice: 6.10.5 NMAC - Proposed School Calendar Requirement Changes  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 5:44:46 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Lordsburg Municipal Schools Board of Education adopted a 4-day school week calendar starting the 2017-2018 school year, after overwhelming support from students, parents and staff. Over the past six years, this model has served the district well. There has been a decrease in student and staff absences, as well as higher student and staff morale. Additionally, being on a 4-day week has helped recruit and retain highly qualified staff members.

New Mexico 4-day week districts are in consensus that this rule change lacks support from research, which indicates more instructional days for student's does not guarantee improved student outcomes. Rather, factors such as regular attendance, student engagement, smaller class sizes, rigorous learning opportunities, highly qualified teachers, high quality learning materials, and strong family and community support are proven contributors to academic success.

**From:** [Amanda Moore](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar requirements  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 6:27:04 PM

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To whom this may concern,

We would like to keep the 4 day school week program that is in place. Please do not remove this program as this can affect many more kids and families.

Thank you

**From:** [Shawna Alexander](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] "Proposed changes"  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 6:33:17 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello, I believe we should keep our schools at a four day week. I feel it is beneficial to our kids the have the extra day to relax and get ready for the week ahead. I also feel it benefits the teachers and staff at the schools to have the extra day off to take care of appointments and other things that can only be done during the week. It places less stress on all parties involved, when you do not have to worry about missing work or taking your child out of school for things like doctor's appointments etc. I hope that you agree and keep the four day school week. Thank you for your time have a good evening.



**From:** [Lisa Mannasmith](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Cloudcroft - 4 day school week  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 6:36:27 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am writing to ask that you please keep the 4-day school week as is for Cloudcroft schools.

Thank you,  
Lisa

**From:** [Christy Hughes](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Calendar Rule (6.10.5)  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 6:49:39 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

To the Secretary of the PED:

As a parent, grandparent, and NM educator, I am strongly opposed to the proposed Calendar Rule (6.10.5) for the set 180-days instead of only requiring the 1140-hours in the school year. The calendar organization should be left for the administration/school board of each district to decide. I also disagree with state mandated PD. The district administration should be responsible for deciding the days necessary for effective Professional Development.

Not all communities have the same needs. At Grady, our 2023-2024 calendar actually includes 1142.5 hours. We have a 4-day week and are a high-ranking school. Our Fridays are used for teacher planning/prep, appointments, athletics, FFA activities, etc. The proposed 180-day schedule will cause higher absenteeism due to the fact that our farming/ranching community depends on their children to help with work. We have tried having several Fridays added to our calendar in the past but have concluded it is pointless/costly because our parents keep their children home. Our district has already proven that a 5-day week isn't beneficial to our specific community's needs.

To conclude, the increase of several school weeks during the year is not going to have a positive effect on the state. Teachers will leave, absenteeism will soar, and costs will go up along with these negative consequences. There are other ways of playing "catch-up" after the Covid mandatory shutdowns that this state imposed. Others have emailed responses with many positive and effective suggestions. I do hope that you are taking these constructive suggestions as logical alternatives to the proposed calendar changes.

Sincerely,  
Christy Hughes, M. Ed

**From:** [Christa Romero](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 7:00:03 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

This would NOT be good for our school and community.

Christa J. Archuleta-Romero

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone  
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**From:** [Tyler Norred](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Shift from 150-Day Requirement to 1,140-Hour Annual Requirement (HB130)  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 7:13:52 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Sir or Ma'am,

I trust this correspondence finds you well. I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 130, specifically its proposal to replace the existing 150-day requirement with a rigid 1,140-hour annual requirement. I firmly believe that such a shift does not contribute to an increase in educational value; rather, it risks imposing unnecessary constraints on individual school districts, hindering their ability to tailor educational practices to their community's unique needs.

The proposed transition from days to hours overlooks the diverse nature of educational settings. Education is inherently complex, and a fixed hourly requirement may not account for the varied dynamics of different school districts. By enforcing a standardized hourly mandate, HB130 could inadvertently stifle the adaptability that local school districts currently employ in designing their academic calendars.

Furthermore, the 1,140-hour stipulation may lead to unintended consequences, limiting a school district's flexibility to respond to local emergencies and or environmental considerations that are specific to that particular district. Factors such as unforeseen events, community engagements, or targeted educational initiatives that may require a nuanced schedule could be jeopardized by an overly rigid hourly framework.

Effective education is rooted in the ability to customize learning experiences to address the specific needs of each community. HB130, in its emphasis on hours over a more nuanced evaluation of educational impact, risks undermining the autonomy of local school districts in determining the optimal structure for their academic calendars.

I implore you to reconsider the potential repercussions of transitioning from a 150-day requirement to a 1,140-hour annual requirement. Preserving the autonomy of local school districts is crucial for cultivating responsive and effective educational environments.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will carefully weigh these concerns as you deliberate on HB130.

Sincerely,

Randall Norred

18 Mogollon Trl  
High Rolls, NM 88325

[Tylernorred@gmail.com](mailto:Tylernorred@gmail.com) / [airmannorred@proton.me](mailto:airmannorred@proton.me)

706-594-2827

**From:** [Alison Haney](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Concerning HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 7:15:51 PM

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Dear NMPED,

I was made aware of a rule change being proposed in HB130 that would mandate an end to schools that choose to perform all of the required hours of instruction during a four day school week. I can attest to the success of the Taos Integrated School of the Arts which operates on a four day school week. Here are some facts about four day school weeks. It helps attract and retain quality teachers, reduce overhead costs of building operation, maintenance and food service. Twenty five other states are practicing 4 day weeks. TISA currently is a four day a week school that was recognized as a Spotlight school performing in the top 15% of the state for the last three years. Four day weeks also allow TISA to provide homework help during the 4-5 pm hour. Our school community is thriving with this schedule. I oppose this rule change. Furthermore, by taking away this choice for the students and families that are obviously thriving, HB130 would be the antithesis of the Equity Movement. Yazzie/Martinez proved that diverse learners require different formulas of instruction to meet with educational success. Taking away another choice will not succeed at planting equity in all NM schools.

Sincerely,  
Alison Haney  
PO Box 2284  
Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557

**From:** [Sherrita Fluhman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 7:30:12 PM

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Good afternoon!

Living in rural/frontier New Mexico, (yes, we are frontier due to travel time it takes to get anywhere). I am a big proponent of the 4-day school week. We travel a minimum of 1.5 hours one way to go to the doctor, dentist, grocery store, etc. This means that just for travel, we will be gone at least three hours. This does not include the time that we have to spend in that doctor's office or in the grocery store.

This means that school absenteeism will rise exponentially. The staff and parents at our school strive to make appointments on Fridays since we are not in school. As a school employee who schedules the substitute teachers, this will increase the need to hire more subs. In our frontier town, we already struggle to get substitutes. Living in rural/frontier NM, I am a big proponent of the 4 day school week. We travel a minimum of 1.5 hours one way to go to the doctor, dentist, grocery store, etc. This means that just for travel, we will be gone at least three hours. This does not include the time that we have to spend in that doctor's office or in the grocery store.

This means that school absenteeism will rise exponentially. The staff and parents at our school strive to make appointments on Fridays since we are not in school. As a school employee who schedules the substitute teachers, this will increase the need to hire more subs. In our frontier town, we already struggle to get subs. We currently have three subs on our list. Two of the three drive approximately forty-five minutes one way just to come to help us out. While we are fortunate to have these three wonderful women, they are NOT teachers. Our students deserve to have their teachers in their classrooms, teaching them daily. This will be harder and harder to do if the 4-day week is repealed, as they will have substitutes in their classrooms more often than there should be. This is detrimental to our students' educations. We have been a 4-day school week since the mid-eighties. This works in rural northeastern New Mexico. Our students rank very high in our state scores. In school year twenty-two, we were first in Math and third in reading. For school year twenty-three, our school ranked first in the state for reading and third in math. Our graduation rate is 100%! This shows that what our school is doing WORKS, and works well. The New Mexico Public Education Department and the governor of New Mexico need to understand what works in Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Rio Rancho, and Albuquerque most likely will NOT work in our small, rural schools. If any of the people proposing these changes would come to visit our school, they would understand the ruralness of our district leads all of our students, parents, and staff to ensure that we are providing our students with a first-rate, quality education, which also includes being well-rounded individuals. Our students work hard in the classroom, and on the field and court (we are the 6-man class a football state championships for 2023, and the 2023 Girls Basketball state champions). The majority of our students work Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays on their family ranch. They get up before the sun rises to do chores, take a forty-five-minute bus ride to school where they work hard for eight hours, practice their sports (the majority play all three sports during the year), take the return forty-five-minute trip home only to have a minimum of two hours homework.

Being a ranching community, not only are our students from ranches, but the majority of our

staff are also owners/operators of their family ranches. These ranches require daily dedication from their families to operate. We do not have a "workforce" from which they can replace their spouses and children to do the work should we be required to go to 5-day weeks and have a longer school year. Our families strive to do their cattle work as much as possible on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the school year. Their branding season starts the day after school lets out for the summer. Our students are very involved in FFA and 4-H during the summer, right up to the day school begins and sometimes going through State Fair season. Back in the late seventies and early eighties, our school went 4 days per week from January 1st through the end of March to conserve energy. The cost savings in energy, staffing, and transportation fuel during this time proved beneficial to the district. During the mid-eighties, our school decided to go 4 days per week for the entire year. Should this change, we will have to pay staff for the extra days, the energy costs will be significantly higher, and we will spend more on fuel for transportation, etc. to accommodate the increased days.

Should anyone wish to visit our community and our school, I can guarantee that the mayor and the school superintendent as well as our community would be glad to demonstrate our frontier way of life. We currently have three subs on our list. Two of the three drive approximately forty-five minutes one way just to come to help us out. While we are fortunate to have these three wonderful women, they are NOT teachers. Our students deserve to have their teachers in their classrooms, teaching them daily. This will be harder and harder to do if the 4-day week is repealed, as they will have substitutes in their classrooms more often than there should be. This is detrimental to our students' educations.

Our district strives to keep ball games held to Thursdays (play as close to home as possible), Fridays, and Saturdays so our students are not missing any of the school days to travel to get to the games.

We have been a 4-day school week since the mid-eighties. This works in rural northeastern New Mexico. Our students rank very high in our state scores. In school year twenty-two, we were first in Math and third in reading. For school year twenty-three, our school ranked first in the state for reading and third in math. Our graduation rate is 100%! This shows that what our school is doing WORKS, and works well. The New Mexico Public Education Department and the governor of New Mexico need to understand what works in Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Rio Rancho, and Albuquerque most likely will NOT work in our small, rural schools. If any of the people proposing these changes would come to visit our school, they would understand the ruralness of our district leads all of our students, parents, and staff to ensure that we are providing our students with a first-rate, quality education, which also includes being well-rounded individuals. Our students work hard in the classroom, and on the field and court (we are the 6-man class a football state championship for 2023, and the 2023 Girls Basketball state champions). The majority of our students work Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays on their family ranch. They get up before the sun rises to do chores, take a forty-five-minute bus ride to school where they work hard for eight hours, practice their sports (the majority play all three sports during the year), take the return forty-five-minute trip home only to have a minimum of two hours homework.

Being a ranching community, not only are our students from ranches, but the majority of our staff are also owners/operators of their family ranches. These ranches require daily dedication from their families to operate. We do not have a "workforce" from which they can replace their spouses and children to do the work should we be required to go to 5-day weeks and have a longer school year. Our families strive to do their cattle work as much as possible on



Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the school year. Their branding season starts the day after school lets out for the summer. Our students are very involved in FFA and 4-H during the summer, right up to the day school begins and sometimes going through State Fair season.

Back in the late seventies and early eighties, our school went 4 days per week from January 1st through the end of March to conserve energy. The cost savings in energy, staffing, and transportation fuel during this time proved beneficial to the district. During the mid-eighties, our school decided to go 4 days per week for the entire year. Should this change, we will have to pay staff for the extra days, the energy costs will be significantly higher, and we will spend more on fuel for transportation, etc. to accommodate the increased days.

Should anyone wish to visit our community and our school, I can guarantee that the mayor and the school superintendent as well as our community would be glad to demonstrate our frontier way of life.

Respectfully,

/s/ SFluhman

Sherrita Fluhman

**From:** [Elaine Cain](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 7:34:38 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico School District, in Texico, New Mexico, in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023, should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear that HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours.

In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children.

Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned grandparent  
K Elaine Cain  
1740 SR 108  
Texico, NM 88135

**From:** [JJ](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4-Day school week  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 8:03:39 PM

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To Whom it May Concern:

Several years ago the school district we live in made the decision to go to a four day school week. This decision was made in the best interest for our school district. It has allowed for better attendance and greater retention of school staff that are enticed with a four day work week. The reason for the email is simple there is no set way that is best for every school district, no way Albuquerque schools has the same needs as Lordsburg schools and vise versa. That being said it is of many opinions that the school schedule be left to the school districts themselves. They know and would be able to adjust to the needs of each district and allowing smaller and bigger districts make necessary changes that may not be right for another district. Please take into consideration the decision of having a standard schedule for all school in the state is unreasonable to achieve the maximum potential for EVERY school district and I ask that each district continue to be allowed to create schedules based on the needs of the students.

Thank you for your time,  
Joey Whitted

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Marisa Abeyta](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Calendar day  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 8:09:09 PM

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I am a parent of a Cloudcroft Elementary student. The kids have a school schedule that fits my child's needs and works well for him. Having four full days has helped him a lot and the school staff and helpers I agree with the four days for our staff and students. Our children's minds are our future and education is my number one priority in my household. We moved from lcps and he was struggling and not getting any help and hated school. When we moved to cloudcroft my son changed completely he participates in sports and activities every year and semester is on the honor roll is not afraid to ask for help or put himself out there due to the open arms of the staff. Having the four days and the support of our staff and other parents have been a big help and blessing for my child. Cloudcroft is a grade a school and pushes all their staff and students their best. As a parent the four day school year helps and works out for us. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**From:** [Alyssa Bell](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 8:38:48 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

My children attend a school in Taos County that would be affected by the proposed mandate HB130. We are concerned as this change would affect our family negatively. We believe that a shorter week increases productivity and decreases stress on students, staff, and parents. A three day weekend allows children to spend time with their families and pursue activities outside the classroom. We are asking you whole-heartedly that you do not mandate a 180 day minimum school year and continue to adhere to the 1,140 hour requirement. Thank you very much.

A Concerned Parent,  
Alyssa Bell

**From:** [Candice Roever-Putman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 9:00:08 PM

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I am a teacher for Springer Municipal Schools and have taught here for 20 years. I fully believe that if we lose our 4-day school week and have to attend for 180 days, we will lose teachers, students and other staff and we are already a skeleton crew. I believe it will only cause more student and teacher absences. Student absences have been at a record high since the start of COVID. On a personal note, my husband is also on a 4-day work week and if we have to go to a 180 day school calendar, we will miss out on a lot of family time. We spend our 3 day weekends going to games or visiting our families that live hours away from us. All of our teachers and students' families use that time together and a lot of our teens use that time to work jobs to help with their family's income. Using the 4-day a week calendar improves staff morale, helps relieve a little teacher burnout, and also saves our district money on operational costs like utilities, fuel, etc.

Candice Putman

**From:** [Mireya Robles](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements.  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 10:07:43 PM

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To whom may concern,  
I(Mireya) as a parent it's easier for my kids to go to school four days of the week. They learn so much in four day. Thank you  
6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements.

**From:** [George G](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 2:12:00 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I attended a 4-day school week in the late 90s and enjoyed it tremendously. Schools should be allowed to keep the 4-day schedule.

My grades improved as I had more one-on-one time with my teachers.  
I had more time to help the family on the farm/ranch.

Thank you!

--

George F Gutierrez



**From:** [Brian Blum](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [Nicole Garcia](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New Mexico Public Education Dept  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:22:23 AM

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Attn: Kristina Ortez

My daughter is a student at TISA Taos where the system they have set up with a 4 day week that covers the mandated 1,140 hour requirement is an excellent one. It offers the focused learning time and flexibility in our busy lives with extracurricular activities and travel to visiting family on long weekends which makes a huge difference in our lives. As an attentive and involved parent in my and other students' education I am writing to voice my concern and ask that the rules NOT be changed to requiring a 5 day school week.

Thank you for your time and attention,

Brian Blum  
Concerned parent of Caira Blum

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Keith Durham](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 7:17:54 AM  
**Attachments:** [Scanned from Grady Municipal Schools..pdf](#)

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Letter attached.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

HOPE YOU HAVE A GREAT DAY!

Keith Durham  
Superintendent



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**From:** Grady Copier <[gradycopier@gradyschool.com](mailto:gradycopier@gradyschool.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 5:54 AM  
**To:** Keith Durham <[kdurham@gradyschool.com](mailto:kdurham@gradyschool.com)>  
**Subject:** Scanned from Grady Municipal Schools.

Please open the attached document.

Attachment File Type: pdf, Multi-Page

Multifunction Printer Name: Grady Municipal Schools

Dear Dr. Arsenio Romero,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed mandate requiring all schools to operate on a traditional 180-day school year. This decision would be a significant setback for the many schools and communities that have successfully implemented four-day week schedules, and it would fail to recognize the growing body of evidence supporting the effectiveness of this innovative approach to education.

As you know, the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) has a long history of championing educational innovation and supporting schools in their efforts to improve student outcomes. This commitment to innovation is evident in your own career, where you have played a pivotal role in turning around struggling schools and fostering a culture of excellence within our state's education system.

It is therefore disheartening to see NMPED proposing a mandate that would stifle innovation and limit the flexibility of schools to tailor their schedules to the unique needs of their students and communities. Four-day week schools have proven to be a viable and effective alternative to the traditional five-day schedule, offering a range of benefits for students, teachers, and families.

Research consistently shows that four-day week schools can maintain or even improve academic achievement while also promoting student well-being, reducing teacher burnout, and strengthening family engagement. In New Mexico alone, 85% of schools operating on a four-day week have met or exceeded state standards for effectiveness. This clear demonstration of success should not be ignored.

Instead of mandating a one-size-fits-all approach, NMPED should empower schools to choose the schedule that best suits their unique needs and communities. This would allow schools to leverage the strengths of both four-day and five-day schedules, creating a diverse landscape of educational options that can meet the varied needs of our students.

The current focus on standardized test scores as the sole measure of school success is misguided and unfair. More school days do not necessarily equate to higher test scores. In fact, a shorter school week can provide more time for rest, family engagement, and extracurricular activities, all of which have been shown to contribute to overall student well-being and academic success.

Just as adding days to the football calendar didn't magically transform the New Mexico State Aggie Football team into a winning contender, adding days to the school calendar will not magically improve student outcomes. It is the quality of instruction, the effectiveness of teaching methods, and the dedication of educators that make the real difference.

I urge you to reconsider this mandate and adopt a more flexible approach to school calendars. Allow schools to choose the schedule that best supports their students, teachers, and communities. Recognize the value of four-day week schools and the benefits they offer, and refocus your efforts on supporting all schools, regardless of schedule format, to achieve excellence in education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Keith Durham  
Superintendent, Grady Municipal Schools

**From:** [Terri Modisette](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PLEASE DON'T LET THIS PASS  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 7:42:07 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

New Mexico Legislators,

I am writing on behalf of Tucumcari school district in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen. It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education. Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report. Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults. Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched. Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Additionally, what a shame to think our state government would take an action that undermines the authority of the school districts. Too much government overreach has been incredibly detrimental to New Mexicans, with the highest impact falling on the shoulders of our students. If we truly prioritize education, we need to trust the districts to ensure our students are being served most appropriately according to OUR needs. Each district is to be held accountable by their communities, no need for rules that make it harder to do our best at meeting the needs for our rural communities. We are barely picking up traction from the disastrous disservice bestowed upon our students during COVID times. PLEASE do the right thing and focus on the tasks at hand that the citizens of New Mexico have elected you to do. The 4 day school week is not broken so we do not need the NMPED or our elected officials to “fix” it.

Sincerely,

Terri Modisette

A concerned educator of 19 years

**From:** [Aaron Lewis](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day work week benefits  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 7:50:10 AM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

To whom it may concern,

There is recent information that came out of the PED department regarding making all schools in New Mexico go to a 180 day schedule as opposed to local districts being able to decide how to meet the instructional time. I currently work in Cobre Consolidated Schools on a four day workweek. The way this schedule works is we begin earlier in the calendar year than most districts in the state and we end close to the same time as other districts. Our days are longer and are very productive. The issue that arises in our district is more an issue of chronic absenteeism than lack of instructional opportunities. While I consider myself to be a very good teacher and have worked to the master level. There are certain things I am unable to do with students who regularly miss school. The state removed parent accountability from the equation when Covid hit. Administrators are held accountable as well as teachers and students. Until there is a true accountability aspect to parents and children's attendance at school, the state will be testing at a failing level.

The second part of this all is the health benefits of a four day work week. There are multiple benefits to a four day work week. What you are proposing has no data backing it and is unreasonable and Draconian in nature. Please allow our school districts to meet our needs at the local level and follow the laws that our legislature has passed.

Sincerely,

Aaron Lewis

NEA Cobre Chapter President

**From:** [Blezy Sheth](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: PLEASE DON'T LET THIS PASS  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 7:53:26 AM

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Terri Modisette** <[t.modisette@tucumcarischools.com](mailto:t.modisette@tucumcarischools.com)>  
**Date:** Thu, Nov 30, 2023 at 7:48 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: PLEASE DON'T LET THIS PASS  
**To:** Blezy Sheth <[b.sheth@tucumcarischools.com](mailto:b.sheth@tucumcarischools.com)>

here you go

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Terri Modisette** <[t.modisette@tucumcarischools.com](mailto:t.modisette@tucumcarischools.com)>  
**Date:** Thu, Nov 30, 2023 at 7:41 AM  
**Subject:** PLEASE DON'T LET THIS PASS  
**To:** <[Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov)>

New Mexico Legislators,

I am writing on behalf of Tucumcari school district in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen. It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education. Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report. Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults. Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched. Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Additionally, what a shame to think our state government would take an action that undermines the authority of the school districts. Too much government overreach has been incredibly detrimental to New Mexicans, with the highest impact falling on the shoulders of our students. If we truly prioritize education, we need to trust the districts to ensure our students are being served most appropriately according to OUR needs. Each district is to be held accountable by their communities, no need for rules that make it harder to do our best at meeting the needs for our rural communities. We are barely picking up traction from the disastrous disservice bestowed upon our students during COVID times. PLEASE do the right thing and focus on the tasks at hand that the citizens of New Mexico have elected you to do. The 4 day school week is not broken so we do not need the NMPED or our elected officials to “fix” it.

Sincerely,

Terri Modisette

A concerned educator of 19 years

**From:** [Nicole Kowalski](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No 5 day week  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:11:33 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

Hello, I am a teacher in Northern New Mexico. I work at a small charter school in a rural town. I am in favor of keeping our school schedule as it is: a 4 day week.

It is difficult to recruit and retain teachers as it is. The salary is not high enough for teachers to work and live in Taos. The four day week allows teachers to work a 2nd job and have a little time for family.

My school has a 95% attendance rate and is a Spotlight School. The feedback that I get from students and parents is that the 4 day week works well for families.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Nicole Kowalski

--

**Nicole Kowalski**  
**Special Education Teacher**  
**TISA**  
**(575) 770-0925**



**From:** [Samantha Davis](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Change For Capitan Municipal Schools  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:32:05 AM

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I am writing in as my child goes to school at Capitan Elementary in Capitan, NM. We chose this amazing school partly because of the schedule. Children are in school until almost 4pm and aren't home until 4:30 or so due to distance. Which means between the time they get through the door and go to bed, it's spent by doing homework, responsibilities, having dinner, extra curricular activities & showering up for the next day, there is little to NO TIME for them to destress from school & all the frustrations and emotions that come with it, be a kid and most importantly- spend time with family. It truly is heartbreaking to rush a child through the week with all day school and school at home, to get to the weekend where they can finally just be. School is important but school 8hours Monday through Friday AND every evening AND on weekends is NOT more important than having lives, being kids and being with family. Life is too short.

I hope you read this in our shoes & not change our schedule AND our lives.

Thank you.

**From:** [Randall Lackey](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Eliminating 4 day weeks  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:32:56 AM

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Show me the data that 4 day weeks aren't working! 4 day school week works-especially for small rural schools where teachers and students have to travel. We are consistently ranked as a high performing school by metrics. Seems like the 5 day school weeks are struggling to be in that list. Keep the 4 day week- we are successful.

**From:** [Roxanne Lawson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Mandate Proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:40:18 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I Roxanne Lawson a parent to a student at Taos Intergraded School of the Arts am against the minimum of 180 day academic school year requirement proposal opposed to the current 1,140 hour requirement because it works best for my family schedule this way. I one of many choose TISA for my child's academic experience because of it's performance, approach, and schedule allowing my child to receive a Higher Quality Education out of my limited chooses in Taos County and giving my child the schedule that provides a adequate break. Resulting in better attendance, attention to detail, and above all more quality time with family because there is so much more to life then school & work. Please take into consideration my opinion on this matter and why it work best for my student family and community this way. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely Roxanne Lawson

**From:** [ASHLEE SPEARS](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback on 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:42:33 AM

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To Whom It May Concern at the NM Public Education Department,

I am writing this letter regarding the proposed rule changes for 6.10.5 NMAC (school calendar days). As both a parent of school-aged children and an educator, I have many concerns, feelings and opinions regarding these changes. I would encourage you to reconsider these changes and listen to the feedback and suggestions that are coming in from educators, administrators, and parents from around the state.

One of the biggest concerns I have with this proposed change is that it will likely lead to more burnout for teachers and students and might have negative consequences such as furthering the teacher shortage that is already prevalent in the state. Adding instructional days will likely be accompanied by more stress for teachers and students. I don't truly believe that anyone who is not actively involved in day to day classroom activities can fully understand the effort that the majority of teachers are putting in to ensure students are engaged and learning. As an educator who has been in the profession for more than a decade, I can assure you that we are having to work harder than ever before to engage students in learning. For a lot of students, motivation and responsibility are not driving them to success, which makes our job even more challenging. Likewise, not all parents are supporting their child's academic career, which also hinders the growth students might achieve. Adding more days to the school year is not going to equate to academic progress when there are many more factors outside of the school day and the school's control contributing to lower success rates.

I believe the state needs to look into helping improve other factors that might be contributing to low success rates among New Mexico students instead of thinking that a one size fits all school calendar will fix the problems in education the state is seeing. A study done by Grand Canyon University in 2020 found that more instructional time does not equate to academic improvement. Without other factors in place, such as quality instruction and educators, classroom environments that enhance learning, high quality materials and most importantly student prior knowledge, ability and motivation, more instructional time is most likely not going to increase student learning. Likewise, for some students, increasing instructional days might be a detriment because high achievers do not require more days to achieve growth each year. Some of these students are likely already bored during the school year because not all teachers or schools are trained to provide enrichment, acceleration, or curriculum to meet their needs. Adding more days will not benefit high academic students. Likewise, learning will likely plateau for students who are not motivated to learn or who do not have enough support at home and adding more days will not increase their learning progress.

One of the biggest challenges in education currently is student behaviors. Behavior issues not only take away learning time and opportunities for students—whether it is their own behavior hindering their learning or the misbehavior of others that take away learning time, but can also lead to more teachers leaving the profession. I believe the state should focus more on what they can do to support students and teachers with behavior management rather than adding more instructional days that honestly just might increase behavior problems, especially closer to the end of the school year when students are burnt out and more likely to misbehave.

Most teachers already feel they have very little autonomy or input over any decision making that is put in place in schools, districts and states across the country. I urge you to please reconsider imposing rules and laws that will directly impact educational professionals and students and the morale of the education system as we are used to. Allowing each district in the state the ability to determine what works best for the schools, educators and students in their own community gives autonomy back to the individuals that it will impact the most.

I appreciate you considering my perspective on the idea of adding additional days to the school calendar and hope that you will reconsider changing the rule so as to leave the way districts structure learning time up to the local districts rather than assuming that all schools in the state require the same academic calendar days. There are many things in education that need to be changed, but the school calendar is not one of them so it is unlikely to solve the issues that are present in education today.

Sincerely,

Ashlee Spears  
7-8 Gifted and Talented Teacher  
Gattis Middle School  
Clovis, NM

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**From:** [Jennie Griffin](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hb130 & Rule 6.10  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:46:24 AM

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I am the mother of three school-age children that attend Capitan grade School and high school in Capitan New Mexico. I strongly disagree with the state trying to make five day a week school for a kids here in the Capitan district. It absolutely does not work for our community. Our kids work in the family business on Fridays and there is no way they can ever make Friday school. If this gets changed all three of our children will be pulled out of public school and homeschooled if this takes effect. This is also the beliefs of most of our community, they cannot afford the hardship. It puts on families to have 5 day a week schools for our community. Please consider the needs of each individual rural school district when making a decision on this topic. We do not have the same resources as the big cities do and we do not favor this new rule change brought down by the state.

**From:** [Mackenzie Stanton](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School changes  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:46:31 AM

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Don't change what our school does texico is doing just fine with a 4 day week there is no need to change that and especially make our summer break shorter summer break is a break from school and all the stress and you are preventing that by only giving us a month it's also really ridiculous what your doing there is no reason to do that and it's not going to happen because our school especially is going to fight for our rights on how many days we go and how long our summer break is 4 day week for life!

**From:** [Edward Alvarez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:50:22 AM

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To Whom it may concern, I would like to express my concern with the proposed changes to the 4 day school week. I have been working in the Cobre Consolidated School district for 6 years. I left the adjacent school district to work here due to the 4 day school week. I have seen the benefits of the extended days in a positive way for student learning with the extra time. In the elementary level, by the time you settle kids down from recesses, lunch, and specials, the students' learning time is cut short. The extra time helps adjust the down time it takes to get students reengaged in learning after these distractions. The four day schedule also helps small districts financially by saving money with the one day less to account for utilities, meals, busing, maintenance, and other school related expenses. I urge you to take into consideration these facets of operation that could have a negative impact on our small school district. Thank You, and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.



**From:** [Brenda Clark](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Message from CLFLibKMC554e  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:52:32 AM  
**Attachments:** [SCLFLibKMC523112623410.pdf](#)

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----- Forwarded message -----  
From: <[CLFLibKMC554e@silverschools.org](mailto:CLFLibKMC554e@silverschools.org)>  
Date: Mon, Nov 27, 2023 at 5:39 AM  
Subject: Message from CLFLibKMC554e  
To: <[bclark@silverschools.org](mailto:bclark@silverschools.org)>

Brenda Clark  
PO Box 305  
Cliff, NM 88028  
bclark@silverschools.org  
(575) 538 - 1316  
Date: November 21, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

**Subject: *Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department***

I am writing this letter as a concerned staff member and grandparent of numerous students attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children.

1. **Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days:** The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.
2. **Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model:** Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.
3. **Bias in Funding and Accreditation:** The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.
4. **Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time:** Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.
5. **Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes:** There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a

school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a grandparent and staff member, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my grandchildren, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Brenda Clark

)  
:  
)

**From:** [Chrisrockhopper](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:57:52 AM

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Hello,

This rule should not be a statewide decision as each district is different in size and needs. Our district is currently a 4 day week that still meets the hour requirements and provides a day for the kids to do other extra curricular activities, learn work traits, go to tutoring if needed, and many other opportunities in our community. The buses don't have to run the 5th day saving emissions, cost of fuel, wear and tear on the busses. There is also better attendance because it gives families the ability to still go out of town without missing school and the kids are not trying to catch up on missing work or lectures they missed.

This rule should be a **district decision** and voted on the people in the district that know it best.

Thanks,  
Christina

**From:** [Hannah Harrison](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day week  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:07:20 AM

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If New Mexico continues to try and push their authority over our schools we, and many other parents will just pull our kids.

The 4 day works for our small community and I am a firm believer it's content we need to focus on, not hours or days. You could force these kids to go to school everyday and it wouldn't make a difference. You want to make a change? Stop teaching to pass all the tests you implement and teach for the kids education.

Many of us are already on the verge of homeschooling, I guarantee if you push a 5 day week you will lose many more students.

Hannah Harrison, mother of two

**From:** [Kendra Hatcher](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:17:37 AM

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NMPED,

I do NOT support 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements. I have 23 years of teaching experience and have seen my profession suffer the consequences of legislation that does not take into account the reality of what is happening in the classroom and how that affects our students. They are what is important.

An increase of instructional days to 180 for students will only hurt their education further. This is not the answer. Student engagement is lacking due to the increase in calendar days as it is. They are tired. Student absences have only increased each year that we implement a longer school year. This is detrimental to their education and given that there are no longer consequences for students not attending school on a regular basis, it is getting worse with each passing year. As a result, we are no longer teaching students good habits that will make them a responsible member of society. We are actually doing quite the opposite and are starting to reap the repercussions of our bad actions. As adults, we can and should do better for our students. They are everyone's future.

Staffing is a huge issue and increasing the number of workdays will make it harder (across the state) to fill all education positions but especially teaching. One of the perks of entering the teaching field was the longer breaks. We work hard at what we do and desperately need a break to recharge and be ready to give quality education to our students. You cannot truly understand how draining teaching is until you've spent time in the profession yourself and it has only become more challenging with student access to technology and now AI. Teacher burn out is a real thing and will be increased if you extend the school year...yet again!

The real solution for ALL involved would be to REDUCE the calendar back to a more reasonable amount to make our profession appealing again, allow teachers the ability to give students the quality education they need and allow students to recharge so that they are mentally and physically prepared to work hard and learn.

Adding more days to an already long and over-extended calendar is NOT the solution!

**Kendra Hatcher, NBCT**  
**Biology/Physical Science**

**Deming High School**

1300 S. Iron Street  
Deming, NM 88030  
575-546-2678 ext. 3317

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**From:** [Alyx S.](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Urgent Appeal Against Imposing a 5-Day School Week in New Mexico  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:35:59 AM

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Dear Governor Grisham,

I am writing to you with profound frustration and deep concern regarding the potential implementation of a 5-day school week in New Mexico. It is imperative that you hear the resounding opposition to this ill-conceived proposal and understand the multitude of negative ramifications it would bring upon our educational system and the lives of our students.

Let me be unequivocally clear: Cloudcroft schools, which have consistently achieved top academic scores, do not need additional days to succeed. The current 4-day school week has proven effective, and any forced alteration would be an unwarranted disruption.

What about the underprivileged students who rely on their Monday paychecks to support their families? Are you willing to jeopardize their livelihoods by robbing them of this crucial income? Implementing a 5-day schedule would directly harm these students and their families, pushing them further into financial turmoil.

And have you considered the exorbitant financial burden that extending the school week would bring? The increased operating costs would strain already limited budgets, resulting in the potential depletion of vital educational resources and programs.

Teachers are already overworked and under-appreciated. Introducing a 5-day school week would undoubtedly lead to resignations and a mass exodus of experienced educators who cherish the flexibility and work-life balance that the current schedule offers.

Let's not overlook the harsh reality that students, given the choice, might opt for jobs over attending school or, worse, resort to homeschooling due to the rigid constraints of a 5-day schedule.

Moreover, attendance rates would plummet as students struggle to juggle crucial medical appointments and sports practices, typically scheduled on Mondays. This change would disrupt student engagement and limit their participation in essential extracurricular activities.

Governor, I implore you to reconsider this detrimental proposal. It's imperative to acknowledge the damaging consequences it would inflict on our education system, our students, and the entire community.

The preservation of the 4-day school week is vital for maintaining academic excellence, supporting underprivileged students, managing operational costs, ensuring teacher retention, and guaranteeing consistent student attendance and engagement.



I demand that you halt this reckless initiative and prioritize the well-being and success of our students and educators. Your immediate action to scrap this proposal is crucial to safeguarding the future of education in New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Alyx Smith, Cloudcroft High School

[alyx.smith626@gmail.com](mailto:alyx.smith626@gmail.com)

**From:** [Frank Quarrell](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The truth short story.  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:39:41 AM

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While I'm not an educator I'm just as important, I'm a custodian. I've been a custodian for 24 years at Bataan elementary in Deming NM, and I have seen why these kids are failing. First, Covid ruined the school learning process and that's a fact. These kids do not want to learn, they are disrespectful, hateful, and just don't care. Why, because these are kids of uneducated parents, they don't bring them to school to learn, they bring them because we feed them and take care of them just like a baby sitter. We are nothing but an expensive baby sitting institution period. Mr Romero, should not be talking, he was superintendent of deming schools an he did absolutely nothing for for this district. So I say to Mrs Grisham and Mr Romero, get off your behinds and come to the learning battlefield incognito and teach for a week or two before you start blaming the teachers. The parents are the ones to blame they are not doing their part. And making the school days longer is just prolonging the agony. We are encouraging young students in college not to become teachers it's simply not worth it.

**From:** [Shawna Carter](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Protest letter against changes to HB130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:47:21 AM

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11/30/2023

To whom it may concern:

I am an educator currently in my 15th contract as a high school teacher. I have worked in New Mexico schools with five day work weeks, and I currently work in the Cloudcroft Municipal Schools with a four day week. In my prior experience with a five day school week, there is little to no time outside of school hours to accommodate extracurricular activities that connect learning inside the classroom to meaningful experiences. Students compartmentalize their learning and test scores diminish due to lack of clear connections between what is learned inside the classroom and the real world.

In my current four day week, students are able to make important connections between learned material and the real world due to an extra day outside of school hours. They are able to participate in clubs, volunteer in the community, and gain practical experience that connects to the things they learn during school hours. The four day week is critical for these connections to be made and a five day week would decrease the opportunity for students to gain these essential skills.

Staff is a limited resource in a small school. Many of us, including myself, teach multiple courses and sponsor clubs/activities outside of regular school hours. Having an additional day to prepare for these courses and hold club meetings is necessary to the success of these activities. Without the four day school week, these clubs and courses would not be feasible, and many of them would dissolve due to a lack of participation and time.

Recently, I finished my Masters of Science in Educational Leadership. As part of my degree, I performed a study centered around the importance of STEM programs/CTE courses and extracurricular clubs. I found that these extracurricular activities and classes improve SAT scores and overall performance inside the classroom.

Our school is in the top tier of schools in the state. As my research demonstrated, one of the reasons we are performing well is directly related to the variety and availability of clubs CTE classes and activities. Removing these clubs and courses would be detrimental to the success of our school and students.

In Cloudcroft, our school culture is deeply rooted in our community. Many of our students live in poverty and utilize the longer weekend to earn money. Their paychecks help pay

family expenses and are essential to the survival of the family unit. Without this extra pay, many families will not be able to make ends meet. As a result, the four day week has become an essential part of our community's culture and economy. An increase in required school days would also create unnecessary stress on students and families.

Since we are a small village, there is limited availability of space to hold community meetings and gatherings. Many of our local community members utilize our facilities during the longer weekend to hold events. By requiring a five day school week, our community will no longer be able to utilize our facilities, and our relationship with these important organizations will weaken.

My final arguments against the change in policy are personal. On paper, teachers seem paid well. However, I pay twice as much as an average New Mexican to have health insurance through the NMPSIA. I pay into a retirement plan that is not optional, and our recent increase in pay has bumped me into the next tax bracket. When all is said and done, I am receiving less than half of my contracted pay.

Since I commute each day, I use my own limited funds to maintain my vehicle, and Cloudcroft is one of the lowest paid districts in the state. Why would I continue to commute when all of the perks of a small school district are stripped away? I enjoy our smaller school and a four day week combined with a strong connection to the community were the primary reasons I came to this school district.

Additionally, the four day week allows me to make important appointments outside of school hours. Many facilities are not open on the weekends. Having a five day week would require me to take time off and away from my classroom. In my classroom, important instructional time would be lost, and due to a lack of substitute teachers, additional strain would be placed on my colleagues when they are asked to help cover classes. My positive relationship with my students and peers has been strengthened through my presence in the classroom and on campus. A five day week has the potential to strain these relationships through unnecessary stress associated with absences for appointments necessary to maintain my personal health.

As a parent of a student who attends the Cloudcroft Municipal Schools, I worry about my son. Previously, he attended a school with a five day week. His mental health, self esteem, and confidence were low. After switching to a five day week to a four day week, his mental health has improved along with his feeling of accomplishment and self worth. He utilizes his time outside of school to explore, make meaningful connections to his learning and expand his personal interests. A five day week would be a step backward for many students, like my son, who need time outside of school to reset and rest.

Please reconsider the mandatory five day school week. This policy change would be

detrimental to small schools like Cloudcroft. Our students and community are dependent on the four day week for our livelihood and the programs we have in place.

Sincerely,

--

Shawna Carter

CHS Math

CHS Systems Go

CHS BEST Robotics



**From:** [Oliver Montez-Pacheco](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 - Hourly school requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:51:59 AM

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Dear Decision Makers,

can you please not make weeks longer. We get the education we need. Fridays are a good day to catch up on work. We have homework on the weekends. We have longer school days than a lot of other schools. My family is excited on Thursday cause they know it's the last day of school. Im happy when it's thursday cause on Friday i get to see my family. 3 day weekends help us unwind after a long day of work. And go into Mondays with happiness and focus.

sincerely Oliver Montez Pachco 5th Grade

**From:** [Desiree Farkash](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](mailto:kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 - School hour requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:57:31 AM

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Dear Decision Makers

. Our class is pretty upset because we shouldn't have 5 days of school. I think all schools deserve 4 days. We work harder than we do for 5 days. Kids also deserve rights. Either way we still have homework that we have to do. People should also consider listening to kids just because we are young we still have rights. We should have a break so that we can rest after doing lots of school work. It is already a law that we have to go to school so at least give us a break too If adults have rights we do too imagine barely being able to hang out with family on friday we can if we don't have school .you guys know we have a family and you guys do too please actually consider this and listen to us we have a voice too it's sad that we even have homework If we already work hard enough! imagine I have jiu jitsu after school and I am exhausted enough already after school so having a three day weekend would actually make me feel better I believe our opinion and you should too please listen to me If your gonna add changes to my life .The saddest part is that workers feel the same way.

 [Screenshot 2023-11-30 9.39.40 AM.png](#)

even though we have a 4 day school weekend we still do as many hours and learn as much as other schools

Sincerely, Desiree 5th grade T,I,S,A.

**From:** [Lachlan Battle](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](mailto:kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 We Would Like To Keep Our No Friday Weeks.  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:57:47 AM

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*Dear Decision Makers We need our weeks to be 4 days so we have more days to study and to do homework and we also need all the rest we can get to learn during our weeks. We also take 2 small tests and 1 test a month so we need all the time to rest we can get. we also like these and studies have shown breaks are good for learning and interacting is actually a really good way teaching especially for kids with ADHD including me and weekends also can help with giving breaks which is actually proven to help and refresh kids and their minds which can let what they learned during the week to sink in and leave space for new things and it also can make the students happy and more optimistic and willing to learn making it easier to teach. And also as a note we would like to have say so for what goes on in our Schools, Education and our Lives. My parents and teachers Approve. --Tisa 5th grade Lachlan.*



**From:** [Mandy Ross](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Against changes to 6.10.5 NMAC purposed changes  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:59:08 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to submit feedback regarding the proposed rule change for 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements and Instructional Time Requirements. I am against all of the changes proposed in this rule. I do not agree with 6.10.5.7 C. The number of instructional days and the number of days in the week a school attends should be able to be left up to that district as long as they meet the required instructional hours. Our school community thrives by being able to tailor our calendar to meet the needs and values of our students and their families. The changes proposed in this rule will take that away. I also do not agree with adding incentives to the schools that decide to go beyond the 180 instructional days. Again, I am against the proposed rule change for 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Mandy Ross

--

Mandy Ross, RN  
School Nurse  
Cloudfcroft Municipal Schools  
575-601-4416 ext. 304

**From:** [Kaylee Montoya](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hb130 - School Day Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:00:50 AM

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Dear Decision Makers,

I believe we deserve to have 4 days at school. At school we learn alot and we also have homework and it stresses me out all day. On weekends I get to take a break. If we had 5 days I would stress out about doing my homework after school. I would go crazy in my head from all this work in one day. Four days is enough work for me. On Fridays I get to hang out with my family and not worry or stress about school. It's really hard to focus and I have AD-HD and it would be really hard to focus with another day, and we learn as much as any other school.

Sincerely,  
Kaylee Montoya  
5th grade student

**From:** [Quinn Campbell](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](mailto:kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 Hourly School Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:02:05 AM

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Dear Decision Makers,

We make wonderful use of our four day school week. We use the weekend, including Friday, to study and look over all our notes and school work. Even though we don't have a five day schedule doesn't mean we don't learn as much . We have weekend homework. We learn a lot. Plus we do alot and our school days are about eight hours long. I've learned so much since I've been here. This is an awesome school and it teaches kids so much in four days. We are glad to have four day because the teachers are good at planning lessons and we finish everything we start in the same week and we do a lot. And we do a lot of math and science and everything. And we meet the same hourly goals than any other school does. And if you want to make decisions for me then at least listen to me. My parents are divorced and I go with my dad every other weekend and if you made it a five day week,I won't be able to see my dad. So please listen to me . Don't do this . We have an amazing course of study and it truly teaches me alot .

Thank you for reading this

Sincerely Quinn K Campbell 5th grade TISA .

**From:** [Michael Angelo Sillas](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130-hourly school requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:02:55 AM

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Dear decision makers,

I go to a 4-day school. I love having Fridays free because I work on my homework and spend time with my family. And the 4 day week we have we still learn a lot .. And our three day weekend helps me catch up on sleep so i'm not tired on monday when we come back. We do as much school as other 5 day schools do. I go to Tisa. I'm in 5th grade and my name is Michaelangelo Sillas.

**From:** [Jill Mullins](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 Day School Week  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:03:19 AM

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Good morning,

I am writing this letter as a parent, teacher, and former student of 4 day school week. Elida Schools have been on a 4 day school week since the early 1990's and the change in student achievement, attendance, school morale, and rigor of academics has completely changed since being a student at Elida Schools. I attended Elida during a 5 day week, and finished out my junior high and high school career with a 4 day school week.

Elida Schools is known for strong academics, stellar athletics, and for having students involved and who excel in extracurricular activities such as FFA, 4-H, and Rodeo to just name a few. In order to excel in extracurricular activities, you must maintain a certain GPA to stay eligible for these activities. It is obvious looking at the achievements of our students Elida does not struggle with students maintaining their GPA in order to stay active in these activities.

4 day weeks provide parents like myself to have one day to attend dentist appointments, and other appointments without students missing out on instructional time. It also allows for sporting events to not interfere with time in the classroom. This is important for a single mother like myself. As a teacher, I am not constantly battling students missing time in class, and having to find time to help them catch up.

Many of our students use Friday to work and gain real world life skills. This is important as our rural community does not provide a wide range of job opportunities for students in higher grades. For many students this is extremely important, as they are gaining skills in the field they would like to go into after high school, working for money to pay for college, or in many situations helping their family out. This would not happen without the 4 day school week.

Our rural communities work hard to stay involved in our schools. Moving from a 4 day week to a 5 day week would put incredible financial stress on many of our families. Our economy is not supporting families as it is, much less adding another day of travel, child care, and school related expenses in.

As a teacher, the morale and work ethic of our students is top notch. There is zero evidence coming from 5 day school weeks, that lean towards higher achievement over 4 day

school weeks. Drop out rates are nonexistent, graduation rates are much less, and discipline issues that plague 5 day school weeks, are not seen in a 4 day school week.

The proposal of moving to a 180 day calendar may work for bigger districts, but it does not work for rural schools. Rural schools cannot be treated and ran like the bigger school districts in the state. Local control has proven 4 day school weeks are yielding highly efficient students, high achievements in sports, organizations, and groups, and keep highly qualified teachers. You simply do not see the massive amounts in 4 day week schools, like you do in bigger 5 day school week schools that have long term subs teaching core classes.

Let us have local control of our schools, we are here in the trenches and what is working and has worked for us has proven time and time again we do know what is best for our students, teachers, and community.

Thank you for your time,  
Jill Mullins

**From:** [Zia Oberczynski](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 - Hourly School Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:04:37 AM

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Dear Decision Makers,

We here at TISA want to keep are forebayour day weeks. Because we learn the same amount of things every other school does. We use are three day weekend to make sure we are catch up on work and rest so when I come back to school I'm well rested.If we had a five day week on friday I would be all tired. I also would not have time to ech up on my work.And we need time to hang out with are family because they will not be here forever.

Sincerely,zia 5th grade

**From:** [Aliyah Pete](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130-Hourly School Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:07:50 AM

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Dear decision makers,

We shouldn't have 5 days of school. 4 days already helps us with all our education and work. Plus, we need Fridays to complete our homework and other work. It also affects my life and probably many others too. I don't think it's fair, 3 days of our weekend is fine but I don't think 2 days is enough. I believe that you shouldn't make decisions in my life. 4 days is perfect, and we shouldn't change what feels best for us. So please listen to us.

Sincerely, Aliyah 5th grade student.



**From:** [Jason Turner](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback on 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:11:46 AM

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I write to respectfully request that you reconsider implementing rule 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements as a “one size fits all” rule for all schools across the state of New Mexico. As education professionals, I know that you understand how such “one size fits all” mandates from the top down do not always have the best individual outcome in a specific classroom or school for many parts of New Mexico. The purpose of local school boards is to set those standards that will allow their school to meet the state requirements in terms of performance and educational outcomes. This rule would circumvent the purpose of the school board and ability of the administration to best serve their students.

The Texico school district is widely known across the state as one of the best smaller school districts in New Mexico. As I am sure that you are aware, the school district is routinely recognized for its academic excellence at the state and national level including the “Blue Ribbon School” recognition. As a professor, I have had the privilege to teach many of their graduates in the college classroom. Without exception, I have always found their graduates to excel in college coursework and associated career development endeavors. They are well rounded students in terms of academic preparation, self-discipline, life skills, and maturity. Most Texico students are involved in extracurricular activities (sports, 4-H, FFA, FCCLA, etc.) that provide them the opportunity to become well-rounded students that can manage these pursuits while maintaining high academic standards in the classroom. The present four-day school week allows them to have many Fridays away from the classroom where they can participate in these important educational events that develop life skills and career skills that are not measured on standardized tests. Implementing a mandatory five-day school week would likely not change the participation in these extracurricular activities as the students, parents, teachers, administrators, and community all see the tremendous impact that they have on the personal growth of the students. However, it would certainly cause an increase in the number of absences from the classroom, and require hiring more substitute teachers, which could create more stress for the students and hinder participation as well as personal growth. The increase in the mandatory length of the school calendar would compound this impact on absences as many of these important extra-curricular activities occur outside of the present school day calendar.

In summary, I urge you to revise the proposed rule to allow local school districts that are meeting performance standards to continue using the policies and practices that allow them to achieve such success. It is the role of government to “look out for” the well-being of its citizens. Imposing mandates that run contrary to that role are often unsuccessful, and in the case of the Texico School district, it would have a severely detrimental impact on the future success of the school, its students, and the community.

Sincerely,

Jason Turner

Parent of two Texico Public School students

**From:** [Laryssa Rivera](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [kritina.ortiz@nmlegis.gov](mailto:kritina.ortiz@nmlegis.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130-Hourly School Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:12:12 AM

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Dear Decision Makers,

I hear that you are trying to extend our school days and I feel that the 4 day weekend work is fine because they are sitting there working all day long and most kids no longer get recess because you guys want kids to sit their at their desk all day long and kids have a hard time staying there sometimes even the kids that have ADHD. Because most schools and students only get one break a day through the school day and that is only lunch break. Having the 4 day they work hard and study a lot and not only that they have homework everyday and on the weekends where you are trying to add the extra day. The 3 day weekend is where kids can rest and recuperate for the next week of school. Kids should be able to spend time with their families. Thank you for letting us put in our opinion. Please keep the requirement hourly instead of daily.

Sincerely, Laryssa Rivera, EA

**From:** [Skyler Cross-Philipps](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](mailto:kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 - School Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:15:25 AM

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Dear Decision Makers,

My name is Skyler Cross-Philipps, I am a Student at TISA and it has been brought to my attention that the NMPED are thinking about changing our four day week into a five day week. I personally disagree with your opinion because we learn the same as the other schools that have five day weeks. We also come in much more well rested on Monday than if we had only a two day weekend. We also have more time to catch up on school work and that is really helpful. What you are probably thinking right about now is that I just want less work, but that isn't the case I love going to school but all I'm saying is that me, my fellow classmates, and my school really need a break after a whole week of challenging school work and I think that a three day weekend is just perfect for me. Please keep it hourly instead of daily

**From:** [Urijah Martinez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 - School Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:17:10 AM

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Dear Decision Makers,

Please listen to me. I believe we should keep our four day school weeks. We learn all the things we need in four days. We need a three day weekend. Kids need the time to study and finish homework on time. Also to spend time with our family we still meet all of our requirements just because we have only four day school weeks does not mean that we don't meet the hourly requirements to learning. I love school, it's fun and I love learning. I think it would overwhelm me and other students to have a five day school week. Matter a fact you guys shouldn't make decisions for us I think that is unfair to us and other schools. We have our rights to what we think is a good decision and a bad decision. Our student report cards are just as good as schools with five day school weeks.

Sincerely 5th grade Student Urijah Martinez.

**From:** [RENEE RUSS](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:30:15 AM

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## 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements

As the Superintendent of Clovis Municipal Schools, I am expressing opposition to the proposed changes for 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements. Firstly, the manner in which this change is being handled and the timing of the proposed hearing and potential amendments lead me to philosophically disagree with the "how" of this potential rule change. It is reminiscent of the controversial manner in which the rulemaking process was employed when the new Social Studies Standards were under consideration.

I also significantly question and struggle with the "why" behind the proposed changes. I believe there are so many other factors rather than additional time that can have a positive impact on student outcomes. Ironically, the decision-makers seem to hold no value for what educators could contribute to the conversation about how to improve student outcomes without simply just adding on more time. Educator insight, experience, and knowledge is a powerful resource yet to be tapped in finding our way forward in improving outcomes for New Mexico students.

We have only been beyond the restrictions imposed on education during COVID for about 18 months and it is evident by reviewing growth in school scores in NMVistas that we are shifting the trajectory in the right direction. There was so much to overcome - in large part because our state prevented our children from accessing meaningful in-person learning for so long and we drove teachers out of the profession...and yet, here we are, making a real comeback!

We need time, we need smaller class sizes, we need to continue the tremendous progress in bringing highly qualified individuals into the teaching profession, we need to bring real accountability to FAMILIES for student attendance, we need to continue considering the profile of a graduate and expanding pathways to keep kids engaged so they become college and career motivated and ready, and we need some consistency with administration of standardized assessment in order to really compare apples to apples over time.

I respectfully ask that you put a halt to making any changes to the current rule. Let's engage educators in finding new solutions and also give some of the great things already happening some time to work instead.

***Renee Russ  
Superintendent  
Clovis Municipal Schools  
575-769-4300***

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**From:** [Reisha Baker](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school weeks  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:31:09 AM

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I am in favor of keeping 4 day school weeks. See below for a list of reasons.

State law 22-2-8.1 only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT a minimum number of instructional days. • State law 22-8-23.14 specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks... Departmental regulations CANNOT prohibit something which is authorized by statute. • The HS Graduation Rate for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%. • The Student Achievement in Reading for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 79% reading proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 38%. • The Student Achievement in Math for NM schools on 4-day weeks consistently outpaces that of NM schools on 5-day weeks. Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%.

Thank you,  
Reisha Baker

**From:** [camila baeza](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:32:38 AM

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I am a Sophomore at Jal High School and I am against the HB130 that will change our four day week because it leaves time for kids to spend time with family, friends and outside interests. Older students can spend time engaging in resumé-building public service or paid work.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Tyler Elkins](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:33:14 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent and educator

Thanks,

Tylar Elkins  
**Texico High School English**  
***Proverbs 14:23***

**From:** [Annabelle Colonius](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](mailto:kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 - From a Teacher  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:35:36 AM

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To the PED decision makers,

I am a teacher in Taos at a 4 day school. I love my job and I love my kids and I really believe I am good at what I do. That being said, I am burnt out. I have 24 kids in one tiny room and I work so hard. I am over-worked and underpaid and the three day weekend is one of my strongest reasons for continuing to be an educator. I work Fridays. I grade and I lesson plan and it gives me the time to create personalized and quality curriculum for my students. They are learning more because it gives me the time and bandwidth to be a good educator.

We have high test scores and my students are making amazing progress every day. They are also, perhaps most importantly, happy. They like school and are engaged and motivated with their own learning. They are reaching their academic goals and meeting state standards. In fact, we are doing better academically than any other school in Taos. Every year I see more and more ADHD and I see the students get frustrated and discouraged as they're forced to stay still in a small space all day long. The solution to our state's problems isn't more time at our desks, it's better curriculum with alert and engaged students and teachers. Legislature has already increased our hourly requirements in an attempt to improve education. I think this response is lazy and out of touch with our youth's needs.

Sincerely,  
Annabelle Colonius, 5th Grade teacher

**From:** [Zoe Rankin-Villalobos](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](mailto:kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130-Let us keep our four day school week  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:35:56 AM

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Dear decision makers,

I am a student with a four day school week and I have something to say.

Kids don't have many rights so please listen to my ideas and arguments.

I work hard at school and I work so much that it gets hard to remember because my brain is packed with stuff. Do you what to make that worst? I learn enough in four days and I have family I need to spend time with. We also get a lot of homework so I already don't get a lot of family time. So please listen. If you keep our school days I still work just as much as everyone else.

Sincerely Zoe Rankin-Villalobos  
At TISA

**From:** [Jenn](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:43:19 AM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am greatly opposed to the proposed rule change to school calendar requirements of the NMPED to take away the choice to have a 4-day school week for our communities by requiring the 5-day school week for everyone in the state! The 4-day school week presents incentives to both the kids and staff. In many communities around New Mexico kids are needed back home for helping their families with farming or ranching activities. If they are required to go to school more days and longer in the school year, I believe you would see more issues with kids being at school regularly or on time and less student enrollment. When the students and their families have three days off rather than two, they can better prioritize their time to get things done outside of the school instruction hours and have more time to rest their minds for better academic excellence.

Lower operating budgets help the school and community provide the best possible education to our kids. The schools save money on food and bus service up to 20% with the shorter school schedule. With the shorter school week it allows for academic and extra curriculum opportunities to take place outside of the school instructional time rather than students having to miss important information. It also brings our kids more confidence and enjoyment in the educational process.

Having the 4-day school week is so beneficial for the families and communities to continue to thrive in New Mexico. Requiring more days when the hours of instruction are already being met is a gross overreach of your authority and should not be done at the state level. The choice should be left with the school district and the communities they represent to best find what works for educating their children! Please do not pass this proposed rule change! Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts and preferences.

Jennifer Williams

**From:** [Kami Nicolds](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:59:18 AM

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To whom it may concern...I am very concerned about the proposed calendar changes for my children's school in NM. They attend Reserve Schools in Reserve , NM and currently enjoy a 4 day school week. It is my understanding that the state is wanting to possibly change this back to a 5 day week and I feel that this would be a bad choice. First and foremost, I feel like this decision should be in the hands of local authority who know our community. Moreover I feel that we have a good system already in place with a quality education. The kids are happy with it and it gives them the time to also pursue the sports that are much needed as well for their growth and development in addition to their education. This allows them the possibility for both without compromising either. I also feel that those students that are at risk already of barely making it to school for the 4 days might not come back if we go back to a 5 day school week. This would be catastrophic. Let's keep the good things in place that we already have going in our favor. Let's think of the bigger picture for our children, please...thank you. Kami Nicolds  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Shonna Spitz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] proposed rule changes in 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 11:24:29 AM

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To Whom it may concern:

In my experience, when you try to make everything uniform and do not take into consideration the uniqueness in the stakeholders involved, it doesn't work. We are not a chain of big box stores. We are schools. We work with children, our future. They come to us from different backgrounds and have different needs. They are not all the same.

I have worked in large school districts and small and the experiences in each were very different. Each district put things in place for effective instruction and student success. Schools/Districts know the culture and needs of the population they serve the best. What may work for one district may not for another, so you should and must place trust in the school districts across the state to do what is best for the students and families they serve. One size fits all does not and will not ever work in schools.

There is a lack of research and there are no guarantees which increased instruction time will lead to better student performance. What you should look at is other factors such as consistent attendance, small classroom sizes, rigorous learning experiences, keeping highly qualified teachers employed in schools, and building relationships and strong school/community bonds to support student success. What are your plans to ensure these things are happening in schools?

We are a rural school in a farming/ranching community. We are located at least an hour from the nearest town and at least three hours from the nearest city. Our school calendar is unique to us. It meets the needs of our students, families and staff. Our calendar also attracts highly qualified teachers to our community and school. To take control away from our school means you undermine our ability to provide for the students and families of our community. Are you a part of our community? How can you even begin to understand what is best for our community or all the populations schools serve in the state?

My challenge to you is instead of implementing your 180-day band-aid, which you will later find it will not solve the problem and find ways to support schools instead of taking control away from them. How can you help schools enforce attendance? How can you help schools have smaller class sizes so educators can more easily meet the needs of all their students? Insist schools build in targeted intervention time in the daily schedule. We have a major teacher shortage. What are you doing to fill the voids in schools? It was reported in the news

there are not enough educators with Special Education qualifications. What can you do to entice individuals to pursue this field? How can you help support families in need? These are items you should focus on. These are items that will ensure student growth and success.

Taking control from ones who know best will not give you the results you want to see.

Yours in education,

Ms. Shonna Spitz  
Second Grade Teacher  
Fort Sumner Municipal Schools



**From:** TORI BLAIR  
**To:** Feedback, Rule, PED  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 11:48:46 AM

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Good morning,

I am writing to give feedback on Proposed Rule Change for 6.10.5 NMAC (School Calendar Requirements). It is my understanding the state is hoping to require more time in school for both students and staff. As a principal of an elementary school and a parent to a student in middle school, I have many thoughts regarding this requirement.

First, from a staffing perspective, when this rule change was discussed at a staff meeting, many staff members said they would immediately leave the profession. We are already short staffed and have long term subs in many positions, it is not in our best interest to drive more teachers out of the profession.

Second, as a parent, I know that it is important for my child to be in school (0 absences this school year); however, it is also important for her to have a chance to take a break, reset, be given opportunities outside of school (she attends church, jiu jitsu, and swimming). With longer school years, the opportunities for a well rounded child that comes from community participation could decrease with the amount of time she is in school.

Third, simply requiring more days for staff or students does not automatically guarantee better instruction or increased achievement among students in our state. In a 2016 study, a psychologist Karrie Godwin measured how attentive students were during class. The study found that elementary students "spent over a quarter of the time distracted, unable to focus on the teacher or the current task." See resource <https://www.edutopia.org/article/research-tested-benefits-breaks/>. In addition, Grand Canyon University published information on the pros and cons of increasing the length of the school day or how many days students are in school and found the following, "Some studies have been done that show that longer instruction time can improve achievement, but those results depend on things like classroom environment, quality of instruction, student prior knowledge and ability. This means that a longer day does not necessarily correlate with higher achievement. Without other factors in place, a longer school day is most likely not increasing student learning. In fact, countries that are regularly high achieving such as Finland, Singapore and China have not taken the longer day approach. Instead they maximize learning within the traditional schedule." See resource <https://www.gcu.edu/blog/gcu-experience/pros-and-cons-longer-school-days>. Finally, "Even advocates of longer school days and years emphasize that extra time by itself often doesn't have an impact. What you do with the time matters." See resource <https://hechingerreport.org/proof-points-could-more-time-in-school-help-students-after-the-pandemic/>.

By focusing on quality instruction, student engagement, and fostering relationships, schools can have an impact on achievement. However, by simply mandating more time, there is NOT a direct correlation with increased achievement. The students that schools need to reach the most could also have attendance issues already. By mandating more time, students with attendance issues will likely still not be in school as they already miss school frequently.

In order to impact student achievement positively, the state should look at a way to hold students and parents more accountable for behavior in the classroom and attendance. By

minimizing classroom interruptions and giving training on quality instruction and student engagement, we could have a better impact on the children in New Mexico.

My personal child has gone through 4 long term subs so far this school year in her core classes in 6th grade. By causing more teachers to leave the profession, we are opening ourselves up to needing more subs, and while subs work very hard and can provide good instruction, it is not the same as a certified teacher who completes a four year program in an educational college with student teaching experience. The lack of quality instruction and disruptions to instruction with misbehavior should be more of a concern and area of focus rather than simply adding days.

I appreciate the opportunity to express concern and present real life scenarios that are currently impacting the students in our state. I urge you to take teacher and educator feedback into consideration when discussing this proposed rule change.

Thank you,  
Tori Blair

Tori Blair  
Principal  
Mesa Elementary  
(575)769-4470  
[tori.blair@clovis-schools.org](mailto:tori.blair@clovis-schools.org)



"If you want to have happy, joyful, engaged students- YOU must be happy, joyful, engaged!" Kim Bearden

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**From:** [TJ Kennedy](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 day Proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 11:52:24 AM

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To the New Mexico Public Education Department,

It has come to my attention that there is a proposal of a 180 day school week that would take away my four day school week. This would not only be devastating for others as well as myself for I rodeo, work, and I am trying to start my own business which is impossible if we would have longer school weeks. Another thing to mention is the money it takes to travel to school a week. I already spend one-hundred dollars a week for diesel and other expenses. This would raise my spending up to one-hundred fifty dollars a week, and I am 15 years old and buy my own diesel and I would ultimately have to go online which is not an option for me. I need to go to school, and be present. This proposal would make me have to choose between my education and how to get to school.

Sincerely,  
TJ Kennedy  
Elida High School

**From:** [Lexi Thomas](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Day Proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 11:54:27 AM

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To: New Mexico Public Education Department,

It reached my concern of a proposal of reaching 180 school days linking toward school on Fridays. When performing as a student it puts not only stress upon the situation yet complication toward those who attend extra curricular activities, expenses and mental health associated problems. Achievements accomplished from previous students both academically and real world succession shows beyond doubt there is no added learning achievement when adding extra days to the calendar. Expenses families spend on gas traveling every day being added every Friday driving from school to home adds upon additional costs and makes it difficult when spending larger prices on gas mileage. Parents whose children come home on Fridays work in real life scenarios and realistic future deeds around the house or outside improve their awareness of the reality of day to day life. Teenagers who rely on short term jobs on weekdays will see a decrease in pay rate when a lack of work attendance occurs due to extra school days.

Sincerely, Lexi Thomas

**From:** [Calliegh Mochel](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Day Proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 11:59:13 AM

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Good morning.

To the New Mexico Public Education Department,

I go to school at Elida Munciple Schools in Elida, New Mexico.

I am a sophomore and I go to school four days a week. Why are four-day weeks efficient? School is hard and it is tiring. I take six classes, including a dual credit college class through Clovis Community College. I am also a five-sport athlete. Yet despite how busy I am, I maintain a high GPA of almost a 4.0, and just as a sophomore, I already have four different colleges offering me enrollment once I am a senior. My four-day week keeps me busy, yet I remain accountable.

I implore you to consider all of the consequences that come with a five-day school week. I live in Portales. Elida is twenty-seven miles from Portales. To fill up my gas tank my parents pay \$3.15 or more a gallon, depending on the gas station. This is a weekly thing. Gas is not cheap, and I drive halfway to Elida and back, and then all the way to Elida and back, four days a week. Next consider the funding that we receive from the state, from you. We only get so much for food, now add twenty-eight days to the calendar and that is fifty six more meals that have to be paid for one student. Consider utilities, bussing, and other expenses this mandate will affect. These are only some of the problems that will arise if you implement this mandate.

I really do hope you can reconsider the 180-day school calendar mandate.

Sincerely,  
Calleigh Mochel  
Elida High School

**From:** [Debbie Wright](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day School week  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 11:59:38 AM

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As a substitute teacher I find the 4 day school wonderful because most teachers are able to schedule Dr. appointments, banks, etc. on Fridays. It is very hard to find substitutes in our district so making them work 5 days a week means more need for substitute teaching. I see HB130 as an overstepping of the NWPED. Please consider that rural schools need and don't make us give up our 4 day weeks.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Deborah Wright

**From:** [Tessa Shortt](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Day Proposal-  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 12:01:19 PM

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Good Morning!

To: New Mexico Public Education Department

It has come to my attention that the NMPED is wanting to implement our school calendar to reflect 180 days to our calendar, this would make our 4 day week school calendar go to a 5 day week.

As a student here's why I disagree with this and why this doesn't work for us. Having a four day week provides that fifth day for important things like work outside of school. A lot of us work on the weekend to save up money for college and that extra day also provides time to work with family and focus on other things as well. Helping at home is a big need and the extra day severely helps. A lot of our students and people in general do a lot of shows and rodeos; with a five day week that leaves less time for things like showing and rodeos. With a four day week we get more time to focus on our mental health and physical self. In addition, gas money and all costs in general are increasingly going to go up. With gas going up that means less people showing up for school, more drop outs, less people showing up to support us for games and lots of people wanting to go online. If we had a five day calendar I would have to consider online because of the added expenses an extra day would impose on me and my family.

Sincerely,  
Tessa Shortt

**From:** [Cason Norman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 day proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 12:02:45 PM

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To the New Mexico Public Education Department,

It has come to my attention as a student there is a proposal for a 180 day school year. As a student of a small school program we have a 4 day week. A 5 day school week could very well mess up a lot for our school. I am a student athlete and lots of my time is spent in sports and the rest in school. Even with our 4 day school weeks I can get very stressed out with sports and free time. I believe if the school weeks were to be raised I would have to put many of the sports I love behind me. Raising the school week would affect a lot of things like financial prices, gas money, mental health, personal family time, jobs, child care, and many more things that go into a student's everyday life. One of my main concerns as a student is losing peers and friends. Our school almost has a 0% drop out rate and I believe that the percentage of that number would completely sky rocket if school became too much for other students and maybe even myself. Our 4 days are very important to us as a community.

Thank you,  
Cason Norman  
Elida Schools



**From:** [Debbie Wright](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day week HB130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 12:04:10 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Capitan school district in Capitan, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned educator,  
Debbie Wright

**From:** [Andrew Duran](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 day proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 12:04:52 PM

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To: New Mexico Public Education Department

As a student at Elida Municipal Schools, it has come to my attention that NMPED is trying to pass a 180 day school calendar for our schools, this would cause us to become a 5 day school week school. As a student I will tell you why I think four-day school weeks are more beneficial than five. With four-day weeks, we can have more rest. We can do our extra curricular's without worrying or being exhausted from coming home after school.

For those of us that have jobs we have this extra day to work to pay for gas. If we went to school for five days a week then that means more money for more gas. If we have that extra day, we will have to work later and harder to get more money because we don't have the extra day off. There are also no facts that show schools that go to school for five days a week have better student stats. To my knowledge, there is a zero percent dropout rate at our school. If you pass this mandate graduation rates will rise, so will student achievements and attendance rate.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Duran

**From:** [McKennon Stephenson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Day Proposal-  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 12:05:09 PM

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There Have been major moves in legislation. The New Mexico Public Education Department wishes to enact new laws to increase the amount of time students and teachers must spend at schools. The reason behind this change, a mystery. At the moment there is no evidence of why this will help. From the surface, it would appear as if all you had to do to bring the states average up is increase school time. But it's far too much of a complex problem to just "fix" it by enacting laws to increase the number of days we spend at school. I say at school, not learning, Why? Maybe Not every student is that invested in school and dedicates themselves to it. Why would they believe that is open to discussion but the real lesson here is that this new legislation won't help the problem.

I am a student from a rural school where things are very different from many public schools. In Elida, the school I participate in, we have less students to distract a teacher, we can learn more because there are less students per teachers. So, while 5 days might work for a bigger public school. There is no evidence to prove this. On average we have a higher GPA and grades compared to other schools. While this might be debatable, who's to say that public schools have more data to pull from? Why not just let different district have the right to make these decisions? In the end the local departments know what their schools are better than the state does. So why enact laws promising power over many districts that should have the right to make their own decisions? And isn't this against what we believe in as a democracy?

While I do believe that This is a potentially major issue for this state, there are many other ways to possibly overcome it. Removing power from local districts will only dilute the problem. A solution can't possibly work on all Districts and schools. I'm asking you as a student, and a citizen of New Mexico to reconsider this bill and possibly come up with a better solution.

Sincerely,  
McKennon L Stephenson

**From:** [McKennon Stephenson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Recall: 180 Day Proposal-  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 12:06:35 PM

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mckennon.stephenson@elidaschools.net would like to recall the message, "180 Day Proposal-".

**From:** [McKennon Stephenson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 12:10:11 PM

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To: Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov

Thu 11/30/2023 12:05 PM

There Have been major moves in legislation. The New Mexico Public Education Department wishes to enact new laws to increase the amount of time students and teachers must spend at schools. The reason behind this change, a mystery. At the moment there is no evidence of why this will help. From the surface, it would appear as if all you had to do to bring the states average up is increase school time. But it's far too much of a complex problem to just "fix" it by enacting laws to increase the number of days we spend at school. I say at school, not learning, Why? Maybe Not every student is that invested in school and dedicates themselves to it. Why would they believe that is open to discussion but the real lesson here is that this new legislation won't help the problem.

I am a student from a rural school where things are very different from many public schools. In Elida, the school I participate in, we have less students to distract a teacher, we can learn more because there are less students per teachers. So, while 5 days might work for a bigger public school. There is no evidence to prove this. On average we have a higher GPA and grades compared to other schools. While this might be debatable, who's to say that public schools have more data to pull from? Why not just let different district have the right to make these decisions? In the end the local departments know what their schools are better than the state does. So why enact laws promising power over many districts that should have the right to make their own decisions? And isn't this against what we believe in as a democracy?

While I do believe that This is a potentially major issue for this state, there are many other ways to possibly overcome it. Removing power from local districts will only dilute the problem. A solution can't possibly work on all Districts and schools. I'm asking you as a student, and a citizen of New Mexico to reconsider this bill and possibly come up with a better solution.

**From:** [Aurora Billington](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](mailto:kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130-Hourly School Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 12:17:04 PM

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Dear Decision Makers,

Do you remember being a kid? Do you remember how it feels to make friends? Do you remember how it feels to laugh and play and talk? Us kids need time to play and have fun! Everyone needs a break. How should we play and have fun when we sit there ALL DAY! How are we supposed to learn how to make friends with the little amount of breaks we have? We still learn just as much as everybody else! I have learned many things here at TISA, but unlike the 6 other schools I've been to, I've learned how to make friends. The teachers need breaks too! They know what it's like to be a kid, plus they do 10 times more work than us! Please do the Hourly requirement instead of the Daily requirement!

Sincerely Aurora 5th grade student

**From:** [Kandrice Chavez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 12:32:28 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am writing on behalf of Fort Sumner and Santa Rosa school districts in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen. It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education. Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report. Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults. Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched. Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Additionally, what a shame to think our state government would take an action that undermines the authority of the school districts. Too much government overreach has been incredibly detrimental to New Mexicans, with the highest impact falling on the shoulders of our students. If we truly prioritize education, we need to trust the districts to ensure our students are being served most appropriately according to OUR needs. Each district is to be held accountable by their communities, no need for rules that make it harder to do our best at meeting the needs for our rural communities. We are barely picking up traction from the disastrous disservice bestowed upon our students during COVID times. PLEASE do the right thing and focus on the tasks at hand that the citizens of New Mexico have elected you to do. The 4 day school week is not broken so we do not need the NMPED or our elected officials to “fix” it.

Sincerely,

Kandrice Chavez

A concerned parent

**From:** [Hattie Bilbrey](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Day Proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 12:35:16 PM

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To: New Mexico Public Education Department. It has come to my attention that there is a proposal for a 180 day school year and I would like to express my concern for this proposal as a student athlete who participates in many extra curricular activities and attains a GPA of 4.0. Many of these extra curricular activities include Fridays that I, and many of my peers would miss school days on Friday every week. This means that I would be missing instructions on school work and education throughout the day. Grades would drop on a high level because many students including myself will not have enough time to study, get school work done, and participate in the activities that we would like to.

Attendance has never been an issue in Elida Municipal Schools, and if Fridays become occupied, many students will miss those school days due to, rodeos, sporting events, FFA, dentist appointments, family matters, jobs, etc. As a student in a rural community, we gain life experience through many jobs and agricultural based jobs as well. I personally have a job on Fridays that I would have to quit if this proposal is passed.

By adding twenty eight days onto the calendar for a regular school year, parents, teachers, students, and school funding will overall struggle throughout the year financially by parents bringing their kids to school, electricity, food, and many other expenses needed to keep a school running properly throughout the year. Many of the students from my school, including me, live twenty to thirty miles away and must drive each morning and afternoon to get to and from school.

I hope this will cease to encourage the proposal for a 180 day school year for students' mental health, parents and the school's overall financial system, and the life experience that kids each day will not gain by the lack of out of school involvement.

Sincerely, Hattie Bilbrey



**From:** [Dylan Griffith](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 day proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 12:36:28 PM

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To the New Mexico Public Education Department,  
It has come to my attention that there has been a proposal that would add about 28 days to our school calendar. This would take away our four day weeks and would not work for me and other peers, adults, and our community. The reason these added days and taking away our 4 day week would not work for Elida is because the expenses of fuel, going to school everyday back and forth for four days is already expensive. Adding another day to the four day weeks will be very difficult for medical reasons and a lot of other personal things that happen on Friday such as doctor visits, dental appointments, and other events such as sports, funerals, and a day for mental rest. I do believe a small amount of mental health issues are caused by school and can be limited if we keep it at four day weeks and leave the school year as a 150 day year. I am concerned for the community because if the school year is extended to 180 days and 5 day weeks the dropout rate will increase by a great amount, and the student attendance rate will drop , in addition to that the kids effort will drop tremendously.

Thank you,  
Dylan G.  
Elida Schools

**From:** [Dawn Shores](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 12:42:56 PM

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I am currently employed at a school district on a four-day schedule. I oppose the change to require a five-day school week.

I live in Albuquerque and commute to Socorro. One of the original reasons I applied for a position with SCSD was the four day week. I love working for SCSD, but if we were required to move to a five day schedule, I do not think I could stay. It is a long commute and adding one additional day would be too much for me.

SCSD also offers a Friday program where our students are able to go on field trips, get tutoring and do other enrichment activities. These opportunities are important and offer more flexibility than if our students were required to attend an additional day with the required classroom instruction.

Please reconsider this proposal.

--

**Dawn Shores, LCSW**  
School Social Worker  
Sarracino Middle School  
575 838 2678  
[dshores@socorroschools.org](mailto:dshores@socorroschools.org)

**From:** [Hayden Rubio](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Day proposal  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 12:48:37 PM

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It has come to my attention that the nmped wants to change our school year to 180 days and take away four day school weeks. I feel if it is changed to from a four day school week it will cost a lot more money for gas because I have to drive 50 miles everyday back and forth for four days and it already cost a lot of money to do that and if for another 7 weeks to the school year would make it most costly then it already is. Also having only a three day weekend lets me do more and work over the weekend and gain real life experience.

**From:** [Mandy Ross](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Against changes to 6.10.5 NMAC purposed changes  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 12:53:13 PM

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Hello,

I need to correct the previous email. I sighted 6.10.5.7 C, however, this is mainly definitions. I mean to say that I disagree with 6.10.5.8 and the changes that have been made to this section specifically. Although I am against all changes proposed to 6.10.5.

Thank you,  
Mandy

On Thu, Nov 30, 2023 at 9:46 AM Mandy Ross <[mandy.ross@cmsbears.org](mailto:mandy.ross@cmsbears.org)> wrote:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to submit feedback regarding the proposed rule change for 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements and Instructional Time Requirements. I am against all of the changes proposed in this rule. I do not agree with 6.10.5.7 C. The number of instructional days and the number of days in the week a school attends should be able to be left up to that district as long as they meet the required instructional hours. Our school community thrives by being able to tailor our calendar to meet the needs and values of our students and their families. The changes proposed in this rule will take that away. I also do not agree with adding incentives to the schools that decide to go beyond the 180 instructional days. Again, I am against the proposed rule change for 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Mandy Ross

--

Mandy Ross, RN  
School Nurse  
Cloudcroft Municipal Schools  
575-601-4416 ext. 304

**From:** [Erica Gutierrez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](mailto:kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 - School requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 1:09:26 PM

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Dear Decision PED,

I believe that 4 days are good enough. We might not have the same amount of days but We learn as much as a school that has 5 days in 4 days. What I'm trying to say is that 5 or 4 days we're still learning the same thing. so pls let us keep our 4 days of school. We complete as many hours as all the other schools and our scores are actually better than theirs. our teachers have time to plan great lessons for us. I use Fridays to do my homework and study and spend time with my parents. I go to school on MONdays rested and ready to learn

Sincerely,  
Erica, 5th grade

**From:** [LETITIA TIRADO](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 1:12:15 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to voice my **strong opposition** to the proposed extension of the school year in New Mexico. As a middle school teacher in Clovis, I am already stretched thin trying to meet the demands of our current 183-staff day calendar. The majority of my students are English language learners (ELLs), many of whom are emerging English speakers. Providing quality instruction for these students requires extensive preparation and effort within our current schedule. Adding more instructional days will only exacerbate the intense pressure and stress that educators like myself face daily. What our students truly need is not a longer calendar, but rather increased access to crucial resources and support. Smaller class sizes would allow me to give each ELL student the individualized attention they deserve. More funding for textbooks, classroom materials, and technology upgrades would actually enhance day-to-day learning, especially for emerging English speakers. Greater access to mental health services, homeless assistance, and attendance support would help address some of the most significant barriers to academic success. Additionally, many of my ELL students struggle with chronic truancy issues, missing school days regularly. These students who are already at risk of underachievement will not benefit from an extended school year when attendance is their primary obstacle. Resources should be allocated to attendance support and outreach to get these students to school every day.

As an educator and a parent, I also rely on the summer break to reconnect with my own children and be the mother they deserve. The school year requires so much of my time and energy that summertime is precious for catching up on quality family time. Extending the school calendar imposes on that valued time with my family.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed calendar change, and instead explore avenues to reduce class sizes, upgrade materials, expand student access to essential services, provide bilingual resources, and support attendance outreach. Our ELL kids deserve a school environment focused on quality over quantity. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

If the state is going to spend that money, we really need all kinds of other things to make a difference for our struggling students, not just more time. Other things that would be helpful would instead include: -Improved dynamics to allow teachers to best reach underserved student populations such as students who are Native or students learning English during scheduled instructional time -Smaller class sizes to facilitate individualized attention and differentiated instructional strategies -Social support for teachers and students, such as everyday lunchtime and breaks during the day -Support for teachers to effectively use existing planning time to leverage high quality curriculum independently or in small, content-alike collaborative groups.

Thank you,

**Letitia Tirado**

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**From:** [WILLIAM SALAZAR](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Extending School Days  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 1:14:04 PM

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Greetings,

The proposal to add school days to the calendar came to me as a shock. I don't understand how a school could add days when they can't retain teachers and have to rely on long term subs who are not qualified teachers to get thru a year. More so I have a student on an IEP which has been not meet over the last eight years. Primarily due to no communication with in that department. She doesn't receive the services as stated in her IEP. The distractions in the class room along with all the drug use currently in schools just seems to be ignored. I pray as a state we can come together and fix the current problems that pertain to common sense without adding more to the already inadequate education that the children of NM receive.

William Salazar  
575-309-1865  
Clovis NM



**From:** [Michael Ortiz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 - School Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 1:15:58 PM

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Dear Decision Makers

Please keep school requirements hourly instead of daily. I go to a four day school. It is hard for me to stay in my seat and be focused all day long. I use my weekends to study and to rest and to be with my family. I come to school on Mondays ready to learn. We do just as much school as 5-day schools and our school tests better than other schools. Our scores are really high. We learn just as much and do just as well as 5 day schools if not even better.

Sincerely,

Michael Ortiz, 5th grade

**From:** [MELISSA WINN](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Concern  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 1:21:39 PM

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Dear Legislators,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed changes to the additional days being added to our school calendar. Additionally, I am apprehensive about the potential loss of local control, which could impact our ability to make decisions that best suit our community.

As the overseer of the Clovis Early College High School program, I am invested in the success of our students. Our students devote 100% of their academic day to the Clovis Community College Campus, engaging primarily in college-level courses. The primary objective of our program is to enable students to attain their associate degree while still in high school. I am proud to share that our students have demonstrated remarkable success by adhering to a college schedule with fewer days. In fact, this May, over 80% of our ECHS seniors are projected to achieve their associate degrees.

The success and progress achieved by our students within this unique educational structure underscore the importance of accommodating different academic schedules that align with their needs. Our local control allows us to tailor educational approaches that cater to the specific requirements and success stories of our community's students.

I sincerely urge you to consider the implications of altering the school calendar without accounting for the specialized needs of programs like ours. Granting autonomy to local school districts in making decisions that align with their students' best interests is crucial for sustaining this exceptional level of achievement.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Your thoughtful consideration in allowing local school districts to exercise flexibility in their decision-making processes is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Melissa Winn

Counselor

Clovis Early College High School

--

**Melissa Winn**

Counselor

CHS Early College High School

Clovis Community College, Room 463

575-769-4778

**From:** [Kat Cross](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](mailto:kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 1:26:12 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Hello!

I am writing to you to voice my concern about the rule change that would mandate all school districts in the state to adhere to a minimum of 180 student days per academic year, rather than to simply meet 1,140-hour requirements stated in the statute. The proposed changes would remove the ability for small schools to continue with the fulltime 4-day per week schedule.. HB130 is not good for our students and community. This would remove my daughter school's ability to offer free aftercare to our families.

Here are some facts about four-day school weeks. It helps attract and retain quality teachers, reduce overhead costs of building operation, maintenance, and food service. Twenty-five other states are practicing 4-day weeks. My daughter's school currently is a four day a week school that was recognized as a Spotlight school performing in the top 15% of the state for the last three years.

Compacting school into just four days a week leaves more time with family, friends and outside interests and it increases school attendance. TISA was one of the top schools with school attendance last year. We consistently have over 95% attendance. I am strongly opposed to this rule change and believe the 4 day week is important for my daughters educational development and mental health.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

*Have a beautiful and blessed day, Kat*

*Kat Cross, CTP*

*Creator of Possibilities*

C: 352.816.5330 F: 575.613.7167

Guest House Ocala Admissions:352.812.2780

Guest House Mainline: 855.483.7800

[kat@s2trauma.com](mailto:kat@s2trauma.com) [kcross@theguesthouseocala.com](mailto:kcross@theguesthouseocala.com)

[www.spirit2spirithealing.com](http://www.spirit2spirithealing.com) [www.theguesthouseocala.com](http://www.theguesthouseocala.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/Spirit2SpiritHealing>

<https://www.facebook.com/TheGuestHouseOcala>

"We are not put on this earth to see through one another, but to see one another through." Author: Unknown



**From:** [CHLOE PEREZ](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback CMS  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 1:28:23 PM

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### **6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements**

*Type of Rule Change: Repeal and Replace*

- Rule with proposed changes integrated [PDF](#) | [Word](#)
- Rule with proposed changes tracked [PDF](#) | [Word](#)
- [Public Comment](#) Updated 11/29/2023

I oppose this rule.

--

**Chloe Perez**

CHSFA

Introduction to Ag Science

575-769-4400 ext: 2853

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**From:** [Susie De La Torre](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [NEA Deming](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Calendar Rule Change  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 1:31:41 PM

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To whom it may concern,

Until districts address the high absenteeism of students, adding additional instructional days will not correct low achievement. Students cannot learn if they are not in class.

Romero states "It is time to break free from the status quo and demand excellence from everyone who works within the state's education system." Exactly! It needs to start at home and holding parents and students accountable, first!. Teachers are already giving 110% and we are exhausted!

I do believe that schools should have a Monday-Friday week with minimal half-days or early release days.

I felt that the voting criteria was too broad for just a Yes or No answer. Undecided choice is also not acceptable.

*Respectfully,*

*Susie De La Torre*

**In-School Suspension Teacher**  
**Infinite Campus Teacher Coach**

Room H104--Hofacket Wing  
Deming High School  
575.546.2678 ext 5104  
NEA-Deming Building AR  
**Educate. Advocate. Lead.**

*Teaching is not a lost art, but the regard for it is a lost tradition. ~Jacques Barzun*

*"I failed my way to success." – Thomas Edison*

To err is human - and to blame it on a computer is even more so. ~Robert Orben

***SAVING ONE DOG WILL NOT CHANGE THE WORLD,  
BUT SURELY FOR THAT ONE DOG, THE WORLD WILL CHANGE FOREVER.***  
~Karen Davison

*DO NOT FORWARD*

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**From:** [Blayne Bricker](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] To: New Mexico Public Education Department.  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 1:36:42 PM

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It has come to my attention that the NMPED is trying to make 180 day school year mandatory. This confused some people and made some angry at the small school of elida. We have had a four day week for all the time that I've been here. On friday we have a lot of extra activities to do. The extra activity that I do on a daily basis is feeding, watering and working with my cows. The reason I have cows is because I am a member of a 4 H club. I do livestock and it has taught me a lot of life lessons. This my message to the NMPED I hope this enlightened your point of view on 4 day weeks.

Blayne Bricker  
Elida municipal schools  
Elida High school

**From:** [Melissa Slone](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback rule 6.10.5  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 1:40:25 PM

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Implementing the changes to Rule 6.10.5, School Calendar Requirements is detrimental to local school districts, teachers, and students. It places children in the classroom for far too long each school year, greatly limiting their ability to interact with the world at large. It burdens districts financially that are all ready operating on shoe string budgets. As a classroom teacher, I can tell you that extending the school year will not improve the quality of education that kids get. The only thing that will improve the quality of education is increasing funding of schools. Actually staffing schools with employees to help keep teacher student ratio down, providing support staff so that planning and data can be done properly, providing money for paper and copiers, and other manipulatives and resources. So much of my day is spent copying papers , monitoring recess, prepping things. Extending the school year will not help with teachers being over burdened. Only proper funding will.

Local schools need to be able to maintain some control over their calendars and needs. Each community has their own diverse needs.

Thank you,

Melissa Slone



**From:** [AMELIA MCDONALD HERRMANN](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Change, PED Feedback  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 1:48:59 PM

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Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the potential expansion of the New Mexico school year. As a high school English teacher and a parent in the Clovis school district, my concerns will be different than other educators and parents. I see several potential problems with the proposed change including unnecessary time added, the elimination of four-day school weeks for certain districts, the NMPED potentially overstepping its authority, and the personal aspect.

First, where is the peer-reviewed data proving that more classroom time will improve educational results? As a teacher, more time in the classroom is not what these children need. They need more professional teachers in the classrooms rather than long-term substitutes who, as wonderful as they are, cannot provide a quality education. Why not focus on retaining the quality educators you have? They need more engaging instructional resources, more access to mental health counselors, and more of a reason to show up than just 'because the PED' said so. The apathy levels of students are already high, and adding more days to the school year will only increase their animosity toward school and make them even less inclined to want to attend. As a parent, this is most concerning to me since my 10-year-old and 8-year-old have both told me multiple times that they no longer enjoy school and, as such, are always trying to get out of going.

Second, certain districts have adopted and adapted to a four-day school week, which has benefited their community and student population. Adding more days to the calendar strips away the community's ability to choose what is best for its citizens. This leads to the third issue: the PED overstepping its authority. Forcing districts to modify their calendar and, in turn, forcing students and families to make adjustments to their work and social calendars infringes upon district autonomy. Add on that the language will be inserted into this rule and this language is not in the New Mexico Statute, so the PED would be attempting to exercise authority it does not have. Do you trust your districts to do their jobs?

Lastly, as an educator and a mother, I rely on the summer breaks to reconnect with my children and be the mother they deserve but do not get to be during the school year. Not being able to spend quality time with my own children factors into my mental health and well-being, both of which are important as well. Adding more days takes time away from my own children that we should be

spending together.

Please reconsider this proposed change and explore other avenues to benefit academic improvement such as upgrading to high-quality instructional materials, expanding student access to essential services, offering more support for our ELL population, and remedying attendance problems. All our students, my children included, deserve schools where quality matters more than quantity. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

Respectfully,

*Amelia McDonald-Herrmann, B.A.Ed.  
Sophomore English Teacher  
Clovis High School  
(575) 769-4350*

*"Fear is not a choice. What you do with it is." -- Captain Marvel*

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**From:** [SYLVIA BALTAZAR](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please read- We do not support extending school days in New Mexico  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 1:53:07 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am a New Mexico (NM) resident, born and raised since 1982. I attended the NM public schools all my life. I am grateful for my education and all those that made it possible. I recall my teachers and how much they poured into us; all the time and money they gave of themselves to make school fun and worthwhile. Through the years I have seen the same teachers now and you can tell that they are tired and worn and mostly due to all they put into their love of teaching. Teaching is one of the hardest jobs I know. Teachers give so much of themselves to help our children grow and learn. They are not only teachers, but they are mothers and fathers to the children that come through every year. They don't only teach children education out of a book, but they teach them manners, they teach them what love and kindness is, they teach them how to be responsible, they teach them what respect is, they teach social skills amongst so many other valuable life skills one needs to be successful. Teachers need all the breaks they are currently offered. This allows them time to spend with their own families/children and take care of personal business. Summers allows them time to unwind, reboot, and refresh for a new school year. I believe without this many would fail to succeed in the education field. We need hard working, positive teachers. If summers are taken away; I am afraid this would lead to less people wanting to teach and more mental health issues in our society. As a single parent, I know how hard it has been to raise 3 children on my own; so I can only imagine how taxing teaching can be when teachers are basically helping raise our children year in and year out. Please do not make any changes to our current school calendar. Please do not add more academic days or work days to the school schedules. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,  
Sylvia Baltazar, LCSW  
CHS Freshman Academy  
Phone: (575)769-4400 Ext. 2856



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**From:** [Tiffany Moore](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4day week  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 2:00:00 PM

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Me as a working parent prefer the 4 day week. I work my schedule around my child's. This has allowed me to make the majority of his appointments for the Friday there is no.school. with doing this it helps him not miss school days.

Thank you

Concerned parent

**From:** [Kali Athans](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Calendar changes  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 2:04:34 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am a member of the Clovis Municipal School (CMS) family with two children that are enrolled in the elementary schools, with two more to be enrolled the fall of 2024. These changes to the school calendar have no basis to stand on. They provide no evidence to suggest an elongated calendar will more efficiently engage students or improve test scores. New Mexico is ranked very low in education, as I'm sure you are aware. Who really believes this extended school time as opposed to adequate teaching supplies/ resources and student mentorship will fix issues these schools and teacher AND families are facing. Consider the families who need to coordinate school pick up/drop off that already have specific work arrangements or assistance in place. Consider the military families who have a difficult enough time as it is balancing being involved in school events and focusing on the mission. Elongating the school calendar removes essential family time and does not give teachers and administrative faculty members the break they deserve and have relied on for some time. Focus energies on improving the school system and compensating teachers more respectably rather than dictating more school days in which you do not have the right to do. I appreciate anyone who took the time to read this. I hope this influences the right minds.

V/R  
SSgt Athans, Kali E USAF

[Sent from Yahoo Mail - Master Your Inbox, Anywhere](#)

**From:** [Kourtney Anthony](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 student days  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 2:13:23 PM

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I do not agree with the 180 student day proposal for our new mexico students. What they currently have is already too much. Our children are so tired from the school days they have no energy for extra curricular activities, they don't have time to breathe. They come home they don't home work get ready for bed and do it all over again. They're children they need free time. They have short lunches and reduced time to play at recess now as well. My child does have time to breath I. The middle of her day and is forced to rush to eat in a 20 minutes time frame or miss her recess time because they are shared. Our town of clovis has 5 day weeks. Elementary used to have shorter Wednesdays which gave them extra time, and I honestly wish they had 4 day weeks instead because 2 days over the weekend isn't enough especially when you consider children who play sports. Between piles of homework, long days and short weekends out children NEED every single extra day off they have. If you care about childrens mental health and their success then you will leave them with the little they have for time off. And allow our neighboring towns to keep their 4 day weeks,those children are so very lucky to have.

**From:** [Harathi Pulla](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reg. Proposed Rule  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 2:14:50 PM

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Good Evening

Proposed rule is little hectic as our instructional time is 7 hrs.  
If they decrease instructional hours, then it is accepted.



**From:** [Della R Dunlap](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 2:22:28 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of Corona School District in Corona, New Mexico, in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18, 2023 if it is so chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, NM State Law 22-2-8.1, does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, NM State Lw 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currency existing State law creates a horrible precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than a 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in the 4-day week schools than 5-day week schools, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed “one of the worst in history”, removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take thier place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and to put it bluntly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

Della R. Dunlap

A concerned parent of a teacher/grandparent of Corona students

**From:** [Harathi Pulla](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reg. Four-day week  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 2:23:37 PM

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I prefer four-day week because as a teacher I get some time to take some trainings on Friday. It helps me in learning or filling gaps in my teaching.

Thanks & Regards  
Harathi Pulla

**From:** [Damon Waggoner](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 2:36:05 PM

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Our school has been on a 4 day week for about 40 years and we have done well in scoring and socially. Because of the extensive transportation times, the four day week has been a great thing for our community for the past few generations of kids. We give up an extra hour and a half or so a day and do not have to spend another day in busses, but instead getting great physical, social and emotional activity on the ski mountain for a large portion of our population for the ski season. In the non-ski season there are ample opportunities for hiking and mountain biking - our activities and lives have been built around being able to go to school longer for less days and then really get to grow and enjoy the wonderful place we live. I would ask that you consider what is best for the different populations rather than just making an overall decision without considering the people. I know that I had been planning to teach for a few more years after reaching my 25 years, but I won't consider it if we lose the freedom of getting to take advantage of the activities that surround us with the 4 day weeks. Please consider as you make decisions. Damon Waggoner

**From:** [Damon Waggoner](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 2:36:30 PM

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Our school has been on a 4 day week for about 40 years and we have done well in scoring and socially. Because of the extensive transportation times, the four day week has been a great thing for our community for the past few generations of kids. We give up an extra hour and a half or so a day and do not have to spend another day in busses, but instead getting great physical, social and emotional activity on the ski mountain for a large portion of our population for the ski season. In the non-ski season there are ample opportunities for hiking and mountain biking - our activities and lives have been built around being able to go to school longer for less days and then really get to grow and enjoy the wonderful place we live. I would ask that you consider what is best for the different populations rather than just making an overall decision without considering the people. I know that I had been planning to teach for a few more years after reaching my 25 years, but I won't consider it if we lose the freedom of getting to take advantage of the activities that surround us with the 4 day weeks. Please consider as you make decisions. Damon Waggoner

**From:** [Eric Helmstetler](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 rule  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 2:55:31 PM

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I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing because we have become aware of rule changes proposed by the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) which we feel would negatively impact our current four-day school week schedule. The proposed rule would require all school districts to meet a minimum of 180 student days per academic year, rather than to

simply meet the 1,140 instructional hour requirement that is set out in law.

Currently, Capitan Municipal Schools has a 155-day instructional calendar. It serves our community well as it meets the 1,140-hour requirement and it preserves our District's already limited resources. Studies have shown that the longer weekend provided in a four-day school week gives students more rest and time for extracurricular activities, which can lead to better attendance and improved academic performance. When compared to student performance in a five-day instructional week, students who learn in a four-day per week environment perform comparably. Furthermore, a four-day week incentivizes staff to work at Capitan Municipal Schools. Lastly, a four-day week decreases operational costs such as daily bus routes and food services costs by 20%.

Thank you in considering what is best for the students in the small communities in New Mexico.

Eric Hemstetler

**From:** [Michaela Weathers](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] "school calendar requirements"  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 2:59:05 PM

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Cimarron Middle School is designated as a School of Excellence meaning CMS scored in the top 10% of schools in the state. Cimarron HS and ELEM are designated as Traditional which means they are on target with state standards. Eagle Nest ELEM and MS are also designated as Traditional. Moreno Valley HS is designated as a Spotlight school and in the top 25% of schools in the state. When comparing our test scores from the 2021-2022 to the 2022-2023 school years, our students demonstrated gains in almost every tested category. While our designations have not changed in all schools we are improving.

Cimarron Municipal School District currently operates on a 4-day school week as we have since 1972 as the first 4-Day school district in New Mexico. This decision was made for several reasons. First, attendance of both staff and students is essential. Absences directly impact student achievement. When staff or students have to go to a doctor or dentist appointment, it is not just a quick trip. This requires traveling to another town to seek care and includes significant driving time. Often, a full day is missed for a single appointment, particularly if a specialist is required. Currently, our staff and families try to schedule all appointments on Mondays so as not to miss school. If we move to a 5-day week, it is no longer possible to both attend school and take care of medical needs. Additionally, we limited substitute teacher availability for the entire district as well as limited bus drivers.

Approximately 90% of our middle and high school students are involved in either athletics or activities which require travel to competitions. Due to our location in the state, we often have to travel significant distances for games and tournaments. If we move to a 5 day week sporting events will almost always take place on a school day/night which affects attendance when we travel far distances for games.

Cimarron is a rural community. The three villages encompassed within our district have long standing cultural and employment traditions that would be greatly impacted by moving to a 5 day week. The 4-day school week is a way for families to still prioritize education but also have the full family available 3 days a week to keep their family traditions intact. Even some of our staff work a second job on Mondays and the weekend. Our staff prefer to work the 4-day week. This is one thing Cimarron School District has been able to capitalize on when recruiting staff to our very small, rural district. As the teacher shortage grows, it is more and more difficult to hire highly qualified teachers.

If PED requires schools to move to a 5-day week, many staff who are currently eligible to retire will take that option, creating an even bigger teacher shortage. In an informal poll of staff, those eligible to retire would definitely consider this option. Currently, our middle and high school students have 7 classes per day that are each an hour long. If we move to a calendar with 180 days, we will have to shorten the length of our day. Where do we cut that time? Do we eliminate an elective class for our middle and high school students? Or do we cut the class periods back to only 45 minutes each? In elementary, the students have set time length requirements for reading blocks, math blocks, literacy blocks, etc. What do we cut for them?

Finally, opening school for a fifth day each week costs money. When you consider all expenses required to operate a school including transportation, food service, staff, utilities, supplies, etc, it costs approximately \$52,682 per day for Cimarron School District to be open. In order to increase our calendar to 180 school days for students, we would have to add 31 instructional days for students. Staff contracts would have to increase by 37 days since professional work hours are no longer included in that minimum instructional time. If we do the math, it would cost Cimarron School District an additional \$1.6 million to implement this new PED rule. And, PED is NOT increasing our funding. Because these requirements are being implemented by rule and not by law, there is no appropriation tied to it. I truly do not know where we would cut our budget to find the \$1.6 million.

I believe that 5 day school weeks would be detrimental to our community and our kids .



**From:** [Margie Garcia](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] the proposed changes in the 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 2:59:16 PM

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**review the proposed changes in the 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements**

### **Background –**

The New Mexico Public Education Department is, through the rule making process, attempting to modify school calendar requirements set by the legislature this year. This action, in effect, subverts the legislative process and puts into effect rules that the legislature rejected through the passage of House Bill 130.

In the spring of 2023, House Bill 130 was passed, essentially setting the school calendar requirement at 1,140 hours per year.

Prior to being passed by the legislature, this bill would have required a minimum 180-day school year, much like the now proposed change from the NMPED, however it was modified by the legislature after Clovis Municipal Schools joined with school leaders around the state in objecting to the more stringent requirements.

The legislature ultimately sided with school districts through HB130, putting into law the more locally adaptive 1,140 hour requirement.

The legislature, through the heavily debated, well-documented struggle surrounding HB 130, sent a clear message that New Mexico school districts should retain flexibility and adaptive planning when it comes to school calendars – a stance the NMPED is now subverting through its regulatory powers.

This was not and continues to be in direct opposition to the intention of the legislature and the spirit of what it was establishing through the passage of HB 130.

### **Current Requirements –**

Under current statute, districts have the option of simply meeting a 1,140 hour requirement.

### **Current Clovis Municipal Schools schedule:**

Clovis Schools enjoys a calendar with 170 student days — a schedule that has served our community well.

### **Consequences of the change –**

The proposed changes would remove the ability for our neighboring small schools to continue with a full time four-day per week schedule (*for example Texico*) -- a model that has been in place for well over 40 years in many surrounding local districts.

What's more concerning is that the NMPED is attempting to enforce this rule by inserting language into the rule that does not currently exist in New Mexico Statute, and by doing so, will be exerting authority it does not have.

### **What Research shows regarding instructional time increases:**

The proposed change is not supported by research, which consistently shows that increased

instructional time alone does not guarantee improved student outcomes.

Rather, factors such as **regular attendance, student engagement, smaller class sizes, rigorous learning opportunities, highly qualified teachers, high quality learning materials, and robust family and community support** are proven contributors to academic success.

### **Why should this matter?**

It's a move that raises questions about the department's power and the potential infringement on our local autonomy.

Furthermore, the proposed amendment from NMPED not only challenges the efficacy of our current school calendar but also threatens the very essence of local control. Our community has thrived on the ability to tailor our school calendar to the unique needs and values of CMS.

The proposed mandate strips away this essential element of local control, undermining our ability to make decisions that best serve our students, parents, and educators. We need to stand united in preserving the autonomy that has allowed CMS to flourish, ensuring that decisions about our school calendar remain in the hands of those who know our community best — us.

Margarita Garcia

**From:** [CARLOS MOLINA](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 3:03:17 PM

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Greetings Policy and Legislative Affairs Division,

I am asking that you consider the impact that the School Calendar Requirements will have on every school in the state, especially the small schools 4 day week. My hope is that all factors are considered when rendering your decision. Increased instructional time does not guarantee student outcomes but it does guarantee more cost to every school and some are not prepared for this as it will be a complete change in their process going from 4 to 5 days. I do not work at a 4 day school but I could only imagine the impact this will have on every single employee and family that works at a 4 day school. Please weigh all the factors, do all the research, pump the brakes and think of the impact this will have on everyone and their families as well. I am confident you will do your due diligence and ensure you make the best decision for public education in New Mexico.

Thank you

--

Carlos Molina  
Clovis Municipal Schools  
Chief Procurement Officer  
575-769-4327 ext. 5815

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**From:** [Katie Lambden](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130/ 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 3:42:35 PM

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I am writing to express my concerns about proposed changes to the rules on school calendars. Per HB 130, the total number of instructional hours is set. However, that bill does not specify how those hours must be split up and how many instructional days must occur per year. My family is in Cloudcroft Municipal School, which is consistently one of the top performing schools in the state. We prefer the 4-day-a-week schedule at Cloudcroft Municipal School, which allows my children more time for an extracurricular activities, as well as family time.

Please refuse the proposed rule change, and allow HB130 to stand as written. Keep decisions on the dispersal of instructional hours in local hands!

Katherine Lambden

**From:** [Valorie Garcia](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 3:43:51 PM

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Earlier this month, PED released the school designations report from last school year. Cimarron Middle School is designated as a School of Excellence meaning CMS scored in the top 10% of schools in the state. Cimarron HS and ELEM are designated as Traditional which means they are on target with state standards. Eagle Nest ELEM and MS are also designated as Traditional. Moreno Valley HS is designated as a Spotlight school and in the top 25% of schools in the state. When comparing our test scores from the 2021-2022 to the 2022-2023 school years, our students demonstrated gains in almost every tested category. While our designations have not changed in all schools we are improving.

Cimarron Municipal School District currently operates on a 4-day school week as we have since 1972 as the first 4-Day school district in New Mexico. This decision was made for several reasons. First, attendance of both staff and students is essential. Absences directly impact student achievement. When staff or students have to go to a doctor or dentist appointment, it is not just a quick trip. This requires traveling to another town to seek care and includes significant driving time. Often, a full day is missed for a single appointment, particularly if a specialist is required. Currently, our staff and families try to schedule all appointments on Mondays so as not to miss school. If we move to a 5-day week, it is no longer possible to both attend school and take care of medical needs. Additionally, we limited substitute teacher availability for the entire district as well as limited bus drivers.

Approximately 90% of our middle and high school students are involved in either athletics or activities which require travel to competitions. Due to our location in the state, we often have to travel significant distances for games and tournaments. If we move to a 5 day week sporting events will almost always take place on a school day/night which affects attendance when we travel far distances for games.

Cimarron is a rural community. The three villages encompassed within our district have long standing cultural and employment traditions that would be greatly impacted by moving to a 5 day week. The 4-day school week is a way for families to still prioritize education but also have the full family available 3 days a week to keep their family traditions intact. Even some of our staff work a second job on Mondays and the weekend. Our staff prefer to work the 4-day week. This is one thing Cimarron School District has been able to capitalize on when recruiting staff to our very small, rural district. As the teacher shortage grows, it is more and more difficult to hire highly qualified teachers.

If PED requires schools to move to a 5-day week, many staff who are currently eligible to retire will take that option, creating an even bigger teacher shortage. In an informal poll of staff, those eligible to retire would definitely consider this option. Currently, our middle and high school students have 7 classes per day that are each an hour long. If we move to a calendar with 180 days, we will have to shorten the length of our day. Where do we cut that time? Do we eliminate an elective class for our middle and high school students? Or do we cut the class periods back to only 45 minutes each? In elementary, the students have set time length requirements for reading blocks, math blocks, literacy blocks, etc. What do we cut for them?

Finally, opening school for a fifth day each week costs money. When you consider all expenses required to operate a school including transportation, food service, staff, utilities, supplies, etc, it costs approximately \$52,682 per day for Cimarron School District to be open. In order to increase our calendar to 180 school days for students, we would have to add 31 instructional days for students. Staff contracts would have to increase by 37 days since professional work hours are no longer included in that minimum instructional time. If we do the math, it would cost Cimarron School District an additional \$1.6 million to implement this new PED rule. And, PED is NOT increasing our funding. Because these requirements are being implemented by rule and not by law, there is no appropriation tied to it. I truly do not know where we would cut our budget to find the \$1.6 million.

I would respectfully ask the Public Education Department not to penalize our small rural schools by imposing the updated rule for instructional time requirements. A one size fits all, cookie cutter approach would be unfair to our staff, students and community.

Respectfully,  
Valorie Garcia  
Parent, Village Council Member Elect, Community Member

**From:** [Kaisa Ireland](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 3:48:58 PM

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Good afternoon,

Regarding HB130

I am writing to you as a parent of two children in Mountainair Elementary School. We are on a 4-day school week and we are very happy with that system. Not only is it beneficial to our personal schedules, but also it makes a difference for what the school can accomplish. We struggle to keep teachers in rural communities such as Mountainair, and having a 4-day school week is often a draw to bring teachers to our area. I am a firm believer in art and music in all grades of education and I'd hate to see those programs discontinued because we simply do not have enough teachers to cover all disciplines. A 4-day school week is also beneficial in that we can schedule appointments on a Friday, meaning we do not disrupt the children's daily routine to pull them out for a dentist or doctor's appointment. Please do not change our school week to 5 days a week.

Thank you for your consideration,

Kaisa Jones

**From:** [Edward Harth](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 3:52:34 PM

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Good afternoon,

My name is Edward Harth. I am a special education teacher in a rural district in Northwestern NM. I would like to express my opinion about the proposed PED rule, which would require schools to be active 5 days a week. I have several concerns about the proposed rule:

-In the corporate world, many companies are moving to a four-day work week. Research shows that employees are able to achieve just as much in 4 days as they can in 5. I find it odd, given the research, that PED seeks to increase the amount of days, especially given that productivity will not increase. Source: <https://www.4dayweek.com/us-ireland-results>

-Increasing the amount of days also increases the amount of hours that staff is expected to work. Does the expectation go both ways; is there an expectation that staff will be appropriately compensated?

-Increasing the workload will make it more difficult to hire high-quality staff, like myself. Given that there is already a teacher shortage, a problem that is especially present in small/rural districts, I fear that hiring and retaining quality staff will become even more difficult than it is now. For example, my school is currently seeking an EA for a 1to1 position with a student on an IEP. This job opening has been open for over a year now, with little-to-no interested parties.

-Parents in our district use the off-weekday to travel to and from the city, in order to attend, for example, doctors' appointments. The nearest city to our area is about 2 1/2 hours away. In order to attend the given example, at least 6 hours are needed. If done on a school day, this is at least 3/4ths of the day.

Thank you for your time and response,  
Edward Harth



**From:** [ALISON BROWN](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regarding Rule 6.10.5 Proposed Change  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 3:58:47 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

The PED is proposing a rule change that would mandate all school districts in the state to adhere to a minimum of 180 student days per academic year.

Currently, Clovis Municipal Schools enjoys a calendar with 170 student days—a schedule that has served our community well. The proposed change is not supported by research, which consistently shows that increased instructional time alone doesn't guarantee improved student outcomes. Rather, factors such as regular attendance, student engagement, rigorous learning opportunities, highly qualified teachers, high quality learning materials, and robust family and community support are proven contributors to academic success.

It is more concerning that the NMPED is attempting to enforce this rule by inserting language into the rule that doesn't currently exist in New Mexico Statute, and by doing so, will be exerting authority they do not have. This is a move that raises questions about the department's power and the potential infringement on local autonomy.

Furthermore, the proposed amendment from NMPED not only challenges the efficacy of our current school calendar but also threatens the very essence of local control. Our Community has thrived on the ability to tailor our school calendar to the unique needs and values of CMS. The proposed mandate strips away this essential element of local control, undermining our ability to make decisions that best serve our students, parents, and educators. We need to preserve the autonomy that has allowed CMS to flourish, ensuring that decisions about our school calendar remain in the hands of those who know our community best—the local school district.

If the proposed rule does go into effect, NM will lose so many highly qualified veteran teachers and new educators alike. We know our students and what they need. Adding days to a calendar in hopes to gain better scores and understanding is not the way to close the learning gap. Going back to the basic fundamentals of teaching students in small classes, rigorous expectations, and support of local schools is what students need!

Thank you.



**"Without music, life would be a blank to me." Jane Austen**

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**From:** [HEATHER NIETO](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 4:04:12 PM

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I am asking that you consider the impact that the School Calendar Requirements will have on every school in the state, especially the small schools 4 day week. My hope is that all factors are considered when rendering your decision. Increased instructional time does not guarantee student outcomes but it does guarantee more cost to every school and some are not prepared for this as it will be a complete change in their process going from 4 to 5 days. I do not work at a 4 day school but I could only imagine the impact this will have on every single employee and family that works at a 4 day school. Please weigh all the factors, do all the research, pump the brakes and think of the impact this will have on everyone and their families as well. I am confident you will do your due diligence and ensure you make the best decision for public education in New Mexico.

*Thank you,*

*Heather Nieto  
Senior Director of Finance  
Clovis Municipal Schools  
[heather.nieto@clovis-schools.org](mailto:heather.nieto@clovis-schools.org)  
575-769-4327 ext. 5606 WK  
575-760-1996 cell*

**“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much”  
— Helen Keller**

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**From:** [Jerry Crump](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 proposed rules  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 4:10:56 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Re: HB130 mandates / 6.10.5 proposed rules

Here in Cloudcroft, we value our autonomy, our ability to make local decisions which best serve the interests of our district. Blanket propositions at the state level rarely if ever serve the best interests of all the diverse needs across a state.

NMPED's push to impose a 5-day school week requirement is not in accordance with NM state law. This is an exertion of authority NMPED does not possess and such overreach threatens local control of our schools, undermining Cloudcroft Municipal Schools' ability to make decisions that best serve our district.

Considering that Cloudcroft Municipal Schools consistently perform well above the state average, it seems more logical and beneficial that NMPED should call for changes to other, poor-performing districts based upon the relative success experienced in Cloudcroft.

Sincerely,

Jerry Crump  
40 Waterfall Dr.  
Cloudcroft, NM  
88317

**From:** [Joshlin Zerkle](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Teacher  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 4:14:19 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I live in AZ and I have been commuting to New Mexico for ten years. If we return to a five day work week it will affect the small districts and the retention of high quality teachers. Please reconsider your decision. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Zerkle

**From:** [Dorothy Stockstill](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Five Day School Calendar  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 4:30:37 PM

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Research has not proven that adding additional time to the school week or school year has had a positive impact on student achievement. Studies have also concluded that if the teaching methods that are currently being used in some classrooms are not working, then spending more time in the classroom setting will not change anything. Other countries are spending less time in the classroom setting while achieving higher academic success for their students. Lengthening the school week or extending the year does not guarantee successful outcomes for our students.

Cimarron Municipal School District currently operates on a 4-day school week as we have since 1972 as the first 4-Day school district in New Mexico. This decision was made for several reasons. First, attendance of both staff and students is essential. Absences directly impact student achievement. When staff or students have to go to a doctor or dentist appointment, it is not just a quick trip. This requires traveling to another town to seek care and includes significant driving time. Often, a full day is missed for a single appointment, particularly if a specialist is required. Currently, our staff and families try to schedule all appointments on Mondays so as not to miss school. If we move to a 5-day week, it is no longer possible to both attend school and take care of medical needs. Additionally, we limited substitute teacher availability for the entire district as well as limited bus drivers.

Approximately 90% of our middle and high school students are involved in either athletics or activities which require travel to competitions. Due to our location in the state, we often have to travel significant distances for games and tournaments. If we move to a 5 day week sporting events will almost always take place on a school day/night which affects attendance when we travel far distances for games.

Cimarron is a rural community. The three villages encompassed within our district have long standing cultural and employment traditions that would be greatly impacted by moving to a 5 day week. The 4-day school week is a way for families to still prioritize education but also have the full family available 3 days a week to keep their family traditions intact. Even some of our staff work a second job on Mondays and the weekend. Our staff prefer to work the 4-day week. This is one thing Cimarron School District has been able to capitalize on when recruiting staff to our very small, rural district. As the teacher shortage grows, it is more and more difficult to hire highly qualified teachers.

If PED requires schools to move to a 5-day week, those teachers who are currently eligible to retire will take that option, therefore creating an even bigger teacher shortage. In an informal poll of staff, those eligible to retire would definitely consider this option and I am one of those teachers. Currently, our middle and high school students have 7 classes per day that are each an hour long. If we move to a calendar with 180 days, we will have to shorten the length of our day. Where do we cut that time? Do we eliminate an elective class for our middle and high school students? Or do we cut the class periods back to only 45 minutes each? In elementary, the students have set time length requirements for reading blocks, math blocks, literacy blocks, etc. What do we cut for them?

Finally, opening school for a fifth day each week costs money. When you consider all expenses required to operate a school including transportation, food service, staff, utilities, supplies, etc, it costs approximately \$52,682 per day for Cimarron School District to be open. In order to increase our calendar to 180 school days for students, we would have to add 31 instructional days for students. Staff contracts would have to increase by 37 days since professional work hours are no longer included in that minimum instructional time. If we do the math, it would cost Cimarron School District an additional \$1.6 million to implement this new PED rule. And, PED is NOT increasing our funding. Because these requirements are being implemented by rule and not by law, there is no appropriation tied to it. I truly do not know where we would cut our budget to find the \$1.6 million.

**From:** [Laurie Ware](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 4:55:39 PM

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HB 130:

As a New Mexico educator and parent of two boys who grew up in a rural four day school week, I must say that it created and gave us more of a work/life balance that I still treasure today. My youngest just graduated from NMSU, is now taking continued courses through NMSU to plan for the MCAP exam and if successful, attend UNM Med. School. What I would like to recommend is that NMPED should think more about how those hours and days are spent while in the care and instruction of public education, its resources with intent, efficacy, and efficiency at all levels of administration and education.

To me, it's not the hours or days but the schedule and requirements that students need to graduate. I think some facets of the current structure are unrealistic. I've talked to NEA about this at length. PED needs to meet this moment and be leaders in preparation of our youth for their futures. Remember, the kindergartners of today, their jobs haven't even been created yet. *You are holding on to a primitive educational structure that no longer works.*

For example, as a high school English Language Arts teacher, I should be teaching from native American authors, new relevant novels and texts; I'd actually like to see a nonfiction class where students are critically reading and writing nonfiction - not a mandate that each child has to have an Honors ELA class in order to graduate. All of my classes are honors ELA; where there is a study and creativity around fiction and collaboration with an entity like Film Prize Jr. New Mexico; or a writing class that specifically teaches genres of writing; technical writing. I would also like to recommend where schools teach content in the morning with electives or real world applications of content in the afternoon, directed by student interest and job creation. I think these afternoon hours could be utilized as planning time for teachers. As it is right now, I am completing mandatory training at home, in my free time without overtime pay. Our inservice days at the beginning of the school year are jam packed without meaningful planning time or time in my class to prepare for the upcoming year, analyze EOY data from the previous year; no time to collaborate cross curriculum with other content teachers. Discuss, plan, and implement PD.

I don't think you should leave Fridays up to districts. Too often, it is inadequate.

No. Time.

So, we are burnt out and leaving the profession.

You need to be innovative.

You need to be leaders in our futures or allow forums of teacher leaders to lead this change in which you are seeking. It's not quantitative. It's qualitative. You, of all people, should know this.

Thank you,

*Laurie Ware*

*HS ELA teacher*

*Former Director of New Mexico Tech Children's Center*



*MAT in Reading Education  
EDL in PreK-12 Administration  
Cum Laude graduate WNMU  
Fulbright recipient 2018*

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**From:** [Michell Rodriguez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: School Community Advisory  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:03:31 PM

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Note: When submitting feedback, we kindly request that you specify which rule(s) you are submitting feedback for. This is especially helpful when the Department is accepting feedback for multiple proposed rules at the same time.

As a parent, I am so deeply disappointed with the way the state wants to control the school and the decisions for our kids. My children are overwhelmed with all the homework and the longer school day. In the community we live in, the kids are now refusing to go to school. Suicide is at an all-time high; this should not be the case. Our teachers are overwhelmed and giving more than their 100% for our kids. As a parent, I know what is best for my children's education. The state wants to remove that from me as a parent, and I will not stand for it! There were no parents or school board members invited into a discussion in all this wild decision? What our state is trying to do is illegal! I vote a big no! The state does not know our kids or what our community needs as our own district.

**From:** [Lori White](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:12:03 PM

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Dear PED,

I am writing you in regards to HB 130. I believe requiring additional school days for New Mexico students is very unnecessary and will do more harm than good.

Research shows that the quality of instruction is what makes successful students, not the quantity of it. Adding more days will only grow tiresome for students as well as teachers. I believe this will also lead to increased student absences and teacher burnout. There is already a teacher shortage in New Mexico. Why make it worse?

Please reconsider your goal of adding more days to school calendars.

Sincerely,

Lori White (mother of four very successful sons who attended a four day week school in NM)

**From:** [Amanda Belcher](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New rules and regulations  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:30:47 PM

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To whom it may concern :

I strongly oppose the proposed rules : 6.10.5 and 6.19.4

These rules infringe our local autonomy and removes our rights for local control of our little school district. This is a huge OVERSTEP from NMPED and is just another example of NM state government agencies trying to step in and take control

Away from its people. This began a long time ago and has critically become worse since Covid. We, the people, do not approve.

Sincerely

Amanda Belcher of Roosevelt County NM

Dora consolidated school district

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Romy Colonius](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:31:40 PM

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Dear NM Department of Education and Kristina Ortez,

I am writing to express my concern in regard to the state mandating a 180 day school year, having students, teachers and administrators attending school 5 days a week. and eliminating the option of a 1,140 hour requirement in a different configuration than a 5 day school week.

Choice is good. Choice is democratic. Choice is important.

Schools should have the option to create a calendar that meets the 1,140 hour requirement without the mandate of doing so in a 5 day a week manner. A four day a week schedule is very effective for some schools and families. Families and teachers should be able to choose schools based on calendar years as long as the educational institution meets the 1,140 hour requirement. Some will choose a 5 day a week option and others will prefer a 4 day a week option. Why force families and teachers into a single paradigm and homogenize the system.

Please allow for schools and families to have choices in their educational institutions ~ do not mandate a 5 day a week model but rather keep the mandate of a minimum 1,140 hour school year and let the schools create their calendars based on the hourly mandate.

Thank you,

Rosamond Colonius

PO Box 512

Arroyo Hondo, NM 87513

**From:** [AMANDA Ward](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New rules and regulations  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:32:22 PM

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To whom it may concern :

I strongly oppose the proposed rules : 6.10.5 and 6.19.4

These rules infringe our local autonomy and removes our rights for local control of our little school district. This is a huge OVERSTEP from NMPED and is just another example of NM state government agencies trying to step in and take control Away from its people. This began a long time ago and has critically become worse since Covid. We, the people, do not approve.

Sincerely

Dakota Belcher of Roosevelt County NM

Dora consolidated school district

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [TRAVIS BELCHER](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New proposed rules  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:33:27 PM

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To whom it may concern :

I strongly oppose the proposed rules : 6.10.5 and 6.19.4

These rules infringe our local autonomy and removes our rights for local control of our little school district. This is a huge OVERSTEP from NMPED and is just another example of NM state government agencies trying to step in and take control

Away from its people. This began a long time ago and has critically become worse since Covid. We, the people, do not approve.

Sincerely

Travis Belcher of Roosevelt County NM

Dora consolidated school district

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Kate Sanchez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC, school calendar requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:34:47 PM

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To whom it may concern:

As a parent of a student at Capitan Municipal Schools, I'm writing in regards to the proposed rule change, 6.10.5, School Calendar Requirements.

I would ask that this proposed rule would not go into effect, and would leave our students attending the 4-day school week as they do now. Although my daughter is only in Kindergarten this year, I can see so many advantages in a four-day school week; all of which help both students and staff, alike.

As a parent, I would ask this this proposed rule be revised for the schools in NM which currently work under a 4-day week. We do not support proposed rule change 6.10.5 on the School Calendar Requirements.

Sincerely,

Kate Sanchez



**From:** [Aneva Concha](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 6:16:19 PM

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Hello I'm writing you about the hb130 I am a mother of a student that attending kindergarten at TISA in Taos County this school schedule work with my work schedule so that I'm able to work during the mornings while my son in school and that my son love the after School and that I appreciate the four days and the after care program that TISA has to offer it makes it easier for me and my family to be more involved with my son and his school I'm able to spend more time with my son when he go to school 4 day aweek and since I'm off on Friday thru Sunday I have more time to spend time with my son and we have a Friday for our appointments and errands and more family time spent together on Friday with my son I really hope that TISA can keep the 4 day aweek schedule I know that TISA is a great school  
Thank you  
Aneva Concha

**From:** [Melanie Bushlow](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed rule change from 1140 hours to 180 calendar days for students  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 6:30:22 PM

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Hello my name is Melanie Bushlow and my son Ty goes to Capitan Elementary School . He has a 4 day week in school and we would like to keep it that way ! The 4 day week serves our community very well and my son loves it because he has a longer weekend and he doesn't get burned out and is actually excited about going to school . Everybody works so much better with this system and I don't think we need to change good things . They meet all the requirement with the 1140 hours and don't need to go 5 days a week . Furthermore you need to leave that up to the district to decide and the parents as long as the required hours are met . Thank you so much for your time .  
Sincerely Melanie Bushlow

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Elisa Bagwell](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Extending the school year  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 7:51:54 PM

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Public schools in New Mexico as well as America, have been broken for a long time. Leadership in New Mexico needs to consider going back to the way school was structured before they ruined it. Do research on the other (non communist) countries that are now ahead of us in academics. Read books about how children actually learn. It's not sitting at a desk for 7 hours a day, and it never has been. Children aren't adults or computers that can be programmed. Read the books written by Leonard Sax. Or countless other experts in the field and take their experiences into consideration.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone  
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [Sarah Geraci](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Title 6 Chapter 10 Part 5  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 7:59:51 PM

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Hello!

I read the versions of your HB 130 in detail. I can understand NM's desire to NOT be at the bottom of the nationwide school rankings. I can understand the desire to compensate for any lack of learning during Covid. I can understand the desire to have kids in an instructional setting more often. Yes, in theory it sounds like the logical move. But, as the saying goes....quality over quantity.

I can also see the desire to have the K-12 Plus program funding be an incentive for schools. Yes, it sounds great...as a blanket solution. But, please remember that school districts/communities are different. Please treat them as such.

Scroll through the 277+ pages of emails that contain comments from the public. One will quickly conclude that the general opinion is to NOT pass HB 130 (specifically pertaining to Rule 6.10.5), but to improve NM's education system by reinforcing the existing strengths of each district, and to equally strengthen any weak areas.

I am a mother of three, and my children have attended school in four different states. Each state's education approach has been different, and there will always be pros and cons.

I wouldn't say that our experience in NM schools has been that bad! Our children are still progressing in their learning. We have wonderful, communicative relationships with their teachers. But, as many have said in their public comments, any further funding of already-existing educational programs would/should be the first option!

To echo others, we absolutely do not want to push our teachers toward burnout. We want our kiddos to feel like explorers on a learning journey, rather than experiments of the Education system. We do not want to increase the schools' operation costs by 20%- which is what would happen if my schools' 4-day week turned into a 5-day week.

Please hear the pleading OF THE PEOPLE. We are a nation that was founded of the people, by the people, for the people. Let our voices be heard and weighed!

Thank you for your time!

Sarah

**From:** [Diana Antunez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:07:45 PM

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HB130. I think we our kids who's school is doin good academic wise needs to be able to keep their 4 day weekend. The schools who aren't where they need to be 5 day weekdays. Why should our kids be punished because of the other schools not meeting the academic criteria. Maybe they should instill that' academics comes before athletics or any other program.

**From:** [hilaria03@yahoo.com](mailto:hilaria03@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:11:12 PM

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To whom it may concern I vote against the new proposal for a longer school year and added days to the calender year. Thank you!

**From:** [Katherine Aragon](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:14:11 PM

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To the Secretary of PED,

Hi. I am an EA in SPED and also a parent of a pre school, 2nd grader, and a 6th grader. I strongly oppose having a 5-day school week. This would burn out our teachers and students who are used to having the 4-day a week schedule. I honestly don't believe it will improve our children's education development. I think the biggest problem in some of the schools is the way teachers teach our the material they teach. I feel they need a better way of educating and teaching our students but and another day is not the solution. We are lucky most of the kids even make the requirements of attendance as it is. I don't think we should complicate things by adding another day they are expected to attend school. As it is, I don't think that SPED teachers, regular teachers, or EA's should be changing diapers or pullups for students or that the students should even be attending a school facility when they are not potty trained or can't feed themselves but back to the subject of more days. It's hard enough for some of us to get through the 4-day week with the students we have to attend to throughout that time.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Aragon  
5756435939

**From:** [Janelle Valentine](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Parental Concerns  
**Date:** Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:05:07 PM

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Hello,

My name is Janelle Valentine. I am the parent of a student in the Quemado ISD, and a formerly licensed educator in the Espanola school district. I am writing to express my concern for the proposed statewide shift to a 5-day school week.

A 4-day school week allows for students, educators, and families to plan for vacations, medical appointments, and extra curricular activities outside of instructional hours. The switch to a 5-day school week will drastically cut instructional hours for many students, as well as limit students time for important community building activities.

Further, Quemado is an extremely rural area. Many students travel by bus up to 1 hour each way to school. Adding additional bus travel time to students week will not only further take time away from their time with families, but it is also a safety and liability concern, with financial implications.

As a former educator, who was dissatisfied with the education system in New Mexico which forced me from the profession as a whole, I fully intended on homeschooling my children. However, since moving to Quemado, and integrating in the community, as well as learning about the amazing school district and educators in the area who are immensely student focused, and who's students' success is incredibly impressive, especially in relation to other districts in NM, I decided to put my child in public school, and plan on enrolling my second child when he comes of age. However, if a mandatory 5 day week is imposed, I will be forced to reconsider that decision.

Regards,  
Janelle Valentine  
505-306-5449



**From:** [Jeremy Davis](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] "school calendar requirements"  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 5:48:20 AM

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Let's keep the four day school week... works great for our family of 5. Thanks!

Sincerely

The Davis's

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [kellie johnson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hb-130 Calendar Change  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 7:51:09 AM

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Hello members of the PED, as a parent with a student in The Cimarron Municipal Schools in the Colfax large rural area.

I am quite appalled at the fact our school district and others are forced to move to a 5 day school day. Since 1972 schools that were rated 'The Legacy of Excellence' were able to have 4-day school weeks.

Our students in the Cimarron School District from Eagle Nest Elementary/ Middle School, Angel Fire's Moreno Valley High, and Cimarron's Elementary, Middle and High school have proven the 4-day school days excelled in their curriculum and many graduated school with an Associate Degree in College. The students that do not that student chose to continue on other elective classes.

The cost to the School Districts in The Cimarron Schools is \$52,682 PER DAY, with the new rules of the PED, our children will not have the 7 classes per day and elective classes will no longer be available. The changes will increase the school district cost to \$1.6 million with no fund increase from the state.

Please don't take these opportunities of excelling away from our students.  
Thank you for your time,  
Kellie Johnson parent of student in Cimarron High School

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Cassandra Saffle](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 Amendment  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 8:31:49 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I am the President of Cloudcroft Municipal Schools PTO (Parent Teacher Organization). I also have 3 children of my own, ranging from 2nd grade to 8th grade and I have recently become aware of the proposed amendment to 6.10.5 NMAC, addressing the number of school days required for all of NM.

Currently Cloudcroft enjoys a 150 day school year, and has for several years. This change would require a 180 day school year which would affect our entire community greatly, moving us from a 4 day school week to a 5 day school week. Many parents have adjusted their lives, jobs, childcare around this school calendar year and changing that would require them to possibly change jobs and find new childcare solutions. In a community that already struggles to find jobs and childcare in the mountains and still be able to afford to live here, this would impact our students and families in a very negative way.

We also have more than proven that our students and teachers still meet all standards in education, in extra curricular activities and are continuing to grow and move forward and are preparing our students for the future.

This proposed amendment would take away our local control and undermine our ability to make decisions that best serve our district and community.

Please consider our position and how these changes would negatively impact the future of Cloudcroft students and families.

Thank you,  
Cassandra Saffle  
Cloudcroft PTO

**From:** [KAREN COX-MORALES](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [John](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Change - School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 8:56:25 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I have been an educator since 2000. I began my teaching career in Colorado and I have taught in 4 school districts since that time.

1. Cherry Creek School District, Englewood, Colorado - 4 years.
2. Adams Twelve Five Star Schools, Northglenn, Colorado - 9 years.
3. Weld Re-8 School District, Fort Lupton, Colorado - 6 years.
4. Clovis Municipal School District in Clovis, New Mexico - 4 years.

I strongly disagree with the proposed rule change regarding the school calendar requirements. NMPED is over-exerting its authority. Over the past 23 years I have witnessed first-hand the importance of each school district to have local control over decisions made that are in the best interest for each community.

It is vital for each community to maintain the authority to have local control in determining the school calendar for their school district. To strip local control would undermine the current school calendar and undermine each school board and superintendent's authority in making decisions for the people they serve.

Sincerely,

--

Karen Morales  
Elementary Art Teacher  
Clovis Municipal Schools  
[karen.cox@clovis-schools.org](mailto:karen.cox@clovis-schools.org)

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**From:** [Candy Gomez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] extending school days/hours  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 9:01:19 AM

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Personally I think this is not necessary. Currently our kids get multiple days off for various holidays and breaks. We could do less holiday/breaks. My elementary kids get 3 recesses throughout the day. This seems excessive, so I'm not sure why extending the time is even being discussed. I also know many small schools in our area attend 4 day school weeks and they have some of the best numbers academically and sports wise. There is no reason to extend and tire our kids out more. SO I am asking that we do not extend the school year/days. We need to work with what we have. Maybe less Fall/Spring Breaks/Holidays.

Thank you,

Candy

**From:** [Shauna Wade](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Change 4- Dday Week  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 9:21:17 AM

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To whom it may concern,

The 4 Day week was designed to help save money for school districts with rising energy costs. This also allows kids to get medical care that is required and needed. The State has changed the absence policy to where medical absences are no longer excused. Taking away the 4 day week will make kids have more absences. As long as each school is succeeding there is no reason to take away the 4 day week.

Sincerely,

Shauna Wade

**From:** [dora\\_fd@yucca.net](mailto:dora_fd@yucca.net)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposing Proposed Mandates 6.19.4 and 6.10.5  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 9:37:18 AM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

Having a four day week at school is a good thing in rural New Mexico. Having a day when you can take your kids to the doctor or dentist or other appointments without missing school is a good thing in rural New Mexico. Saving money for less transportation costs, less electricity and gas, is a good thing in rural New Mexico. We changed to a four day school week in Dora, NM when my kids (who are all in the 40'S) were first going to school which would have been in the 1980's. So for 40 years this school has managed to have a wonderful school by going to school only four days of the week. Yes, a little longer from 8:00 to 4:00, but it has been a very good thing. Please, talk to all the schools that have a 4 day week before you make any changes. I urge you to oppose these mandates. Thank you.

Becky Frazee Village of Dora, NM

**From:** [Arthur Coleman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 rule change  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 9:40:32 AM

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Dear NM PED,

Please DO NOT impose the rule change that would mandate all school districts in the state to adhere to a minimum of 180 student days per academic year, rather than to simply meet 1,140 hour requirements stated in the statute, which would remove the ability for small schools to continue with the fulltime 4-day per week schedule.

Four day school weeks help attract and retain quality teachers, reduce overhead costs of building operation, maintenance and food service. Twenty five other states are practicing 4 day weeks. Our school, Taos Integrated School of the Arts (TISA) currently is a four day a week school that was recognized as a Spotlight school performing in the top 15% of the state for the last three years.

Compacting school into just four days a week leaves more time with family, friends and outside interests and it increases school attendance. TISA was one of the top schools with school attendance last year. We consistently have over 95% attendance. Please keep the current rules in place that require us to simply meet 1,140 hour requirements stated in the statute.

Sincerely,

Arthur Coleman

3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, TISA



**From:** [Linda Wier](#)  
**To:** [Linda Wier](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School calendar requirements  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 9:54:58 AM  
**Importance:** High

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NM PED and elected officials,

As a parent and business owner in very rural New Mexico, I am very concerned with the proposed rule to add days to the school calendar. My children have attended school in the Cimarron School District since kindergarten and are now in 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Because we live in such a remote area, this school district was the first in New Mexico to go to a 4 day school week. Each school day is a little longer than your traditional 5 day school week. The 4 day school week makes much more sense in our rural communities than a 5 day school week for many reasons.

The cost of going to a 5 day school week and shorting the days does not give our children a better education. Our schools are ranked some of the highest amongst others in the state. Our children go onto college or into careers right out of high school and are ready and successful.

Some of our students travel on the bus to get to/from school for over an hour each way. Making children do this 5 days a week is stressful to the children and costly to the school district with no measurable benefits and maybe even detriments.

Our children will end up missing a day of school each time they need to go to the doctor, dentist and maybe more if it's a specialist in Albuquerque or other places. Our children go to school Tuesday-Friday each week. This leaves Mondays for those appointments out of town.

We switched from Mon-Thurs with Fridays off a few years back because of cost savings of having no school on Mondays. At that time our budget was stretched and the district was looking at any way we could save dollars and not jeopardize education.

Our district administrator has done an analysis of what it would cost our district to comply with the proposed school calendar requirements. It would cost our district \$1.6 million more and there is no money to go along with the proposed school calendar requirements.

If this proposed rule passes, we'll lose teachers to retirement who would otherwise stay on longer because the 4 day school week still leaves 3 days for appts, family life, etc. We already have a very hard time getting teachers to work in our district due to the remote area, lack of housing, etc. We may also lose children to home schooling because they can do their curriculum in 2 days a week and still participate in sports, etc. at the public schools.

This 5 day school week might make sense in some areas, but in rural communities, it just does not make sense unless the government is going to give school districts the money to implement the rules. Even if they give districts the money, there is no proof that schools with 5 day weeks have

better ratings than those with 4 day school weeks.

We relocated our family to the Cimarron School District from Laguna Hills, CA in 2011. Our deciding factors were quality of the schools, staff who really cared about kids and the community and the four day school week. We had very good and high ranked schools in our neighborhood our children could attend in Laguna Hills, CA but the child to teacher ratio and 5 days with short days were two key factors in our decision to leave California. One of the issues with a 5 day school week is that it's hard for parents to work and care for their families in remote areas. We have full day pre-k through 12<sup>th</sup> grade and the businesses work around the schedules of parents with school age kids with our 4 day school week. In our schools we still have recesses, vocational electives like welding, woodworking, ski industry, small engines, etc. We would have to give much of this up to go to a 5 day school week because our classes are longer each day than most suburban and urban schools. Our ratings and tests scores are higher than those schools on average too. At some point too many days in school, on a Chromebook is not productive. I am a huge supporter of education and my highest level of education is a masters degree in business & taxation. I also have coached skiing and manage a ski & snowboard team in Angel Fire which meets on Mondays in the winter. Unlike most mountain towns, our district doesn't have enough money to provide trips to the mountain in our valley because of budget constraints so we offer a program and ski passes for a low cost to kids in the area who want to participate. Our ski & snowboard program acts as an instructional program as well as a safe place for kids to be on Mondays in the winter. Being outside in fresh air and being physically active is something that our society does not put enough value on in my opinion. Many schools outside the US have four day school weeks and longer breaks for vacations and family time, etc. Even work places are going to 4 days/10 hr. day work weeks. People are more productive and happier in most cases.

I am hoping that the legislature takes some of these things into account in making a decision. Thank you for listening.

Linda Wier

Phone: [575-377-6200](tel:575-377-6200)

E-mail: [lfwier@gmail.com](mailto:lfwier@gmail.com)

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**From:** [Mandi Boykin](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: PED School Instructional Time Proposal  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 10:30:57 AM

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Good morning,

First of all, let me say that I am a Mother of a child in 1st grade, and I am an Educational/Librarian Assistant at his school in the Socorro School District.

I'd like to give my feedback as a Mother and as a school Employee.

As a Mother, the four day school week has benefited our Family greatly. We are able to make healthcare appointments, and increase family time, such as trips, work on home and school projects, and spend quality time together on Fridays without missing a school day.

I'd like to emphasize the healthcare appointments because it is nice to know that we have a designated day for Pediatrician and Dental visits without the worry of being absent or having to make up schoolwork.

Having those Friday's off also allows for us to complete homework or school projects together without rushing and I feel that we are able to connect and be more involved in my child's education.

Without those Fridays off, we would have to fit in homework and projects before or after school and or dinner, which interrupts nightly quality time with family, afterschool programs and athletics.

I do not feel that Friday is wasted by any means; it actually allows for more family time, keep up with healthcare, and be more involved in his education.

As a school Employee, I have witnessed first hand the benefits of a four day school week.

Friday's are not wasted by the employees; most of us still consider it a working day and utilize the time to plan and coordinate the upcoming week on our own time. We can research projects, reflect on the past week, and prep materials, all while still having a weekend with our families.

We are meeting the required daily and yearly hours during the four day week, and the students are receiving quality instruction and attention from Teachers and support staff because we have been able to utilize our Fridays wisely.

If we were to go back to having Fridays as a school day, we would then have to fit what we are able to accomplish in one whole day into five days consisting of a few hours, which would then cut into our family dinners and our childrens afterschool programs and athletics, leading into Saturday and possible Sunday.

We want our children and students to have the best possible version of us, as Parents or Teachers. Our students in the Socorro School District are excelling with a four day school week not only educationally, but in trade classes and athletics!

The QUALITY of family time and educational instruction far outweighs the QUANTITY of days required to be in the school building.

Thank you for your time, and I hope hearing from someone who is "on the ground" and is personally and professionally invested in this, allows those of you who are elected to make decisions for us take into account our first hand experience and success with four day school weeks.

Respectfully,  
M. Boykin

**From:** [Dollie O'Neill](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 10:53:02 AM

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Dear NM Dept of Education,

Our community is appalled of how this mandate of 180 days is being handled in our state. I represent our District as a School Board Member for Cimarron Municipal Schools.

1-Cimarron Municipal School District currently operates on a 4-day school week as we have since 1972 as the first 4-Day school district in New Mexico. This decision was made for several reasons. First, attendance of both staff and students is essential. Absences directly impact student achievement. When staff or students have to go to a doctor or dentist appointment, it is not just a quick trip. This requires traveling to another town to seek care and includes significant driving time. Often, a full day is missed for a single appointment, particularly if a specialist is required. Currently, our staff and families try to schedule all appointments on Mondays so as not to miss school. If we move to a 5-day week, it is no longer possible to both attend school and take care of medical needs. Additionally, we limited substitute teacher availability for the entire district as well as limited bus drivers.

2-Approximately 90% of our middle and high school students are involved in either athletics or activities which require travel to competitions. Due to our location in the state, we often have to travel significant distances for games and tournaments. If we move to a 5 day week sporting events will almost always take place on a school day/night which affects attendance when we travel far distances for games.

3-Cimarron is a rural community. The three villages encompassed within our district have long standing cultural and employment traditions that would be greatly impacted by moving to a 5 day week. The 4-day school week is a way for families to still prioritize education but also have the full family available 3 days a week to keep their family traditions intact. Even some of our staff work a second job on Mondays and the weekend. Our staff prefer to work the 4-day week. This is one thing Cimarron School District has been able to capitalize on when recruiting staff to our very small, rural district. As the teacher shortage grows, it is more and more difficult to hire highly qualified teachers.

4-If PED requires schools to move to a 5-day week, many staff who are currently eligible to retire will take that option, creating an even bigger teacher shortage. In an informal poll of staff, those eligible to retire would definitely consider this option.

5- Currently, our middle and high school students have 7 classes per day that are each an hour long. If we move to a calendar with 180 days, we will have to shorten the length of our day. Where do we cut that time? Do we eliminate an elective class for our middle and high school students? Or do we cut the class periods back to only 45 minutes each? In elementary, the students have set time length requirements for reading blocks, math blocks, literacy blocks, etc. What do we cut for them?

6-Finally, opening school for a fifth day each week costs money. When you consider all

expenses required to operate a school including transportation, food service, staff, utilities, supplies, etc, it costs approximately \$52,682 per day for Cimarron School District to be open. In order to increase our calendar to 180 school days for students, we would have to add 31 instructional days for students. Staff contracts would have to increase by 37 days since professional work hours are no longer included in that minimum instructional time. If we do the math, it would cost Cimarron School District an additional \$1.6 million to implement this new PED rule. And, PED is NOT increasing our funding. Because these requirements are being implemented by rule and not by law, there is no appropriation tied to it. I truly do not know where we would cut our budget to find the \$1.6 million.

7-Is the state of New Mexico prepared to provide this cost of \$1.6 million to enable for our School District to shift on this change?

8-Is the State of NM prepared to fund \$200-\$300 million to fund all the schools with this 180 day shift per year in perpetuity?

9-What thorough research has been done to even consider the huge impact this would have on all Districts in the State?

10-There are other ways to address concerns such as Teacher Shortages and chronic absentee issues of students, why is this 180 school mandate the main anchor to solve these issues?

11- What is the waiver option for 4 day school schedules? Where do we find this information?

Respectfully,

Dollie O'Neill

Parent of Cimarron School Students

**From:** [Bronzie Geertsen](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 11:25:18 AM

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Hello,

My son, Jacob Robnett, is in kindergarten at TISA. He switched schools on September 11, 2023. He has switched from a Taos Municipal School and is doing much better! He has quite a few behavioral issues and it was wonderful I could find a school so accepting of him! On Fridays he does appointments and therapy. Doing appointments after school is too stressful for him. On Fridays he mainly does appointments, unwinds, and plays with his little brother. The teachers at TISA are great, working with him, and are actually trying to help him be a better self! It would also be really hard for him on changing his schedule and already have nought issues trying to make it through a 4 day week so 5 days would be worse and probably less attendance. He loves the after school program because it helps him unwind and do things with his friends until I am able to pick him up. Which changing the schedule would not help the lunch and breakfast, plus they would have to cancel the after school program, and getting great teachers to help with kids that do have disabilities or behavioral issues will be harder. So for these reasons and many more I DO NOT think this change would be good for the school or students!

Bronzie Geertsen  
Parent of Jacob Robnett

**From:** [Marissa Hendriks](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](mailto:kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 12:02:06 PM  
**Attachments:** [NMPED letter.pdf](#)

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Dear New Mexico Public Education Department and Representative Ortez,

Please find attached a letter of concern regarding the proposed rule change (HB130) that would affect the ability of NM schools to provide a four-day school week and free after-care for working families.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

--

Marissa M. Hendriks, MLIS, MLA  
Director, Lunder Research Center  
Virginia Couse Leavitt Archivist Chair  
Lunder Research Center  
Couse-Sharp Historic Site  
138 Kit Carson Road  
Taos, New Mexico 87571  
[mhendriks@couse-sharp.org](mailto:mhendriks@couse-sharp.org)  
575-249-0573  
<http://couse-sharp.org>

Dear NMPED and Representative Ortez,

I am writing to you as an information professional and a concerned parent to address the proposed rule change to mandate school districts to adhere to a minimum of 180 academic days per year rather than the current 1,140 hour requirement (HBI 30). I urge you to consider the negative impact that this change will have on students, families, and overall academic performance in our students.

As an information professional with over 15 years of experience in the world of academic and special libraries and the current director of the recently opened Lunder Research Center in Taos, New Mexico, I understand the importance of early education, strong curricula, and consistent school attendance for our youth. As a parent of two elementary school-aged children in two different charter schools in the Taos area, I also understand the need for providing schools and families with flexibility to shape our children's school experiences in a way that benefits them both academically and socio-emotionally.

My daughter's charter school, Taos Integrated School for the Arts, adheres to a four-day school week and also generously provides free after-care for working parents. This schedule was a major contributing factor in my decision to enroll my daughter in this school in addition to its academic excellence and concentration on fostering a love for the arts. A four-day week with free after-care not only allows me to maintain my full-time job and work a full 8-hour day with minimal interruptions, but it also affords me the time to spend that extra weekday with my daughter, educating her in other ways outside the classroom. We take that time each week to visit the public library to check out books, visit museums or historic sites, hike in the beautiful natural places of our beloved New Mexico, or spend a cozy day at home doing arts and crafts projects.

My son, on the other hand, attends Roots and Wings Community School in Lama. This expeditionary style school is wonderful and accommodating for his unique special needs. His severe ADHD makes a traditional classroom setting with long hours required at a desk extremely challenging for him. He frequently has four-day school weeks with only occasionally needing to attend five days in a given week, but the difference in his ability to focus and regulate his emotions is noticeable during the weeks when he is required to spend five consecutive days in the classroom. Even with frequent movement breaks and scheduled recess, our children need more opportunities for freedom and unregulated learning and play, not fewer.

I think we can all agree that most of us as adults who work in an office setting are weary of being deskbound five days a week for eight hours a day. Twenty-five other states across the country have adopted four-day school weeks because of the clear benefits it provides. Studies have shown that longer work hours for adults actually lowers productivity levels and this also applies to students in the classroom. Let's afford our children the time they deserve to be children and offer schools the flexibility of providing a four-day school week. TISA, where my daughter attends school, has a 95% attendance rate and is listed as a Spotlight School that is in the top 15% in the state. Eliminating the option of a four-day school week by mandating a set number of school days would also mean that TISA could no longer provide aftercare for working families. The impact this would have on my family and my career would be echoed through households across the state and could jeopardize



the jobs of myself and other parents. The four-day school week is not only beneficial for parents and students, but also for teachers and other school staff, providing them with more time for self-care, curriculum planning, and other responsibilities.

I urge you then to consider the repercussions this rule would have across the state not only directly on our children, but also on the well-being of families and the economic implications that would be felt by parents who would lose this crucial flexibility in maintaining a healthy work-life balance. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marissa M. Hendriks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Marissa M. Hendriks, MLIS, MLA  
Director, Lunder Research Center  
Virginia Couse Leavitt Archivist Chair  
Lunder Research Center  
Couse-Sharp Historic Site  
138 Kit Carson Road  
Taos, NM 87571

**From:** [Charles Brown](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school hb130  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 12:34:57 PM

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To whom this may concern:

I have 3 children. 1 attends clovis schools the other two attend Floyd. I can tell you first hand that my son who attends clovis is always stressed, seems over looked because of teacher shortages, and has a lot of issues with the school being able to keep him on topic. My children who attend Floyd are always on top of their work, never over stressed or overworked, do well in all areas. I highly know this is because of their four week school weeks. They have time to complete what they need to and have time for home life and more. We drive forty five minutes twice a day because we know that these small schools and their smaller weeks are a better fit for our family. If we could we would have all three attend Floyd but because of our middle sons educational needs (ot, speech therapy) he attends clovis but if we could we would change that in a min. Please don't change what's working. I currently do five star accredited daycare and we do the four days with our prek just coming half days Fridays. Our parents and students love it.

Let's not break what's working like NM does well!!!!

Thanks

**\*CHARLES N BROWN, M.A.T.\***

**ADMINISTRATOR/OWNER**

**PROVIDER/FOCUS ADMIN/**

**Pre-K COORDINATOR/LEAD PREK TEACHER**

**Nathan's Home Childcare 5 star accredited and Pre-K program**

**\*575-749-3998\***

"Live well, learn plenty, laugh often, love much". -RWE

**\*IF RECEIVED IN ERROR PLEASE DELETE WITH ANY ATTACHMENTS! \***

**\*PLEASE EXCUSE ANY ERRORS IN WRITING.**

**From:** [Misty Mackey](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Protecting the 4-day school week  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 1:07:46 PM

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To whom it may concern,

As a mother of 2 students going to Quemado schools, we are huge supporters of the 4 day school week. We have been able to schedule appts on Fridays as to miss less school time. We have also been able to give our children an experience on the homestead on Fridays that they would never have the time for otherwise. Going to a 5 day school week would be devastating to most students and put more strain on our educators.

Thank you,  
Misty Chapman

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Debbie Kefeli](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] proposed amendment to 6.10.5 NMAC against  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 1:14:46 PM

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I am a parent to two Cloudcroft Students. I have recently become aware of the proposed amendment to 6.10.5NMAC addressing the number of school days required for all NM. Currently Cloudcroft enjoys a 150 day school year and has for many years. This change would negatively impact our whole community. My children's attendance in school has dramatically increased since we moved for Texas where we had a 5 day week. We plan all our doctors appointments on Mondays and never need to miss school. My son is also able to participate in multiple extracurricular activities including two hour practices for basketball and 2 hours for science olympiad on Mondays. He is still able to help with the family in taking care of our livestock and gathering fire wood. We live in the mountains and these things are necessary for our survival as we live far from markets and need to make our own food and warmth at times of power outages. There is also a huge shortage of unskilled labor in our area so my daughter is able to work weekends which helps the community and then have Mondays for homework. This is an economic, farming, and social issue of our small town that cannot and should not be regulated by people who don't live here and understand our communities needs and wants.

Furthermore our school is a spotlight school in New Mexico. It seems more palces should follow our lead with a 4 day week to get such great test scores. Teachers and students are more motivated to succeed when their basic needs of rest and family cooperation are met.

Do not take this away from our community or you will devastate the town emotionally, financially, and academically.

Sincerely

Debbie Kefeli  
mom of Hakan and Lara Kefeli  
Cloudcroft School students

**From:** [Maggie Elliott](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 1:40:55 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am a teacher in Eagle Nest, NM, in July of 22 I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I am not sure if you are familiar with Colfax County but treatment was not available in my area and I had to make trips to Santa Fe every 21 days for treatment for 18 months. Santa Fe is 2 hours and 18 minutes from my house to the doctor's office. I would not have been able to do this without Mondays off. I was able to have treatment and be sick on the weekends and miss less school than if we were at 5 days a week. I was also able to make appointments on Mondays so I was not absent as much. I will never forget my surgeon telling me that she did not think I was going to be able to work. I did. I only missed 22 days with chemo and a mastectomy. This was in part because of our school schedule. On top of this my science kids still had a passing rate of 70% on the NM-ASR.

This Monday, December 4, I have an eye doctor appointment. There is not an eye doctor in Colfax County any more so I have to drive to Pueblo, CO to see someone. I am able to go on my day off without the students in my class missing instruction time and my own 2 children not missing going to school because I have to leave before the bus on Monday to make my appointment. Pueblo is 2 and a half hours away.

I know the school will be hurting for money but please consider rural districts and families and the lack of health care in our area, many of the families use Mondays to go to appointments that are several hours away. If this is taken away attendance will suffer more than it already does.

I have many tasks in my school district, I teach 5 - 8 science, math intervention, I am the testing coordinator, WIDA coordinator, and the Track and Cross Country Coach. I do solid amazing lessons with all 5 of my classes daily, interactive notebooks, labs, Google Slide Shows, etc. I spend several hours of my own time making lessons so that my students are engaged and learning. If my district has to cut \$1.6 million what other jobs will I have to take on? What programs would be cut so we can fit into the mold that 5 day schools do? Did you know that sports keeps kids in school? Will we cut sports to make up for this shortfall? Cut art? Maybe Band? PE? Where will the school find the money? I guess teacher prep periods would get too so we can teach more classes since positions will be cut? Class sizes will not matter?

When was the last time the people that are making this decision were in the classroom? You can come sit with me for a few days to see how much we already do and I have been in education long enough to know that budget cuts mean more work but no pay. I already make less than if I was to return to Texas and teach, they have less responsibility at school than I do already.

--

Maggie Elliott  
Eagle Nest Middle School  
Middle School Science 5 - 8th Grade

Middle School Track and Cross Country Coach  
575-377-6991 ex. 420  
[melliott@cimarronschools.org](mailto:melliott@cimarronschools.org)

**From:** [Alfonso Cervantes](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 2:07:42 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am a Parent at Jal High school, and I am against the HB130 that will change our 4-day week back to 5-days because we get to plan long weekend vacation kids do not have to miss a day or two of school. I also plan doctors or dentist appointments on Fridays, so kids don't miss school. My kids look forward to have a 3 day weekend all the time.

Sincerely,  
Alfonso Cervantes  
Melissa Cervantes

**From:** [Kathy Theriot](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NO to HB 130  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 3:41:38 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am respectfully requesting that the PED refuse to enact a mandatory 5day school week. My children both attend a state sponsored charter school that adheres to a 4 day school week and it is successful. The benefits for my children include: free aftercare during my work hours, stimulating and enriching activities for the duration of their school day including during aftercare time, higher consistent attendance as we can plan for weekend vacations not allowed with a 5 day school week, and more quality time spent at home to rest and rejuvenate before returning to school.

The PED has access to research that proves the importance of parent-child relationships and its impact on academic outcomes. Why would you take that away from us by making my children miss a day of connection with us, their parents? The PED also has current data from our school that this model is successful for academic performance, teacher satisfaction, and student attendance. There is no need to change a successful model, therefore I request that you withdraw your support of this proposed legislation.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or to further this discussion.

Respectfully,

**Kathy Theriot**, LMSW, IMHE-II | (C) 575-613-8535 | [kathytheriot2020@gmail.com](mailto:kathytheriot2020@gmail.com)



**From:** [Jeff Weeks](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 3:48:22 PM

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Our kids that go to Colfax county Cimarron district have ski team on Mondays. These kids travel all over for these events as well. Monday practice is crucial

This bill would be devastating for our kids and families that have long been in the ski industry. I foresee losing enrollment for our schools if this bill passes.

*Jeff Weeks*

30 S Angel Fire Rd

Angel Fire, NM 87710

[jweeksre@gmail.com](mailto:jweeksre@gmail.com)

505.603.7311

**From:** [Rebecca Agnew](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 4:05:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [PED Comments.docx](#)

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Please see the attached comment letter in opposition of the proposed repeal and replace.

Thank you,

December 1, 2023

*Sent via email: [Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov)*

Policy and Legislative Affairs Division  
New Mexico Public Education Department  
300 Don Gaspar Ave., Room 121  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

RE: 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed rule change to 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements. These changes would disproportionately impact small schools in New Mexico.

In the proposed repeal and replace of 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements, New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) proposes extending the school year to 180 instructional days per school year.

*6.10.5.8 REQUIREMENTS:*

*C. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year:*

- (1) all public school calendars shall include at least 180 instructional days per school year, exclusive of teacher professional work hours;*
- (2) all public schools shall schedule more than fifty percent of school weeks as five-day school weeks; and*
- (3) all public schools shall be deemed to operate on five-day school weeks for the purposes of K-12 plus program funding calculations in Section 9 of this rule.*

Cliff Schools has been on a four-day week for approximately 20 years. Cliff Elementary is labeled a “School of Excellence”, ranking in the top 10% of schools statewide. Cliff High is a “Spotlight Campus”, ranking in the top 25% of schools according to the 2023 NM Vista ([nmvistas.org](http://nmvistas.org)).

Students spend the same amount of time in school as other students in New Mexico (1140+). These changes would extend the school year from the current 152 to 180 instructional days per school year at Cliff Schools.

Fridays are an incentive that have allowed for increased internship opportunities and increased flexibility for appointments and athletic events – decreasing absences and hours out of class for students. Moving to a 5-day week would decrease community and staff moral and reduce work-life balance. It would also decrease the opportunity for students to participate in internships and other extra-curricular activities.

Removing 6.10.5.7A “Condensed year calendar” and adding 6.10.5.8 C 1 through 3, NMPED is removing any option for a 4-Day week in New Mexico. This move targets small, rural schools

who are consistently meeting or exceeding the standards set by NMPED (More than 85% of the 4-day schools in NM exceed the standards set by the NMPED).

The proposed rule appears to directly contradict state statute, with the language passed in 2023's H.B. 130, which explicitly reads, *“Up to sixty instructional hours per school year for elementary grades and thirty instructional hours for middle and high school grades may be used for professional work hours, which may be embedded during the course of a normal school day.”* The proposed rule, in conflict with the statute, asserts that *“all public school calendars shall include at least 180 instructional days per school year, exclusive of teacher professional work hours.”*

Increasing the academic calendar has shown to be counterproductive, leading to teacher burnout and student fatigue. It exacerbates existing challenges rather than addressing them. NMPED needs to focus on quality rather than quantity.

What New Mexico students need is not a longer calendar, but increased access to crucial resources and support. Greater access to mental health services, homeless assistance, and attendance support would help address significant barriers to academic success.

If the extension is implemented, it is only fair that compensatory measures be put in place. Adequate additional sick leave and a commensurate salary raise are necessary to offset the increased demands on educators.

Concerns are echoed by the community, Cliff Schools, Silver Consolidated Schools, and legislators, who worry about the loss of local control and the effectiveness of these proposed changes. The Legislature approved an increase in classroom hours – not an increase in days. We believe that factors like student engagement, smaller class sizes, and quality on grade-level teaching and addressing statewide absenteeism are more crucial for success than simply increasing school days.

Sincerely,

[Rebecca Agnew](#)

Rebecca Agnew

**From:** [Santana M](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regarding HB130  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 4:17:15 PM

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Hello, my name is Santana Macias. I am writing in regards to HB130. I currently have 2 children enrolled at TISA in Taos, NM. My Daughter is in 2nd grade and my son started Kindergarten this year. I have never been more pleased by a school before.

I wanted to start by saying, I am ecstatic to say I found a school that my children feel safe at and are able to learn in many different forms. Mr. Greywolf has some amazing staff members and I feel safe leaving my children in their care. My Daughter and Son have grown in so many ways since they've attended TISA. I currently have 4 children, 2 of which are not in school yet. (But, looking forward to when they can join in!) The aftercare that is provided until 5 every day as well as having 4 day weeks is just amazing! It's so convenient and helps in so many ways. I don't have any family or anyone to help me while my husband works all day and night. I am the one running errands and doing the best I can with all my kids. So, when all the doctor appointments come and life gets busy, it's great to know I have a safe free space that my children can be at until 5.

Having an extra day off during the week gives me time to get ready for not only another busy week but, for time as a family. Life is so busy once the school and work week begin and I feel like in order to be at the best mind set for myself and my kids is getting that rest and time to just unwind during our days off. My children get to rest and we get to recover from our every day duties. I don't mind the longer day of dismissal at 3:40. Being able to get 4 days of school and 3 days off. I think that they extra day off is a huge help for not only us parents and kids. But, for our teachers and all the staff. They have families, homework and lessons to prepare and plan for. We need them to be at their best mind set and what better way than to get a little extra rest and family time! The school teaches us about mental health and I believe that the system they have going on right now is working! I would be really devastated if things had to change. I believe it's in everyone's best interest for us to continue to thrive with 4 day school weeks and free childcare until 5. Atleast, I know it's been a huge lifesaver for me as a struggling Mom.

Sincerely,  
Santana Macias  
575-779-9395

**From:** [Dr. Peter Thompson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] Rule Changes  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 5:34:04 PM

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5 day a week school vs other options . Texico is exemplary on 4/  
Dr Pete Thompson

> On Dec 1, 2023, at 3:28 PM, FeedBack, Rule, PED <[Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov](mailto:Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov)> wrote:

>

> Dr. Peter Thompson,

>

> Can you please specify which rule you are referring to?

>

> Thanks

>

> Emily Senteney| Business Operations Specialist  
> New Mexico Public Education Department  
> 300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501  
> C: (505) 412-5572 | Help Desk: (505) 827-5800  
> Check us out here: Policy and Legislative Affairs  
>  
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>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Dr. Peter Thompson <[peterdds@yucca.net](mailto:peterdds@yucca.net)>

> Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 9:54 AM

> To: FeedBack, Rule, PED <[Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov](mailto:Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov)>

> Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule Changes

>

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>

> Please reconsider the proposed rule changes. Texico schools is a perfect example of why you SHOULDN'T change the rules . We are always ranked very high in the state and have always succeeded in what we do. If anything... you should use them as a model to copy. Please think this through and prevent harsh effects on NM children and their families. What you are proposing is putting an undue strain on NM families and won't have any effect on improving schools ....

> Dr Pete Thompson

**From:** [Victoria Baker](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposal to 5 day school week feedback  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 5:52:09 PM

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Good afternoon,

I have a child that attends Quemado Elementary in Quemado, NM. As part of a very rural farming community, keeping the school week 4 days is imperative to the learning structure of many local families, including myself. Quemado School has a 98% graduation rating which is extremely high, and I believe this is due to the way the school is ran. Increasing a school week to 5 days would mean my daughter spends an extra 2 hours a week on the bus, and with no increase to classroom time, this seems incredibly unnecessary. Please do not consider making this change as most of the students at the school come from far locations. This would not increase classroom time, only increase the time students are traveling to school. Thank you,

Victoria Baker  
505-859-8114

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [katrina.vigil](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Specify: HB130  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 6:35:19 PM

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Hello, my name is Katrina Silva. My husband Juan Silva and I have a child at TISA. He is in 2nd grade this year.

We have to proudly say, that this school has made a big difference with him. We had previously wanted him in a

Public school in Taos County. We researched all the schools, and this one by far was what we felt our child

needed. Small, comfortable walking onto the school grounds. With the classrooms, a teacher and an Aide that made you feel welcome. As he started Kindergarten, he had some setbacks in learning, but they have

made us aware what is available to move forward. Not only is the staff all involved with their learning, they welcome others to join meetings and give their input.

This school been on a 4 day, week, has helped us in many ways. Having that extra day to spend with family,

and just eager to start the next week refreshed. The school has after school care that many parents feel comfortable leaving their children, as they work. The staff has an amazing rapport with the families. We think that

it would be an injustice for the change to take place, in a school that has showed many improvements in attendance, There is a variety of their teachings in the school, and students wanting to be there. My son always feels that he is making a difference in his learning. So many families have benefited from TISA on a 4-day week. We support the school staying on a 4 day week, 100 percent. Please take it into consideration

on the benefits that we have all gained from this school.

Thank you  
Katrina Silva  
Parent of 2nd Grade Student



**From:** [Cindy Waldron](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] mandated 5 day school week  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 6:38:36 PM

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I am a CTE nursing instructor and school nurse in a rural NM school district. We have a 4 day school week for many reasons, but in my opinion the most important reason is the health and welfare of our students

Many of our students travel at least an hour one way to/from school and they may also live many miles down a dirt road. So these students are on the bus by 6:15am and not home before 5:30pm. If the students are in sports, many are not home in the evening before 6:30pm. Teenagers and 12 hour days don't mix.

In the nursing profession, we often work 12 hour shifts, BUT typically only 3 days in a row and 4 days to pick up overtime. I know from experience after four twelve hour shifts I am exhausted.

Our students now are exhausted at the end of 4 days. Mandating five days for schools is simply NOT feasible for rural students!

Leave our 4 day weeks alone!

Cindy Waldron RN, MHA  
575-517-0760

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Darral Hemminger](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Title 6 Chapter 10 part 5  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 7:07:44 PM

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I am a parent and grand parent in eastern New Mexico. We have been in this school district for 40 years now. We are very happy with the way our schools in this area, and have enjoyed the 4 Day school week that we use. Our children can get enough education at school in the 4 days they go. To tell you the truth we could really get it done in two. We are definitely against changing the required school hours to required school days.

Thank you  
Darral Hemminger

**From:** [EJ](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 days  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 7:13:25 PM

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This is absolutely not a great change. More days of school will not make NM gain any ground!! We currently rank 51 out of 50!! Yes that's right Puerto Rico is higher than this state is. It is directly related to the people at the state level who think they know what is best for everyone. We do not need more time if anything we need fewer days with more hands on training. You do not have authority to just change something that is not in a statue. This is not Russia or North Korea where we just roll over and let you dictate to us what you think is right. I as a parent and citizen am firmly against any change to add days to the school year.

EJ Johnson  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Renata Rangel](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 7:19:47 PM

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I am a Freshman at Jal High School and I am against the HB130 that will change our four day week back to five days, because it gives the opportunity to plan appointments without them interfering with school. A four day week gives students and teachers enough time to rest. Both students and teachers get more time to spend with their families.

Sincerely,  
Renata Rangel

**From:** [Albert Hronich](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 8:58:04 PM

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This bill will hurt far more then [help.vote](#) NO and go back to the plan stage. adding days/hours is NOT the answer.

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**From:** [Barbie Goebel](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School calendar requirements  
**Date:** Friday, December 1, 2023 9:22:48 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to add my support to HB 130 which would require all school districts in New Mexico to be on a 5-day week schedule and to increase the mandatory minimum hours of instruction. Our students need more learning time that the extra day would provide. Yes, there are some hurdles to overcome but this is certainly “doable” as shown by the Des Moines, NM school district that never went to a 4-day week. The children of the Maxwell area would definitely benefit from this much needed and long overdue requirement.

Sincerely,  
Barbara Goebel  
Maxwell, NM

**From:** [dawndri chacon](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to HB130  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 1:33:06 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Loving school district, in Loving New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
A concerned parent.

**From:** [Frank Orphey](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [Jenifer.Jones@nmlegis.gov](mailto:Jenifer.Jones@nmlegis.gov); [crystal.diamond@nmlegis.gov](mailto:crystal.diamond@nmlegis.gov); [Romero, Andres G.](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Citizen concern - Proposed 5 day only school week - 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 6:19:33 AM

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To Whom It May Concern;

My name is Frank Orphey, and I was raised in Animas, NM. Although my own daughters attend school in AZ for custody and logistics reasons, I do currently have a niece and nephew in the Quemado district, as well as my younger sister being a long time teacher in that district. I am also a registered property owner in multiple counties and school districts in NM, as well as a state land lessor, a state taxpayer, and as a retail business owner, I am a collector of your state's gross receipts taxes.

I am almost 40, so I remember clearly when Animas was one of the first schools in the state to try out the 4 day school week-I was starting the 5th grade. This transition is one of the best decisions that school district ever made, both for the district and for its kids. That was THIRTY YEARS AGO. While other factors have impacted my hometown's economy negatively since then, I am confident that a 4 day school week is one of the reasons the small economy Animas has still exists to this day.

Many of us growing up in these rural areas (that do also pay taxes), already missed a lot of Monday or Friday school days before the implementation of the 4 day weeks, because a family had to take time during the work week to travel to bigger towns further away for government business (most of you at the state certainly don't open on Saturdays...), grocery shopping, doctors appointments, so on and so forth.

The 4 day school week was a huge help to our community. It enabled the many parents locally employed by our school to be more active in their own kids' sports and extracurricular activities, or to help with their families' agricultural and business needs.

With all due respect, I am unsure what gives someone at the Education Dept the idea that they can circumvent State Legislation, and the will of the people reflected in law put in place by elected representatives. All you are going to do is add an undue burden to these school districts and areas that are already struggling, due to poor management and decision making at multiple state levels. The current 4 day schedule these schools follow is beneficial to the state financially, both with regard to utility and maintenance expenses for the school, and for economic/tax related income for the state in these rural communities. Because the kids are at school for a longer day, their parents are more likely to be able to work a full work day on those school days locally.

The decision you are trying to make is going to upend these small communities in ways you cannot comprehend, far beyond the negative scholastic effects. And I say this in confidence, because I am sure that anyone who actually attended one of these small town schools would know this, and never even suggest these kind of changes.



I welcome and encourage any response you may have, even showing your justification for this change that could be debated. But I'm warning you, from a real on the ground perspective, this decision will put one of the final nails in the coffin of the strong rural pride that New Mexico was built on. Future generations of New Mexicans cannot continue to carry the many burdens that the state is, quite frankly, failing them on. Let alone any more burdens, such as this.

Please ensure this letter is received by a decision maker, and to that individual-please consider all of the negative ramifications this will have on so many good New Mexicans.

Sincerely;

Frank Orphey

**Frank Orphey (94K9) – 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 Top 100 Nationally Ranked Franchisee**

**Patriot Tools - an authorized Cornwell Quality Tools distributor**

Cell: [\(575\) 546-1902](tel:5755461902)

Email: [frankorphey@cornwellddealer.com](mailto:frankorphey@cornwellddealer.com)

**--- Thank you for buying USA, and supporting small business!!! ---**

**Frank Orphey (94K9) – 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022 Top 100 Nationally Ranked Franchisee**

**Patriot Tools - an authorized Cornwell Quality Tools distributor**

Cell: [\(575\) 546-1902](tel:5755461902)

Email: [frankorphey@cornwellddealer.com](mailto:frankorphey@cornwellddealer.com)

**--- Thank you for buying USA, and supporting small business!!! ---**

**From:** [Cecil Muncy](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: Removing the 4 day school week  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 6:53:09 AM

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On Sat, Dec 2, 2023 at 6:34 AM Cecil Muncy <[muncyck@gmail.com](mailto:muncyck@gmail.com)> wrote:

To: NM ped.

We are parents in the Socorro school district. Since our district has gone to a 4 day a week, our children have gained proficiency in reading and math. They're less exhausted and more focused. Our district has been able to hire more teachers and keep them. It is less financially burdensome for us to take them to school 4 days per week- particularly since we live rurally. Since implementing our 4 day school week per our school:

“For the first time in many years, every school in Socorro is above the threshold for mandated support and improvement by the state. Teachers, students, administration, and parents have worked so hard to get to this point! Additionally, San Antonio Elementary was designated as a New Mexico Spotlight School, which means they scored above the 75th percentile in the state's scoring. The scoring indicators include improvement in math and reading, proficiency in math and reading, student success indicators, and graduation rate. We are confident we will be adding more Spotlight schools to the list in the coming years! Way to go, Socorro!”

We as parents see a large positive difference in the quality of our children's education and their attitude toward school is overall better with a 4 day week. Please leave us our 4 day school week! It is working for us, it is working for our children and it is working for our teachers and staff!

Thank you!

Kristie Muncy

**From:** [Jessica Conklin](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 7:15:23 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Carrizozo school district, in Carrizozo, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

Jessica Hendricks (A concerned parent of a 3rd and 1st Graders who thrive and love the way their school year is already).

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jim Burleson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Teacher 4 day week  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 7:41:35 AM

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I will no longer teach if the Socorro School District is required to go to a 5 day school week. I'm a working film producer and the flexibility offered at a 4 day week is what prompted me to agree to teach at the socorro high school. And I will be sure to document the collapse of the rural school systems by the PED for a documentary should this over reaching requirement be put in place.

Jim Burleson  
Six Guns Production Services  
<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm2828408/>  
Producer

**From:** [Nita Fay Holliday](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 Day School - LEAVE IT ALONE  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 7:44:34 AM

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Dear Dr. Romero and NM PED.

I am a product of a 4 day school system. And a DAMN good one. I graduated from Quemado High School in 1997. Everyone in my class graduated and has gone on to do some amazing things. I personally served 20 years in the US Navy and retired as a Chief Petty Officer. I have mentored and trained Military Leaders who are still leading our Navy fighting forces. I hold three degrees, in Criminal Justice and Paralegal Studies. I am currently a Federal Contracted Investigator.

Let me tell you a little bit about coming from a 4 day school system. Our Teachers at Quemado were able to actually teach us things before we had to move one to another subject. We had classes that actually prepared us for the life after school. We had teachers who cared. We never disrespected a teacher and a teacher never disrespected a student. We were taught how to become respectful adults.

Now let me tell you about having a child attend NM Schools.

I was a parent of a child attending a five day school. She attended one of the best elementary schools in Albuquerque. SHE HATED IT. she just didn't know it until she was moved to Quemado and started going four days.

She was struggling in class, had anxiety and that lead to her being teased. While her teachers were good, they would go days or weeks without responding to an email or call about my child. And well COVID didn't help the situation at all. She got further behind and the testing I finally got approved for got delayed.

Oh, on a side note... a parents income SHOULD NOT be used to determine if their child should be tested for learning disabilities. And if they are at least tell the parents. I learned that they reason she was so delayed in getting her testing set up was because of my "high" income. Had I known that I would have sought out private testing way before COVID hit.

Now back to 4 day.... Since moving her to a 4 day school my Child's test scores went thru the roof, her anxiety went down, and what she is learning she was retaining more of. I have yet to contact one her teachers and not gotten a response that day.

There are 39 rural school districts in the state of NM. These schools have been doing this for decades. It is not something new. That 5th day. It doesn't mean that kids are not learning. They are working on their family ranch or farm. They are raising an animal as part of their FFA project. They are still getting an education OUTSIDE of the classroom. The 4 day school system in these rural communities is not broke and does not need to be fixed. PED says they care about ALL students, then they need to leave things as is.

I challenge Dr. Romero to visit ALL of these schools personally and meet the students and talk to the teachers, not just the Principal or Superintendent . Dr. Romero needs to personally visit, not send one of his staff members. He might learn something he didn't learn in the Las Cruces School System.

Thank you for your time.

**From:** [JOELLE CHAVEZ](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] House Bill 130  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 10:36:21 AM

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Good morning,

I write to you to voice my concerns with the proposed 180 school day rule. Our district currently enjoys a 170 student school day calendar which has served our community well. I do not believe that adding more days makes any significant academic improvement. Instead, I believe regular attendance, student engagement, smaller class sizes, rigorous learning opportunities, highly qualified teachers, high quality learning materials, and family and community support are the most significant indicators of academic success. Please kindly take these words into consideration before making this impactful decision. Thank you.

--



Joelle Chavez  
AABV 2nd Grade Teacher

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**From:** [Saydee Lindsey](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4-Day School Week must stay!  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 10:47:59 AM

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Children in rural areas spend hours on a bus for hours a day, often on icy, snowy, or rainy roads. Some in this district travel over 70 miles each way every day. This includes children as young as 3 and 5. Our schools rank higher than the state average and is one of the highest. There is no logical reason other than utter disregard of their wellbeing to require them to make this commute a fifth day every week.

Additionally, a four-day-week also attracts quality teachers, who would also be far less likely to be willing to make the commute and endure the expense of it an additional day every week.

Please use logic and reasoning and disregard even a suggestion of requiring 5-day school weeks.

Thank you,  
Saydee Lindsey

**From:** [Mike McCune](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 11:02:02 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Texico school district, in Texico, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

Mike McCune  
A concerned Parent and Texico Resident Member



**From:** [Anna Miller](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements- Advocating for 5 day week!  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 11:07:04 AM

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Hello,

I would like to voice my opinions about the HB 130 rule for instructional time. We recently received a letter from our daughters school with their concerns regarding the instructional rule. It is sad to say that they are against this rule, however, I would have to disagree with their opinions. I personally think that this rule should be implemented into all New Mexico school districts as it provides numerous benefits to parents.

Firstly, our school currently operates on a 4 day week, and we live in an area that does not have childcare options (Angel Fire), this prevents parents that have professional jobs to work on Mondays. For example, I currently hold a masters degree in counseling and work for a non-profit that is only open Monday-Friday. I have to take off Mondays to care for my child which leaves me working less than a 40 hour week, missing out on essential benefits and pay. Furthermore, many families that live in rural New Mexico are below poverty line, this means that they might not have finances and resources for food and other essential needs. Children being in school 5 days a week ensures that these students are provided an extra 2 meals that they might not receive if they do not attend school.

Another point to add is that many of the parents have to drive to nearby towns in order to work. For example, I have to travel to Taos in order to work. This already takes approximately 1.5 - 2 hrs out of my day to drive to my job. Because school typically starts around 8 am, this means that I am not at my job site until about 8:45-9, and have to leave by 3 in order to be home when my child gets out of school. This means that my work day is about 3 hours shorter than typical, and I have to take off Mondays. How is having a 4 day week fair to parents who are trying to work full time, especially single parents? It's not.

Our district argues against the 5 day rule due to the following concerns: operating funds for opening an extra day, teacher shortages, and arguing that having Mondays off allows for increased attendance and ability to attend to medical needs. To me, these arguments are not valid enough to justify only being open 4 days a week.

I understand many individuals are against this rule, however I ask you to please consider my thoughts advocating for the implementation of a 5 day week as there may be numerous benefits for students and their caregivers. I further encourage the state to secure more funding for these schools if they switch to a 5 day week in order to help cover the additional operational costs.

Sincerely,

A.M.

**From:** [Amy F](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule change for 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 11:16:14 AM

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We've been so grateful to have a high quality of public education in such a small, rural mountain town of Cloudcroft. I believe this has so much to do with maintaining instructional hours while decreasing to a 4 day school week.

If we take that away, there's no doubt that the recruitment and retainment of high quality teachers will decline.

It's also obvious to parents that the 4 day school week positively impacts our children's mental health and stress levels. And I'm positive the same goes for the teachers and staff.

Please reconsider, as extending the school days will only cause burnout and impact us negatively.

Amy Felix

Cloudcroft Elementary School Mom

**From:** [Julie Felix](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] rule change for 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 12:19:29 PM

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To Whom it may concern,

I am writing with concerns about rule change for 6.10.5 NMAC.

My understanding is that the rule is wanting to change all school districts to meet a 180 student days per academic year, rather than to simply meet the 1,140 instructional hour requirement that is set out in law.

My grandson attends Cloudcroft Elementary. The quality of his education is high compared to many school districts around the US. I feel that part of the reason for this is there is little wasted time during the school day. The academic instructional hour requirement is not changing so what will the teachers and students be doing during the extra days required.

Because my grandson only has four days of school each week, which meets the 1,140 instructional hour requirement, he gets to experience many other life events. These events are more beneficial than sitting in a classroom doing nothing just because the government has decided to add days to the school year.

While my children were young, I spend a few years homeschooling them and discovered just how much wasted time there really is in public schools. We are missing what is important to our children. What is important is what they are learning not how much time they are spending in class. Cloudcroft is doing a wonderful job in teaching these children without having them wasting so much time.

Also, it is important that local districts have control over the school system. Cloudcroft is rated one of the highest in New Mexico. I believe that is because administration, teachers, and parents are working together for the children not just following government protocol.

There are many parents that want to spend more time with their children and the four day week allows this. Having quality family time is a huge break down in this country. The children in Cloudcroft are some of the most polite and adjusted children I have been around. I believe this comes from a good family life not from sitting in class.

I hope that you will not pass rule change for 6.10.5 NMAC.

Sincerely,

Julie Felix

**From:** [Christine Trujillo](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; yomevoy5@comcast.net](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] proposed Rule NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 12:28:25 PM

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My name is Christine Trujillo, Bilingual Educator for the past 27 years, 24 in Colorado and 3 here in NM. Post pandemic, the issue of attendance was an issue as everyone tried getting to the "normal". We knew there would be challenges, including attendance. As both teachers, students, parents and communities had to adjust daily lives back to "normal". All stake holders doing their best moving forward.

I am beyond shocked at the proposed language on Rule NMAC 6.10.5... All of us in the trenches are truly working on educating and supporting students towards their educational goals does NOT make sense to add more pressure, stress and days to a calander without consulting all stakeholders! The data that was reviewed is very telling and the fact that stakeholders were never considered to finding the resolution is distrubing. Please reconsider!

Respectfully yours,  
Christine Trujillo

**From:** [Charesse Richardson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] OBJECTION to proposed School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 4:33:59 PM

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De Bencomo  
PO Box 2691  
Silver City, NM 88062  
derich124@yahoo.com  
575-590-0407  
12/2/2023

To Whom It May Concern,

**Subject: *Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department***

I am writing this letter as a concerned employee and a parent of former students of Cliff in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I **strongly oppose** these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for the children.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent of former students of Cliff with a positive academic experience, I believe the proposed changes will have negative consequences and diminish the current academic success of Cliff Schools along with the other schools on a 4 day week. My primary concern is the well-being and academic success of the students. The proposed changes are more than a step backwards in these challenging times.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

De Bencomo

**From:** [JaLynn Knight](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 day school year  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 9:22:04 PM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

I understand you are proposing a new rule that all schools will be required to implement a 180-day school year. As a charter school teacher of Southwest Secondary Learning Center, one of the first charter schools in the state, the best part of being a charter was the autonomy granted by the State. If you begin to force conformity to match the other public schools, we start losing our originality of design.

We have met and exceeded the required hours of attendance on our school calendar. Extending the year isn't going to make our students smarter, only have to work longer.

Trust what we are doing, the integrity of our school and allow the autonomy to continue.  
Thank you,

JaLynn Knight  
Social Studies Teacher  
Southwest Secondary Learning Center

**From:** [PENNY DALTON-TORRES](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 10:14:44 PM

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Good evening, I am writing to provide feedback in support of the 4 day school week. The 4 day week is much better for our children. NM already struggles with attendance and the 5 day weeks make attendance an even greater challenge.

Four day weeks still have the same amount of instructional time as a 5 day week but this allows more time for professional development, teacher conferences, and we are able to schedule doctors appointments, dentist appointments, and other important appointments. A five day week will result in lost instructional time and less attendance due to appointments.

Five day weeks also result in more cost to our already struggling school districts. The transportation costs are greater, utilities, etc.

Four day weeks are in compliance with legislation and department regulations should not overuse statutory authorization.

Most importantly, our children spend many many hours in the classroom. They have less recess time than every before. Education is very important, but kids need to run and learn through play. This is not happening in our schools. While I fully agree that we need to give our children a better education, a five day week does not provide those results. A four day week has proven to be successful and there is no reason to change that. Create better programs, academic strategies, and train our teachers - this will result in a better education system and can be done with a 4 day week.

Sincerely,  
Penny Dalton-Torres

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Kristin O'Flaherty](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Saturday, December 2, 2023 10:21:32 PM

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I am a parent of a NM elementary school student and a NM middle school student. I am writing to give feedback on the proposed changes to HB 130. I do not think mandating a number of days of instruction in place of a number of hours of instruction is in the best interests of my children and those that attend school with them.

Their charter school here in Taos, TISA, has created a very successful program that this rule change would disrupt. Their school is currently enjoying very high teacher retention and recruitment, very high student attendance rates, solid test scores and they have a very successful after school program run by licensed teachers providing tutoring and homework help at no charge to all students. This is the third year that this school as been named a spotlight school.

Mandating a change to how the school schedule must be structured may seem like an easy opportunity to try to improve education across NM, which we are all aware ranks disappointingly low year after year in the region and the nation. But while improvements must be made for the benefit of all of New Mexico's children, I suggest that the avenues to explore and invest in are not the one size fits all approaches. I encourage the NM Public Education Department to look to continue to provide existing flexibilities and to create new opportunities for all schools to make choices and try things that they think will work best for their students. Those that know their students the best are the ones that will reliably know what will work the best to improve their learning and support the needs of their communities.

Sincerely,

Kristin M O'Flaherty

PO Box 258  
Taos, NM 87571  
575-770-4122

**From:** [Steph](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In regard to 4day week for school  
**Date:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 5:49:21 AM

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To whom it may concern,

Our family feels that 4 days a week of school is more than enough! Children need to be children!

They have the rest of their lives to "work more and longer hours."

Family time is very important and New Mexico is a big state. Therefore if we want our children to visit the world they are inheriting. They should not be stuck in a florescent lit building wasting their imaginations on the narrative of the next work force!

My family strongly feels the 4 day school week suffices and should not be changed!

Sincerely,  
The Jewells

**From:** [Ben Jewell](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day schedule  
**Date:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 6:38:28 AM

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In regards to my vote,

My family prefers going 4 days a week.

Our kids have gone to schools both 4 and 5 day a week school schedules in the past.

We feel 4 days is better for them and for us as parents.

Our community values our time and family, while saving costs to the school by Not participating in going 5 days a week.

Keep it 4 day school week!

Best regards,

Ben Jewell, father of three Capitan tigers.

**From:** [Caitlin Holmes Ward](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130 Public Comment, in support of a 4-day week  
**Date:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 7:59:47 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the 4-day school week in rural schools. We live on a cattle ranch which is located 17-miles south of Mosquero, NM. Our daily commute is half an hour over dirt roads each way. Since I do feeder-route, this means I am on the road for 2 hours each day. My two children, a first-grader and a third-grader, attend Mosquero Municipal Schools. The 4-day week is beneficial and has worked well for this small rural school for many years. Schools such as ours should have the right to choose what type of school week works best for our unique rural situation.

Kids who attend rural schools come from a very large surrounding area. Children have a long commute to school for isolated surrounding ranches. Some kids at the end of these long bus routes ride the bus for over an hour and a half one-way each day. Having a longer school day makes these long travel times more worthwhile. Then, kids get to have Fridays off from this long commute. This saves the school money not having to run buses 5-days/week.

In rural communities such as ours, the 4-day week allows us to make doctor, dentist, and orthodontist appointments on Fridays without missing school. A simple doctor appointment takes an entire day when it is a 2-1/2 hour drive to the closest town of any size.

Having Fridays off allows rural kids to help on family farms and ranches. We can plan bigger works (like branding, preg checking, and weaning) on days when the kids can help. They do not have to miss school to be a part of these family operations. This fosters a work ethic and link to an agricultural way of life which is part of the wholesome fabric of these rural communities.

Please do not take away the right of rural school to choose what works best for us. Our test scores and academic performance are not suffering from a 4-day week. It works for our unique rural lifestyle.

Sincerely,  
Caitlin Ward

**From:** [Kim Perea](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] My students, my rights, my voice!  
**Date:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 9:24:19 AM

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Dr. Romero,

I have been an educator for 34 years and in my experience know that the more the government involves itself in education, the worse it gets!

Adding more days to the calendar will not improve our students' performance on the assessments mandated by the state.

I would be happy to sit down with you and discuss what **would** make a difference in our children's academic success.

What bothers me even more than the addition of calendar days is the government (you and current administration) proposing a rule change that contradicts current law passed in the last legislative session, making districts who have a 4-day week schedule change, and removing governing authority provided by law to local school boards.

There are many contributing factors in the state mandated test results. Again, I would be happy to organize a group of teachers who would be willing to discuss our students' education if you could make a trip to Deming to do so. Do you (current administration) take ownership for our students being out of school for a year? My current 5<sup>th</sup> grade students were out of school during their foundational years of learning. Students should have returned to school in the same grade they left to insure they were ready to be promoted to the next grade the following year.

I already hold myself accountable for my students' learning. For you and the current administration to intimate otherwise shows your lack of trust in the quality of education New Mexico teachers are trying to provide our students. As in every profession, there are teachers who should not be teachers, superintendents who should not be superintendents, doctors who should not be doctors, police officers who should not be police officers, and governors who should not be governors. As I mentioned earlier there are many, many factors that go into the education of our children. Student attendance and attitude, parental attitude and support or lack thereof, cell phones and social media, too many standards in elementary, the amount of testing, which test or tests the state mandates, lower grades having to do iStation, it goes on and on.

I hope that you will consider my thoughts as you move forward.

Professionally,

Kim Perea

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

Deming, New Mexico

**From:** [Euel Ross](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Against changes to 6.10.5  
**Date:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 11:53:33 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I am a parent of two children in Cloudcroft School grades 4th and 1st. I have recently become aware of the proposed amendment to 6.10.5 MAC, addressing the number of school days required for all of NM.

Currently Cloudcroft enjoys a 150 day school year, and has for several years. This change would require a 180 day school year which would affect our entire community greatly, moving us from a 4 day school week to a 5 day school week. Many parents have adjusted their lives, jobs, childcare around this school calendar year and changing that would require them to possibly change jobs and find new childcare solutions. In a community that already struggles to find jobs and childcare in the mountains and still be able to afford to live here, this would impact our students and families in a very negative way.

We also have more than proven that our students and teachers still meet all standards in education, in extra curricular activities and are continuing to grow and move forward and are preparing our students for the future.

This proposed amendment would take away our local control and undermine our ability to make decisions that best serve our district and community.

Please consider our position and how these changes would negatively impact the future of Cloudcroft students and families.

Thank you,

Euel Ross

**From:** [Diana Torres](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day week.  
**Date:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 12:42:55 PM

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I support the 4 day week for schools.

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Michelle Barsano](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](mailto:kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 2:34:50 PM

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To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to address the HB130 rule change being considered this week. I am a first-year teacher at Taos Integrated School for the Arts. I completed my bachelor's at Northern New Mexico College. I was born and raised in New Mexico. My early education consisted of a mix of public schools and Private schools. In Middle school and High School, I attended schools with a four-day week. This schedule has benefited me both as a student and a teacher.

Having Fridays that are student-free so I can create wholesome common core standard-aligned lessons for my students is a great benefit. It is well known that teachers have many obligations and responsibilities. This four-day school week allows us to be more effective teachers. Being a first-year teacher has many challenges and I am so thankful to have a flexible schedule that reduces my stress load. I believe more schools should adopt a 4-day week as it greatly reduces teacher burnout. New Mexico has a shortage of teachers, I am asking you not to make a decision that may result in us losing more teachers.

Respectfully,  
Michelle Barsano

**From:** [Noel Romero](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Amendment to 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 2:54:12 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To whom it may concern,

This email concerns the proposed amendment to 6.10.5 NMAC, potentially adding instructional days and other stipulations to all districts' school calendars. Doing so would increase the current 150-day school year to 180 days at Cloudcroft Municipal Schools.

As a teacher and parent of three students who currently attend Cloudcroft Schools, I understand how these changes could significantly impact our small community for many families and school staff. The rule changes being proposed would negatively impact our current 4-day school week schedule by extending the school year which impacts both our District's limited resources and makes changes that are tailored for other districts without the consideration of our unique needs of our small village community. Many teachers and parents have adjusted their lives to our current calendar and a change would force them to make life-changing decisions for their current jobs, childcare, and other personal family considerations.

Our calendar is tailored to support our staff and students to achieve better student performance, improve student attendance, more rest and time for extracurricular activities, increase staff morale, and support a better staff work-life balance. Our current calendar is taken into careful consideration each year by a committee of dedicated staff to ensure we stay among the top-performing 25% of schools for Elementary and Middle Schools and among the top 10% of High Schools across the state.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding my opinion and concerns as a dedicated staff member, teacher, coach, advisor, and parent of students at Cloudcroft Municipal Schools. These proposed changes in the 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar requirements could greatly impact life for everyone involved at our schools.

--

Noel Romero  
Computer Teacher  
Cloudcroft Middle School  
(575) 601-4416 ext. 329



**From:** [CAROLYN LIVINGSTON](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Letter of opposition to HB130  
**Date:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 4:24:56 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To: [rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov)

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Reserve Independent School District, in Reserve , New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, “one of the worst in history,” removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico’s society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

Carolyn Livingston  
A concerned educator, staff member, and community member

**From:** [Golden Grace](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School rules  
**Date:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 5:30:36 PM

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PLEASE allow us to keep 4-day school weeks! It makes all the difference. Have you considered year-round schooling for New Mexico? I think it would be a wonderful opportunity for kids in lower socioeconomic situations to experience more stability. Thank you so much, Edwina Claire

**From:** [Beverly Laude](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Protect our 4 day School Week!  
**Date:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 5:34:25 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

I have lived in Datil, New Mexico, for 25 years and during all of that time, the school district (Quemado) has utilized a 4 day school week. The statistics of the students speak for themselves and changing a system that works is ridiculous!

Most of the students have a long bus ride everyday to attend school and making them go 5 days a week would just increase that commuting time. Also, the teachers and staff have long commute times, so this would be a further burden on them in time spent and money for fuel.

Unless the PED can prove that a 4 day school week is detrimental to the students, there should be no reason to change this other than a way for the PED to show its authority and power over small, rural school districts.

Beverly D. Laude'

**From:** [Laura McDonald](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule Change  
**Date:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 7:49:49 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Laura McDonald and I am a Special Education Instructional Assistant working in Lordsburg, New Mexico.

I am against the proposed rule change. I utilize Fridays to care for my elderly parents. I transport them to their Dr. appointments as they do not drive. I'm the only family member available to provide support to them. This change would have me calling off work and would affect my attendance. I also schedule appointments for myself and my grandson that lives with me. Having a 4 day week decreases absences for myself and my grandson since he is in 5th grade.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion and hope you will consider to keep the 4 day schedule as is.

Best Regards,

**From:** [Denette Mora](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 8:27:29 PM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of LMS school district, in Lordsburg New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,  
Denette Mora  
A concerned parent

**From:** [Naomi Gonzales](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school weeks  
**Date:** Sunday, December 3, 2023 9:58:11 PM

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Hello, my email may not reach anyone, but it's worth the try.

I am a mother of 2 boys in 2nd grade, and 3rd grade. My children currently attend loving municipal school.

I also am employed there as a long term substitute. I know there's back and forth of why's and why not's about 4 day school weeks.

I feel they {4 day school weeks} help tremendously, our days over the past couple of years have slowly gotten longer at school to accommodate our instructional days/hours that have been put forth by the state. I can tell you as a substitute, I can clearly see the adjustment it took for our students this year from last school year, of the time difference we get out of school. I understand completely the lengthening of school hours per day to get our instruction times in. The benefits of a 4 day week is less stress on parents, teachers, and students. It gives time for everyone to plan their schedules accordingly, it helps those of us who, for religious purposes(i.e. my family being Jehovah's witnesses) when we have to travel out of town on Fridays when it comes to our conventions and assemblies. It helps that our kids don't have to miss a day of school. This also involves our students who are in sports, most of our games are played on a Thursday, following other schools who play on Thursdays, but because of our small rural school District, we unfortunately have to travel further than most schools have to just to compete in the sport with school districts the same size as ours. With that being said, that would be football teams coming in late after games on Thursdays, and possibly missing school on Fridays from being so tired. We as a State are trying to higher our education, but how can we if we have students absent.

Having Fridays off, and being a mom, helps so much. I can move all appointments to Friday, so my children do not have to miss school. It also gives me the chance to help my mom in Texas, to take her to appointments for cancer treatments so it doesn't all fall on the rest of my family and I can help out.

This all may not even matter honestly, but having 3 days off helps so much when it comes to personal things, not just for me and my family, but everyone in our little community.

Thank you so much and please reconsider any mandate coming up on Dec. 18th.

Thank you so much!

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**From:** [Devin Wahlen](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No to 182 days  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 7:21:14 AM  
**Attachments:** [favicon.ico](#)

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To the New Mexico public education department and to whom it may concern,

I am a father of four children, I'm a resident of New Mexico, and I am a licensed physician practicing in New Mexico. I am writing this letter to oppose the mandate by the NM PED to impose 182 days of instruction.

The national average is 180 days. While our neighboring states of Arizona, Colorado and Texas do not apply to that standard. Colorado's minimum is 160 days. Arizona minimum is 180 days. And Texas does not have a minimum day requirement. The average hours of instruction is 1080 which is already the requirement for New Mexico. I feel that leaving each school to decide for themselves and what is best for their schools' needs is the best course of action and should be maintained.

Table 5.14. Number of instructional days and hours in the school year, by state: 2018  
[nces.ed.gov](https://nces.ed.gov)



Currently, there is no level one studies to support increasing days of instruction to equal better educational value.

Anecdotally our four children go to Texico school district. Texico has repeatedly ranked high in the New Mexico schools systems for education. My daughter graduated as salutatorian of Texico high school last year.

At Texico school they have many Fridays off. In speaking to several teachers over the years, these teachers come to Texico, because of higher pay, and the occasional day off each week. Our teachers in New Mexico are already overworked and underpaid. I do not feel that it is necessary to increase the days of required student instruction.

I feel it will have a negative effect on not only the children but also the teachers and families of New Mexico.

From what I've read about this proposal there has been zero input asked of the educators of the state prior to the proposed change. I do not feel that it is appropriate to impose this mandate without the input of the educators. Although there has been this open request for input from the general public, I do not feel that the general public will have a better understanding of the needs of the students more than the educators will.

Thank you

Devin D. Wahlen, DPM, FACFAS

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Zachary Eggleston](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 8:13:40 AM

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Zachary Eggleston

8 Oso Lane

Cliff, Nm, 88028

[26egglestonzachary@silverschools.org](mailto:26egglestonzachary@silverschools.org)

575-519-8891

Date: December 4, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for myself.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days

has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making

process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a student, my primary concern is the continued success in my academic future, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Zachary Eggleston

**From:** [Andrew Eggleston](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 8:13:43 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Andrew Eggleston  
8 Oso Lane  
Cliff, New Mexico, 88028  
[26egglestonandrew@silverschools.org](mailto:26egglestonandrew@silverschools.org)  
(575)-519-8852  
Date: Dec. 4, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and me.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead

to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a student, my primary concern is my well-being and academic success, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Andrew Eggleston

**From:** [Brennan Shock](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 8:14:07 AM

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Brennan D. Shock  
8177 Highway 180 West  
Cliff, New Mexico 88028  
[shockbrennan25@gmail.com](mailto:shockbrennan25@gmail.com)  
(575) - 654 - 5398  
12 - 04 - 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for the student body including myself.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson

planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel. I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in the PED rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voices and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a student, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my fellow peers, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Brennan D. Shock



**From:** [Hernandez, Julissa](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 8:14:39 AM

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I am a junior at Jal High School, and I am against the HB130 that will change our four-day week back to five days because having an extra day off during the week allows students and teachers to attend appointments without missing school days. It also gives students and teachers time to get more things done. Friday is when teachers have the day to plan for the following week stress free. I think if we go back to a five-day week, the attendance will drastically drop for students since it's a Friday.

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**From:** [Cooper Young](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 8:16:07 AM

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Cooper Young  
23 Yellow Arrow Ln.  
Silver City NM, 88061  
[coopercreed11@gmail.com](mailto:coopercreed11@gmail.com)  
(575)538-1334  
12-4-23

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the SilverSchools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being the academic progress of our students.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could

lead

to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in the PED rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community. In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals. My fellow friends and I plan to voice ourselves against this matter. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Cooper Young](#)

--

Cooper Young

**From:** [Tatum Callaway](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Day School Year Proposal - Why It Doesn't Work for Me  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 8:18:28 AM

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To: New Mexico Public Education Department ,

This is why I know the 5-day week would work for me. I already struggle with getting here on time and adding on a day would make it way harder with gas and finding a way to school and back on a Friday. O(n Fridays I help with my younger siblings and that would be a problem as well. I believe a 5-day week wouldn't change anything but make it harder.

Tatum Callaway  
Elida High school

**From:** [Ninel Rodarte](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Day School Year Proposal  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 8:26:36 AM

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It has come to my understanding that the New Mexico Public Education Department is trying to make the schools that have 4 school days try and go 5. As a student who transferred from a five day to a four, I feel this would not help in the education of our students. When I first transferred from a 5 day to a four-day course during covid, coming here really helped me better myself and my grades during the pandemic. Now of course, adding days on our calendar doesn't mean you have to go 5 days, but why try to push it to where we have to add multiple weeks on our schedule, making the summer break a lot shorter. The break is made to give kids a rest from education, to ease their minds, they can't really do that knowing they might only have a break for 4 weeks. Some other things that should be accounted for should really be costs and schedule. If a student were to drive here, they would have to spend much more money on fuel to drive here. Or, if a student were to have a job and work Fridays, they would have to change their schedules completely, which in some cases, could impact their life very harshly. Some students need as many hours as possible; some could be living on their own and barely surviving. If you were to cut their hours, they may have to find another job or even take overtime on school nights, causing them to sleep late, making them sleep later. If a student is not getting enough sleep, how can they improve their education? Also, the dropout rate for students is extremely high for students that go to a 5-day school, what would the dropout rate happen if all schools were forced to go five days? Also, thinking about the teachers, our educators, who may have small children or even teens. Most teachers that have Fridays off are watching their kids, taking them to extracurriculars, ect. And, if there are students who barely wish to come for 4 days, what's making them come more and more? In my opinion, as someone who had to make the change, it impacted me very greatly. Why would you wish to take that away from some students who use four days as an advantage on improving themselves, not only in school, but in being their own person in the real world?

- Ninel Rodarte, Elida High School

**From:** [Catrina Silvas](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Hello,  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 8:37:43 AM

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I want to keep the 4-day school week because of the wages paid to school employees, some of us have second jobs Friday-Sunday.

--

Catrina Silvas  
Health Assistant  
[csilvas@lmsed.org](mailto:csilvas@lmsed.org)

**From:** [Sonia Burruel](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No 5 day week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 8:55:48 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

When I looked over the proposed amended draft to change the school district's adopted school year. I am of the understanding that there have been certain perimeters put on school districts that have chosen to move to a four day school year. If they have followed those restrictions then why is this an issue? The districts that have moved to this type of schedule have not done so lightly. They are small districts in rural communities, where it is difficult to retain Level three teachers and this could be an incentive also keeping a whole district open can be a financial hardship.

I personally believe that a year round schedule would be more beneficial. It would save the state/district money that has been spent on summer schools that have not shown to be beneficial.

Sonia Duran-Burruel  
[Sburruel@lmsed.org](mailto:Sburruel@lmsed.org)

**From:** [Channell Segura](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Recommendations for Instructional Time  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 8:59:01 AM

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Good afternoon, State Leaders.

I write to provide some feedback regarding the proposed instructional time ruling. Please consider the following:

- Can parent/teacher conferences be included in the 180 days/1140 hours (two days of fall conferences and two days of spring conferences for K-12 students)? Right now, they must be counted as professional work hours outside the 180/1140. Also, allow for four days of PTCs for K-12, not just elementary. It creates attendance issues when the older students end up staying home to babysit their elementary siblings.
- Make Professional Work Hours the same for both elementary and secondary. Right now, elementary schools have (up to 60) and secondary (up to 30). By making them different, it creates confusion and additional challenges for calendar development if we add professional work days in the calendar.
- Allow schools to reduce their instructional time from year-to-year as long as they still meet the 180 instructional days and 1140 hours. We have 22 elementary schools on a transformational opportunity pilot that has them well above the 180/1140, and we can no longer fund the pilot in its entirety because we paid for it using ESSER funds. It also creates inequity within our district. This would need a change in language in HB2, which states that schools may not reduce their instructional hours from the previous year.

Thank you for your consideration,

--

**[Dr. Channell Segura](#)**

Chief of Schools

Office of the Superintendent

- [Albuquerque Public Schools](#)

505-880-3709

[channell.segura@aps.edu](mailto:channell.segura@aps.edu)





**From:** [Sarah Elliott](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 9:11:03 AM

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Hello,

My name is Sarah Elliott, my children attend Melrose Elementary School. I am an active parent with the school when it involves my babies, and I was told that you guys are wanting to change the school schedule from 4 days a week to 5 days.

I want to voice my opinion because I feel like the 4 days a week has really helped my Son, he is in 1st grade and he has ADHD and when he started kindergarten he was behind and he was struggling but with him going to school 4 days and the hours they attend are great and he has improved so much. That extra day off I feel helps him get that break and look forward to school by Monday. I have a daughter that is in preschool at melrose and being there for the entire school day helps prepare her for kindergarten and the transition is going to be so easy for her.

I hope we don't change their schedules because I think it is amazing that they have 4 days at school and focus and 3 days to be a kid and attend school events and activities without so much on their plates.

Thank you.

**From:** [Franchesca Archuleta](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 9:11:51 AM

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Franchesca Archuleta and I have 1 student currently enrolled in the Mountainair Public School district. I will have another student in the fall of 2024 enrolled also. I am emailing to ask that you consider our small district when making decisions about 4-day school weeks in the state of New Mexico. I feel like with the state being so diverse and the differences between the many large cities and small towns, that a “one size fits all” solution simply does not work. What may work for a larger district might not work for a small one such as ourselves. I feel like these things should be handled on a case by case basis. Our small town has a population of less than 1,000 citizens. We currently don’t have a medical provider until the middle of December and have not had one for months. When we do have a provider, they are limited in time and services. We do not and have not had any dental providers nor do we have any Opthamologists. We have to travel, at the very least, one hour each way to get our children to their appointments. In having a 4 day school week, it is very beneficial to us because we don’t have to take more days off to drive into the city for appointments. Most of our appointments are scheduled for Fridays with few exceptions. If we don’t have that extra day, we will have more students with more absences because we can’t just check our students out for an hour to go to the dr, dentist, etc. Between the travel and appointment itself, it takes a whole day out of town. With the way the state is handling absences (even excused absences) there would be so many with a 10% rate within the first few weeks of school. Not to mention throughout the year. My son is about to get braces and we will be having a lot of appointments. Also, with our district being so small, it can be very difficult to obtain and retain good teachers. If we have to compete with larger districts nearby, teachers will almost always choose the larger district. Having the 4 day week has changed that for us. It has been an incentive for teachers to want to work for our district. Which results in higher quality education for our students, less teacher burnout from having to cover multiple courses and curriculum with no prep time, and also a better teacher:student ratio. Also, with the State extending hours every year, our children are gone longer and longer and they need quality family time to have a balanced and well rounded life. These are just a few of the reasons I, and many other parents, believe that we should remain a 4 day school week. I/we ask that you consider the needs of each district/community individually instead of as a whole in the State of New Mexico. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Franchesca Archuleta

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [trizzly\\_yt](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 9:13:27 AM

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I think we don't need 5 days of school because 4 is enough.

**From:** [McKynna Motes](#)  
**To:** [Feedback, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 9:31:53 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

McKynna K Motes  
511 Red Rock Rd  
Silver City, NM, 88061  
[shaw\\_motes@yahoo.com](mailto:shaw_motes@yahoo.com)  
575-590-2678  
Date: 12/4/23

To Whom It May Concern,  
Subject: Strong Opposition to Proposed Rule Changes to the 4 Day School Week Requirements by the Public Education Department

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for my community, my classmates and, most importantly, for my mental health.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students. This is demonstrated by the plethora of outstanding test scores admitted by my classmates and I here at Cliff.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation

rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our teachers and students -like me- alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development. In other words, taking this time away from teachers will make them less effective at their job. In the end, making them like babysitters. If they do not have time to prepare to teach but are tasked with having students more days their title changes from “professional educator” to “professional babysitter.”

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED’s rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voices and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to strongly reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a student, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of myself and the students after me, and I believe that the proposed changes are an outrageous step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th with my family and community to voice our concerns and I encourage other students and community members from other four-day week schools to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools, our community, and the New Mexican students to come.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Mckynna Motes

**From:** [Rylee Gonzales](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 9:32:02 AM

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Rylee Gonzales  
40 Quail Drive  
Glenwood, New Mexico, 88039  
[25gonzalesrylee@silverschools.org](mailto:25gonzalesrylee@silverschools.org)  
918-314-6659  
Date: 12/4/2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our schools.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools,

detracting from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excels.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a student, my primary concern is my well-being and academic success and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Rylee Gonzales

Noah Bratcher  
4188 Cottage San Rd.  
Silver City, NM, 88061  
24bratchernoah@silverschools.org  
(575)956-7440  
Date: 12/4/23

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: ***Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department***

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of a student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.



I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Noah Bratcher

***Feel free to personalize and adapt this letter as needed to reflect your specific concerns and viewpoints.***

—

James Jones  
46 Slash Dr.  
Silver City, NM 88061  
misterbug0607@gmail.com  
(575)313-5008  
Date: 12/4/2023

To Whom It May Concern,

**Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department**

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, us Cliff students.

1. Unneeded Extension of School Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours per year, is not abiding with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has worked just well, and any extension threatens to ruin not just our schedules, but the mental states and academic progress of our students.

2. Disturbance of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has flourished under the four-day school week model. The requirement that more than 50% of school weeks be five days long will destroy the system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the wants and needs of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Authorization: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could drastically wreck our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, minimizing their primary focus on education.

4. Abandonment of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the extensive educational approach that is important for the success of our teachers and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Proof for Improved Outcomes: There is no compelling research to suggest that merely increasing learning time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by multiple factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the teaching quality, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools is amazing at! In fact, we have the best scores in the district.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have noticed the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only ignore the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

James Jones

Luke T. Allsup  
499 Box Canyon Rd  
Cliff, NM, 88028  
lukeallsup237@gmail.com  
1-520-279-5324  
12/4/2023

To Whom It May Concern,  
Subject: Strong Opposition to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar  
Requirements by the Public Education Department

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours, via the amount of days a week that we attend school. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, us, the student body.

The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective (exibited in our test scores), and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.

Our community has thrived under the four-dayschool week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days longundermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools. Our community needs the extra weekend day to take care of needs at home, being that most of our students live on ranches of farms. Furthermore, it has shown no detrimental effect to our students grades.

The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development. One explination for our supperior test scores could be that our teachers have more time to work out a more intimate and in depth lesson plan for classes. Our teachers also have different needs than others in that they dont just have to make one lesson plan and teach it multiple times. Our teachers need at least 6 differnent lesson plans per day for 6 different classes they teach. This to say our teachers need more time, an extra day, to plan for the week.

There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel. I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out

the flaws in PED#39's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Luke T. Allsup

Tayson  
232 Bar D road  
Silver City, New Mexico, 88061  
taysony17@gmail.com  
575-654-3992  
11/30/23

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: ***Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department***

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children.

The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.

Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model, this is demonstrated through our students' outstanding test scores. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Tayson Yost

Edrick Long  
10 Clark Rd.  
Gila, New Mexico, 88038  
25longedrick@gmail.com  
575-654-8262  
Date: 11/30/2023

To Whom It May Concern,  
Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar  
Requirements by the Public Education Department

I am writing this letter as a concerned Student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community.

**Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days:** The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students

**Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model:** Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

**Bias in Funding and Accreditation:** The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

**Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time:** Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

**Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes:** There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.



I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Edrick Long

**From:** [Malcolm Ullery II](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 9:38:30 AM

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Malcolm Lee Ullery II  
16 Coleman Dr  
Silver City, New Mexico, 88061  
[malcolmulleryii@gmail.com](mailto:malcolmulleryii@gmail.com)  
575-649-9160

Date: 12-4-23

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is

proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and for me.

**Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days:** The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of my peers.

**Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model:** Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools in question.

**Bias in Funding and Accreditation:** The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

**Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time:** Excluding planning and training from

instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other students and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thanks for taking the time to read this .

Sincerely,

Malcolm Lee Ullery II

**From:** [Kimberly Taylor](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School calendar requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 9:44:58 AM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

As a Parent of a 10th grader in the Cimarron School District I plead with you to not make this requirement to go into effect!

Our children have been on a 4 day school week since 1972, First one in the state, On these days our kids use this time to finish on school work/Homework/Projects etc. Also if they are in a sport, it's another practice day.

Our test scores show that a 4 day school week Works for them and it works for the Educators and parents!

Here are some facts straight from the school "First, attendance of both staff and students is essential. Absences directly impact student achievement. When staff or students have to go to a doctor or dentist appointment, it is not just a quick trip. This requires traveling to another town to seek care and includes significant driving time. Often, a full day is missed for a single appointment, particularly if a specialist is required. Currently, our staff and families try to schedule all appointments on Mondays so as not to miss school. If we move to a 5-day week, it is no longer possible to both attend school and take care of medical needs. Additionally, we limited substitute teacher availability for the entire district as well as limited bus drivers. Approximately 90% of our middle and high school students are involved in either athletics or activities which require travel to competitions. Due to our location in the state, we often have to travel significant distances for games and tournaments. If we move to a 5 day week sporting events will almost always take place on a school day/night which affects attendance when we travel far distances for games.

Cimarron is a rural community. The three villages encompassed within our district have long standing cultural and employment traditions that would be greatly impacted by moving to a 5 day week. The 4-day school week is a way for families to still prioritize education but also have the full family available 3 days a week to keep their family traditions intact. Even some of our staff work a second job on Mondays and the weekend. Our staff prefer to work the 4-day week. This is one thing Cimarron School District has been able to capitalize on when recruiting staff to our very small, rural district. As the teacher shortage grows, it is more and more difficult to hire highly qualified teachers.

If PED requires schools to move to a 5-day week, many staff who are currently eligible to retire will take that option, creating an even bigger teacher shortage. In an informal poll of staff, those eligible to retire would definitely consider this option. Currently, our middle and high school students have 7 classes per day that are each an hour long. If we move to a calendar with 180 days, we will have to shorten the length of our day. Where do we cut that time? Do we eliminate an elective class for our middle and high school students? Or do we cut the class periods back to only 45 minutes each? In elementary, the students have set time length requirements for reading blocks, math blocks, literacy blocks, etc. What do we cut for

them?

Finally, opening school for a fifth day each week costs money. When you consider all expenses required to operate a school including transportation, food service, staff, utilities, supplies, etc, it costs approximately \$52,682 per day for Cimarron School District to be open. In order to increase our calendar to 180 school days for students, we would have to add 31 instructional days for students. Staff contracts would have to increase by 37 days since professional work hours are no longer included in that minimum instructional time. If we do the math, it would cost Cimarron School District an additional \$1.6 million to implement this new PED rule. And, PED is NOT increasing our funding. Because these requirements are being implemented by rule and not by law, there is no appropriation tied to it. I truly do not know where we would cut our budget to find the \$1.6 million."

Sincerely,  
Concerned Parent  
Kimberly Taylor

**From:** [Velia Perales](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 days a week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 9:52:43 AM

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To whom it may Concern,

I have a 3yr old in Pre-K 3 and 5 days a week would definitely be to much for him mentally and physically as he is in the beginning process of learning. I do not want to over stress him with 5 days a week all day long! If this change follows through I feel I will be driven to pull him out until he is ready and/or possibly home school him as I do not want to over work him when he is in the process of going from daycare to school all day! This is a very bad idea not only for us parents to help the kids adapt but to the students just beginning this journey and adapting to what they are in now to now a bigger change! I hope you all take into consideration how much this will not only affect us as parents but our children/Students!

Thank you  
Velia Trujillo

**From:** [Jennifer Taylor](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:10:54 AM

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To whom it may concern:

I am in favor of keeping the 4 day week. I have seen many benefits for students and teachers alike. I am a veteran teacher and I am sure you will lose many highly qualified teachers who are able to retire. This will definitely impact my decision to retire. With the teacher shortage we are already facing, this will have a huge impact! Focusing on attendance issues and parenting would be way more impactful than taking this away from small districts that are performing as well as districts with a 5 day week. QUALITY over QUANTITY!!!

Jennifer Taylor

**From:** [Jacie Oglesby](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC school calendar requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:19:50 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Jacie

64 country road

Silver city New Mexico 88061

[25oglesbyjacie@silverschools.org](mailto:25oglesbyjacie@silverschools.org)

575-519-2986

Date: 12-4-23

Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is

proposing significant changes to our public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly

oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven

successful for our community and, most importantly, for us children.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being the academic progress of our students. It affects our school because we are very busy students and enough students have a hard enough time with our emotional and mental health.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor



five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead

to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for

the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson

planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that

merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making

process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of

our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current

educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is

the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a

step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents and community members do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jacie Oglesby

**From:** [Shea Barentine](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:20:00 AM

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CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Shea Barentine  
P.o. box 682  
Silver City, NM 88062  
[sheabarentine@gmail.com](mailto:sheabarentine@gmail.com)  
(575) 313-2292  
Date: 12/4/23

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students. Increase in days could increase the suicide rate of our students.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting

from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a student, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my class and myself, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

Sincerely,

Shea Barentine

[Bodie Kuentler]  
[88028]  
[City, State, ZIP Code]  
[25matthewsbodie@silverschools.org]  
[5755748620]  
Date: [12/4/2023]

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: ***Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department***

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children.

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2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Bodie J. Kuentler]

—

Anastasia Gutierrez  
12 Black Mountain Road  
Cliff, New Mexico, 88028  
25gutierrezanastasia@silverschools.org  
575-313-5248  
Date: 12/4/23

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: *Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department*

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for the students.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of the students that attend school.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a student, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success for myself and my younger sister, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Anastasia Gutierrez

Dylan Measday  
101 South Bear Creek Road  
Gila New Mexico 88038  
25measdaydylan@silverschools.org  
(480)-494-7121  
Date: 11-30-2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: ***Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department***

I, Dylan Measday, am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing life changing changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the schedule that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for me and my peers.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.



I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

As a student in Cliff High School, I have heard many rumors of students dropping out if five day weeks are implemented. These students have thrived and become accustomed to the four day weeks. Implementing five day weeks can also negatively impact teachers, the three day weekend allows teachers more time to grade and rest, changing this schedule may put unnecessary stress on the educator's shoulders. The same can be said for the students.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a Student, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of myself as well as my peers, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other students and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Dylan C. Measday

Ronen Williamson  
8682 Hwy 180W  
Cliff, NM 88028  
[25williamsonronen@silverschool.org](mailto:25williamsonronen@silverschool.org)

575-313-1893

Date: December 4, 2023

Subject: **6.10.5 NMAC School Calender Requirements**

I hope this letter finds you well. As a concerned member of the community, I would like to express my thoughts on the recent decision to revert from a 4-day school week to a 5-day school week in New Mexico.

While I understand that decisions regarding school schedules are made with careful consideration for the educational well-being of students, I believe it is essential to revisit the recent change. The 4-day school week had certain advantages, such as providing students with an extra day for rest and allowing for potential cost savings in transportation and utility expenses.

I kindly request that the PED reevaluates the decision, taking into account the perspectives of parents, teachers, and students. A collaborative discussion involving all stakeholders could lead to a more comprehensive understanding of the potential benefits and drawbacks of both scheduling options.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I believe that together, we can ensure the best possible educational experience for the students in our state.

Sincerely,  
Ronen Williamson  
[ronenwilliamson@gmail.com](mailto:ronenwilliamson@gmail.com)

**From:** [Ray Maestas](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Regulation 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:22:09 AM

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In regards to Regulation 6.10.5 NMAC, being that student attendance is a big concern across the state, I am having a hard time understanding how adding more days to the calendar is going to improve attendance. If students are not attending school with fewer days, be it in a four day school calendar or five day school calendar that meets the 1140 of instruction and not 180 days, how is adding more days going to get students to attend school? As for teacher retention, adding more days and doing away with four day school calendars is only driving veteran teachers into retirement. For districts already struggling to find and hire teachers, how are we going to fill open positions? Being that the Public School Code (22-2-8.1) only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours and NOT a minimum of instructional days, it would be in the best interest to honor that code and continue with the flexibility of letting school districts design their own calendars. We must take into account the mental health of students and teachers. Both need mental health breaks throughout the school year in order to be at their best. Thank you for your time and consideration, Ray Maestas Clayton Municipal School District Superintendent. Please reach out if you have any questions regarding this email.

--

*Ray Maestas  
Superintendent  
Clayton Municipal School District  
575-374-9611  
"Grant me courage to serve others;  
For in service there is true life" - Cesar Chavez*

**From:** [Jeremy Younger-Pitts](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:23:03 AM

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[Jeremy younger]  
[buckhorn nm 254]  
[buck horn,New Mexico,88025]  
[\[25youngerpittsjeremy@silverschools.org\]](mailto:25youngerpittsjeremy@silverschools.org)  
[575-535-2649]  
Date: [dec/4/23]

Subject: ***Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department***

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.
2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.
3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.
4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective

lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jeremy younger

**From:** [Raydan Thomas](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:25:13 AM

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Raydan Thomas  
142 Turkey creek rd  
Gila NM,88038  
[raycards11@gmail.com](mailto:raycards11@gmail.com)  
9282459359  
12/4/23

To Whom It May Concern,

I am student writing this letter concerned about the five day school weeks I hope this letter finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to share my thoughts and express my concerns regarding the proposal for a five-day school week. After careful consideration, I have come to the decision that I am not in favor of this change.

Firstly, I believe that a five-day school week would place an excessive burden on students, both academically and mentally. Our current four-day week strikes a balance between academics and personal growth. It allows students to engage in extracurricular activities, pursue their passions, and allocate time for self-care and family commitments. Adding an extra day to the school week would limit these opportunities and potentially lead to increased stress levels among students.

Moreover, a five-day school week might have adverse effects on teacher and staff morale. Our educators work tirelessly to deliver quality education, and the current schedule allows them to have a well-deserved break to recharge and prepare for the week ahead. Extending the school week could lead to burnout and a decline in their ability to provide the best possible learning environment for students.

Furthermore, it's important to consider the impact on our community as a whole. Many parents rely on the four-day school week to accommodate their work schedules and ensure the well-being of their children. A change to a five-day week would disrupt these arrangements and create additional challenges for working families.

While I understand that there may be perceived benefits to a five-day school week, such as increased instructional time, I believe it is crucial to consider the holistic well-being of students, teachers, and families. It is essential to strike a balance between academic rigor and the overall development of our students.

I kindly request that you reconsider the proposal for a five-day school week and explore

alternative approaches that maintain the current four-day schedule while enhancing educational outcomes.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I trust that you will take my concerns into account and make the best decision for our school community.

Sincerely,  
Raydan Thomas

Ryann Tedford

Silver City, New Mexico, 88061

Date: December 4, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department

I am writing this letter as a student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children.

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2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The rule that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their



Ryann Tedford

Silver City, New Mexico, 88061

Date: December 4, 2023

primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a

school should be a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class

sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making

process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes.

educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is

the well-being and academic success of my child, and we should propose changes are a

step backward in achieving these goals.

Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Ryann Tedford

**From:** [Taylea Nelson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Day School Year Proposal- why it won't work for me.  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:27:07 AM

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To: New Mexico Public Education Department

The reasoning on why this won't work for me is because I help my mom out at the house. I help my mom and my grandma on the weekends including Thursdays with paying bills in Portales. I also help with driving to town and doing running around when they need the help. I feel that it will also not work for me because that means sports will end up changing a lot, and I really like how sports are going right now. Another reason why this will not work for me is because on weekends including Friday's we have all of our appointments on that day because so that I don't have to miss school and have my attendance be messed up. Why add extra days and we not have a summer and then have to start early. That would not be very fun for the kids that want to have a fun summer and want to go on vacation.

**From:** [Phoenix Rivera](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 day weekend  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:33:26 AM

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Phoenix Rivera  
31 Bennett Rd  
Cliff, New Mexico, 88028  
[25riveraphoenix@silverschools.com](mailto:25riveraphoenix@silverschools.com)  
575-339-7272  
Date: Dec 4 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter as a concerned student of a student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for us children.

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2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.
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4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital

for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of me and other students, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

[Phoenix Rivera

**From:** [Clayton Griffith](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 days school proposal  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:54:46 AM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

Dear, New Mexico Public Education Department

I think that this will affect everyone here in Elida schools. This will affect my family because of how far I have to drive. My father is a single parent, can barely afford insurance for myself and both of my brothers so adding another day or even week to pay for gas might put my family in a rabbit hole.

**From:** [Klayton Nixon](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 10:54:57 AM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

To. New Mexico Public Education Department

The reason I think it is a good idea to keep the 4 day weeks is because some of us have jobs on Fridays and that is how we pay for the things we need. If we have a tournament, we don't miss school as much. But all in all, in all if we have less school, we have more time to work on sports. I think it is less stressful if I have a three-day weekend. With a three-day weekend I have more time to decompress everything that made school stressful.

Best Regards,

Klayton Nixon

Jewell Eva Burns  
336 Red Rock  
Silver City NM, 88061  
575-313-0134  
Date: 12-4-2023

To Whom It May Concern,

**Subject: *Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department***

I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of a student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children.

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3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

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In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jewell Eva Burns

—



**From:** [Gage Hartman](#)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Day School Year Proposal  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:00:34 AM

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Hi, I am contacting you about the discussion of adding more days to the school year for us four-day a week school, and I believe that adding more days would cause more problems to the issue at hand. I have relatively good attendance because of simple incentives that are given for good attendance. I also go to school 25 miles away from where I live and gas is expensive enough as it is going four days a week, it would cost more to go just one more day as I get about one full gas tank for the week as a four-day week. This new rule change would also hurt our sports schedules as we have tournaments based on the schedule that we have, and this new change would eliminate our tournaments that we have early in the season. Those tournaments also fund many things for the school such as our very own Elida Basketball Tournament brings in a lot of money that we use for booster club fees to feed students when they would be out of town. Thank you for hearing me out i look forward to a response.

**From:** [Seth Jimenez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 day school year proposal.  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:02:05 AM

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To: New Mexico Public Education Department

The reason of this message is simply do to the fact that this change would completely change the world and disturb the normal schedule and cause chaos. It would interfere with the students normal lives leading to disaster. Our regular days are Yin and Yang, they are balanced and complete.

**From:** [Kyleigh Stephenson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Day School Year Proposal - Why It Won't Work For Me  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:03:33 AM

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To the New Mexico Public Education Department,

This proposal carries with it many problems that will affect not only me, but my whole families, time, money, and most importantly, access to education. My name is Kyleigh Stephenson, and I am currently a student at Elida High School, which is currently on a 4-day week schedule. I have excelled in school my whole life and thrived with this week. I am a person who has a vivacious and busy life outside of my school: and having Fridays off has allowed me to pursue activities that have made me a well-rounded person. I am currently serving on a state 4-H leadership team, which means I have to travel all over the state to promote positive learning and development in youth. With a 3-day weekend, I am able to serve more as I do not have to worry about sacrificing my education to be able to serve and do what I know makes a huge impact in the lives of children. Many events that I put on begin on a Friday, and I have always been thankful that I have never missed school during these events.

In addition, I live a considerable distance from my school, so adding more days to the school week means that I now have to spend even more money on gas during the week. My mother works several jobs all ready and my father works long hours a day to already be able to afford the cost of fuel: by adding more commute time to my week, my household will be under even more financial strain. With a higher financial burden on my family, me or my brother may need to drop out to pick up a full-time job and sacrifice our education in order to pay the bills. With New Mexico already having one of the highest rates of students not graduating on time, this is simply a poor choice to make.

Me and a myriad of my peers have weekend jobs for the 3 days we are off: we put this money into our college funds in order to try and get through college debt free. With the cost of higher education and living rising every day, it is a necessity to earn this supplementary income so as to even think of affording college.

I also perform more efficiently on a 4-Day week. My school has always been able to meet the educational requirements detailed by the PED on a shorter schedule. With 4 days, I do not get as mentally exhausted with my studies, and I am able to retain information easier. With longer weekends, I am able to prioritize my mental health in order to lead a happier life. I notice my friends who go to 5-day schools often seem less vibrant and lively and are much less likely to want to go out and make memories over the weekend; and I don't blame them. School is already stressful enough: if you can get the same amount of work done in a shorter time, why put the youth of your state through even more emotional and mental exhaustion?

Overall, a 5-day week in my part of the world is simply not sustainable. With the state of the economy and costs of living, the added cost of going one more day every week for a

longer year would cause more harm than good. My family would either have to move away to a more economically viable area (away from my family's home for generations), or one of my parent's children's bright futures would be sacrificed to make ends meet. Overall, the potential academic boost that a 5-Day week carries with it is too heavy of a price to be worth the cost.

Sincerely,  
Kyleigh Stephenson

**From:** [Holly Bilbrey](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Day School Year Proposal  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:04:15 AM

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**CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.**

To the New Mexico Public Education Department,

The 180 day school year would affect a multitude of people, in many different ways throughout the state. As a senior at Elida Schools, I have a packed schedule and use every part of my time outside of school. A four-day school year opens up my week for more opportunities and to help my family. My family owns a ranch and I help them frequently with work on Fridays and throughout the weekend. My younger sibling also helps my family, the same way that I do. This is the same for many families in my school, since Elida is located in a rural area. I also have a job that I work on Fridays but am not able to do during the week. If future students are not given the opportunity to go to school four days of the week, they may miss out on opportunities to learn life skills, through hard work. This will also put financial strain on my family, since I will not be able to help them around the ranch and help pay for my college tuition.

Throughout my high school career, I have held straight A's in all of my classes. On top of this, for the past year and a half I have been doing multiple college classes. I have achieved this with a four-day week and having to go longer weeks would prohibit how well I work and learn. A five-day school week would make me burn out quicker and cause me to become more overwhelmed by my workload. If I am able to achieve exceptional grades and do extra classes in a four-day week, then adding more days would not be beneficial.

This would also put a financial burden on many of the families at Elida Schools. Since the school is located in a rural area, that means many of the kids that attend have to commute a long way to get to school. Many older students have to drive to school, so they can participate in sports. My younger sister does sports, so my parents have to get her from practice every day. Adding another day to the school week would add financial strain to my family and the families of my fellow peers.

The schools in this area understand and play a large role in the local farmers' and rancher's lives. Without recognizing the struggles that can be presented by making this decision, the state is turning its back on the providers for the state and country. Farmers and ranchers already struggle to get understood and the recognition that they deserve, but you are trying to take away a large portion of that recognition. I urge, as a daughter of a hard-working rancher, to look at the very people who make up your schools and your state. Look at their struggles and what they do to provide for their families and to make sure that they get the best education as possible. I urge you to recognize the people of this state and to take into account how you will affect each student and parent through this choice.

Thank you,  
Holly Bilbrey

**From:** [Savanna Bricker](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Day Proposal  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:05:45 AM

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My name is Savanna Bricker and I am from Elida High School.

It is to my understanding that New Mexico is trying to mandate a 180-day school year. I switched from Portales Municipal schools to Elida Municipal Schools in 2019. Since this switch I have been more interactive in learning, I went from A's & B's to now being an A student and in National Honors Society. You claim that 4-day schools are not providing a good education to its students when in reality when have higher test scores then most 5-day schools.

Along with having a good education in my 4-day school I have the time to further my life skills on weekends. I have more time to participate in 4-H and FFA events. I am a well-rounded person because of this, and I am not the only one. Most students in my class have jobs they work at on weekends to save up for college or help ends meet for their parents. These same students are very active in our community and school. Sports and Agriculture are a huge part of our school. It helps kids stay active and learn responsibility, leadership skills, and integrity. These are some things often lost in larger schools.

Adding these extra days will also have an effect on pollution. Thirteen out of fourteen of the students in my class have a thirty-minute drive to get to school that's forty extra miles a day on New Mexico's roads: forty extra miles of nonrenewable recourses being consumed. What will that extra forty miles per person do to our environment? I can tell you it won't be good.

New Mexico's dropout rate is already the highest in the country this dramatic of a change could make that number skyrocket. It could also severely hurt the metal health of kids at 4-day schools. Not to mention you already do not have enough teachers that do not get paid their worth now you are going to mandate longer school years.

Thank you.

**From:** [Jacob Faunce](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:25:22 AM

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Jacob Faunce  
P.O. Box 45  
Mule creek,88051  
[jacobfaunce@icloud.com](mailto:jacobfaunce@icloud.com)  
(928)-651-5118  
Date:12/04.23

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: ***Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department***

It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.
2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.
3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.
4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective



lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Jacob Faunce

***Feel free to personalize and adapt this letter as needed to reflect your specific concerns and viewpoints.***

**From:** [Aubrey McCauley](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:25:25 AM

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Aubrey McCauley

PO Box 141

Cliff, NM 88028

[24mccauleyaubrey@silverschools.org](mailto:24mccauleyaubrey@silverschools.org)

575-956-3258

Date: 12/04/23

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is

proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly

oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven

successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children.

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not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days

has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-

being the academic progress of our students.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

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to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

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merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PEDs's rule-making

process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of

our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current

educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is

the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a

step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage

Other students and community members do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Aubrey McCauley

**From:** [Devin Harsh](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:26:03 AM

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Devin Harsh  
Buckhorn, New Mexico  
[24harshdevin@silverschools.org](mailto:24harshdevin@silverschools.org)  
Date: December 4, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

*Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department*

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for current and future students.

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In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a student, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my peers, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Devin C. Harsh

**From:** [Danny Holman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:26:24 AM

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Danny Holman  
45 Artcher Rd.  
Silver City, NM, 88061  
[24holmandanny@silverschools.org](mailto:24holmandanny@silverschools.org)  
(575) 313-0879  
12/5/23

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children.

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I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PEDs rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a student, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of future generations, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Danny Holman

**From:** [Collin Golden](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:26:33 AM

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[Collin Golden]  
[2198 Cottage San Rd]  
[Silver City, NM, 88061]  
[\[24goldencollin@silverschools.org\]](mailto:24goldencollin@silverschools.org)

Date: [December 4th]

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly

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2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change is bound to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

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5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest



that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a student, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of myself and my classmates, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals. I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other students, parents, and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
[Collin Golden]

Cody Foster  
622 NM-211  
Gila, NM 88038  
24fostercody@silverschools.org  
575 535-2051  
11/30/2023.

Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department

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school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

6. This increased workload will almost certainly lead to burn out for students, and will make students hate the schools even more than they already do, which will make the students not want to attend any classes, and will make students feel the need to not do any work on those days.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my peers, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Cody Foster

Davina Norris  
P.O Box 327  
Cliff, New Mexico, 88028  
24norrisdavina@silverschools.org  
1-(575)-654-0992  
Date: Dec 4, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

**Subject: *Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department***

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Davina Norris

**From:** [Kayson Best](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:35:07 AM

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Kayson Best

P.O 537

Tyrone, NM, 88061

[Kayson.Kay13@gmail.com](mailto:Kayson.Kay13@gmail.com)

575-654-3912

Date: 12/4/23

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department

I am writing this letter as a concerned student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is

proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly

oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven

successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.

2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.

3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could

lead

to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for

the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson

planning, collaboration, and professional development.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that

merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making

process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of

our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current

educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is

the well-being and academic success of my self, and I believe that the proposed changes are a

step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kayson Best

**From:** [Taten Norman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 day school year proposal  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:38:17 AM

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To the New Mexico Public Education Department,  
I am from Elida High School, I think that moving to a 180 day school year is not helpful because my attendance improved under a four-day school week. With a longer weekend, students have more time to rest and engage in extracurricular activities, which can lead to better attendance during the week. In order to play sports, you must be present at school, and be passing all of your classes. This, in turn, leads to improved academic performance. I also help around my house a lot and it would take time out of that.



**From:** [Radlee Ferguson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Day School Year Proposal  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:44:00 AM

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Dear New Mexico Public Education Department,

If our school had to go to 180 school day year, we would lose our 4 day week, and have to go to a 5 day school week. This means that I would have later practices and games for sports. I would be tired on Friday because we would have a late game on Thursday, and have to attend school which would put a strain on my class performance. Sports are a huge reason I attend school, and I am very involved in other extracurricular activities such as FCCLA and BPA. Our rural school functions well as a 4 day school week, and our test scores prove we are excelling academically.

Radlee.Ferguson  
Elida Schools

**From:** [Rogelio Orozco](mailto:Rogelio.Orozco)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] rule feedback  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:48:03 AM

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Good afternoon,

I hope this message finds you well. Today, I am writing to you to discuss keeping a four-day school week. I believe it has numerous benefits to our school community.

The following are some of the benefits we have received:

1. Academic Performance

- Research suggests that a four-day school week can lead to improved academic performance. Students have the opportunity for longer, uninterrupted periods of instruction, allowing for more in-depth learning and comprehension.
- Teachers can use the extra day for professional development, collaboration, and planning, which can positively impact the quality of instruction.

2. Student Well-being

- A four-day school week can contribute to a healthier work-life balance for both students and teachers. The additional day off provides time for rest, extracurricular activities, and family engagement, fostering a positive school-life integration.
- Reduced stress and burnout may lead to increased student engagement and a more positive learning environment.

3. Cost Savings

- Operating costs, such as transportation, utilities, and maintenance, can be reduced with a four-day school week. This may result in financial savings that can be redirected toward educational resources, programs, or infrastructure improvements.

4. Environmental Impact

- Fewer school days can contribute to a reduced carbon footprint. With fewer transportation and facility-related activities, our school can become more environmentally sustainable.

In conclusion, a four-day school week has the potential to enhance academic performance, promote student well-being, generate cost savings, and contribute to a more sustainable environment. By addressing concerns proactively and fostering open communication, we can work together to create a schedule that benefits everyone in our school community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Add your NAME

Rogelio A. Orozco Erives

Math Teacher

Ph 575 544 8404 Ext 1009

Fax 575 544 8755

Deming Cesar Chavez Charter High School

DCCCHS

**From:** [Salvador Vega Duarte](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 Day School Day  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:48:31 AM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Salvador Vega Duarte

**From:** [Michael Santos](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Four Day School Week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:49:09 AM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michael Santos

**From:** [Lizbeth Rodriguez](mailto:Lizbeth.Rodriguez)  
**To:** [charles.turner@dmingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@dmingps.org)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Four day school week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:49:49 AM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lizbeth Rodriguez

**From:** [Sophia Apodaca](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:50:43 AM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sophia Apodaca

**From:** [Elena Jimenez](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:50:44 AM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Elena Jimenez

**From:** [Janet Encinias](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Four day school day  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:51:50 AM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Janet Encinias

Violeta Bustamante  
Dean of Students/Assistant Principal  
Deming Cesar Chavez Charter High School  
315 E. 1st Street  
Deming, New Mexico 88030  
Work (575) 544-8404  
Fax (575) 544-8755

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**From:** [Devon Carbajal](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Four day school week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:51:52 AM

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Devon Carbajal

**From:** [Epifania McCartney](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] rule feedback  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:51:56 AM

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Epifania McCartney

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Deming, New Mexico 88030

Work (575) 544-8404

Fax (575) 544-8755

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**From:** [Kasandra Gomez](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] four day school week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:51:58 AM

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Kasandra gomez

**From:** [Matthew Chavira](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Four day school week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:51:58 AM

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Matthew Chavira

**From:** [Michael Rios](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Four day school week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:53:48 AM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michael Rios

**From:** [Franciso Muro](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:55:03 AM

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Francisco Muro

**From:** [Diego Carillo](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Four day school week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:55:47 AM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Diego

**From:** [Vanessa Marquez](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:56:33 AM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Vanessa Marquez

**From:** [Jailyne Trevizo](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Calendar change  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:56:54 AM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

-Jailyne Trevizo

**From:** [Mia Jaramillo](#)  
**To:** [Charles.Turner@demingps.org](mailto:Charles.Turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Concerned Student  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:57:52 AM

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Dear Administration, my name is Mia Jaramillo and I'm a student at the charter highschool. I'm concerned for the upbringing of next school years and so forth being five days a week instead of the current four. I do not agree with this because many students and I have been used to this schedule and it fits well with school and work as many students such as myself have our work hours around school and Friday is a day which most have our most hours. I also am part of the deming wildcat band at the highschool and their new pep rally schedule is now moved to Fridays which works well for me as not having school Friday as I'm able to go and support and be with the band the day of the pep rally's and wouldn't miss class or my band activities. I'd really appreciate the four day weeks to say the same as it's now comfortable with our schedules and work and life.

Sincerely,  
Mia Jaramillo

**From:** [Karely Leñios](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 11:58:46 AM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Karely Leanos

**From:** [Kyle Madrid](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:00:21 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kyle Madrid

**From:** [Karely Leañós](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:01:04 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Karely Leanos



**From:** [salcidogerardo51@gmail.com](mailto:salcidogerardo51@gmail.com)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Concerned student  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:45:50 PM

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Dear administration, my name is Gael Salcido and I'm a student at Deming Cesar Chavez charter High school and i have been attending this school for 2 years and I don't agree with the state opinion on adding a fifth day to schools that are only 4 day. One of the reasons I don't agree with it, is the fact that most of my peers work out of school and adding one more day would greatly affect there work hours. Another reason is the fact that most of the outside or inside of school appointments, we can use the one day off for our appointments or other stuff that's important. Another reason is the fact that if we add one more day just to make students no miss school is a dumb choice because student are going to be more willing to miss not only one day but more day with the 4 days it has helped student not miss more days. The 4 day policy it has greatly helped me and other students that have sibling that have to take care of them when my parents are working and not only sibling but also helping around the house doing chores. I have greatly improved thank to this day off because it greatly helped me be in school more and not only that but it helped me get my grades off having one day of to just get my grades up.

**From:** [Axel Villalobos](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps](mailto:charles.turner@demingps); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fw: Email Template  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:46:25 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Axel Villalobos

**From:** [Elayna Slayers](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:47:04 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Elayna Salyers  
dccchs student

**From:** [Mikal Witterman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] keeping school four days a week at Deming Cesar Chavez charter high school!!!!!!!!!!!!!!  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:47:08 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mikal Witterman

**From:** [Luis Ornelas](mailto:Luis.Ornelas)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day work week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:47:40 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Luis Ornelas student at DCCCHS

**From:** [Luis Parra](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fw: Email Template  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:47:43 PM

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Luis Parra

**From:** [Raphael Arledge](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:47:53 PM

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Raphael ithiel Arledge.

**From:** [Matthew del Valle](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Calendar change  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:48:56 PM

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Matthew Del Valle

**From:** [Yovanni Espinoza](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:49:06 PM

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yovanni espinoza

**From:** [Michael Boylston](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Calendar change  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:49:19 PM

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In conclusion, a four-day school week has the potential to enhance academic performance, promote student well-being, generate cost savings, and contribute to a more sustainable environment. By addressing concerns proactively and fostering open communication, we can work together to create a schedule that benefits everyone in our school community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Micheal Boylston.

**From:** [Natalie Tone](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] skeet skeet  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:49:48 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

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communication, we can work together to create a schedule that benefits everyone in our school community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Natalie, Nichole, Tone

**From:** [Ileana Holquin](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fw: Email Template  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:51:06 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ileana Holguin  
Deming Cesar Chavez Charter Highschool

**From:** [Lizzy Montano](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Calendar Change  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:51:29 PM

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communication, we can work together to create a schedule that benefits everyone in our school community.

Thank you for your time and consideration, may you have a good evening.

*Lizzy Montano*

Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023

Student of DCCCHS

315 E. 1st Street

Deming, New Mexico 88030

**From:** [Julisa Castillo-Flores](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Four Day School Week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:51:29 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Julisa Castillo-Flores

**From:** [Angel Rodriguez](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Calendar change  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:52:23 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Angel Rodriguez

**From:** [Christien Martinez](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Calendar  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:52:28 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Christien Martinez

**From:** [Nereyda Aguayo](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:53:20 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Nereyda Aguayo

**From:** [Ana Duarte](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:53:24 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ana Duarte

**From:** [Kira Yepez](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4-day school week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:53:45 PM

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more sustainable environment. By addressing concerns proactively and fostering open communication, we can work together to create a schedule that benefits everyone in our school community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kira Yopez

**From:** [Roselyn Plantz-Harvey](mailto:Roselyn.Plantz-Harvey)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day week :) :0 :D thanks  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:53:49 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration. :P

Ray Plantz-Harvey  
DCCCHS Student

**From:** [Abril Bailon](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 days week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:53:52 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Abril Bailon

DCCCHS home of the Aguilas where "Si Se Puede!"

**From:** [Sergio Gonzalez](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Voice  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:54:04 PM

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sergio gonzalez

**From:** [Jalylenne Salto](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Calendar Change  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:54:53 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jaylenne

**From:** [Angel Vasquez](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:55:27 PM  
**Importance:** High

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Angel Vasquez Student at DCCCHS

**From:** [Kairi Baca](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 days weeks  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:56:50 PM

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Kairi Baca

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**From:** [Anadaly Valdez](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 days week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:58:06 PM

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- Reduced stress and burnout may lead to increased student engagement and a more positive learning environment.

#### 3. Cost Savings

- Operating costs, such as transportation, utilities, and maintenance, can be reduced with a four-day school week. This may result in financial savings that can be redirected toward educational resources, programs, or infrastructure improvements.

#### 4. Environmental Impact

- Fewer school days can contribute to a reduced carbon footprint. With fewer transportation and facility-related activities, our school can become more environmentally sustainable.

In conclusion, a four-day school week has the potential to enhance academic performance, promote student well-being, generate cost savings, and contribute to a



more sustainable environment. By addressing concerns proactively and fostering open communication, we can work together to create a schedule that benefits everyone in our school community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Anadalay Valdez

I am a student from deming cesar chavez charter hs

**From:** [Angel Retiz](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Calendar  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:58:06 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon,

I hope this message finds you well. Today, I am writing to you to discuss keeping a four-day school week. I believe it has numerous benefits to our school community.

The following are some of the benefits we have received:

1. Academic Performance

- Research suggests that a four-day school week can lead to improved academic performance. Students have the opportunity for longer, uninterrupted periods of instruction, allowing for more in-depth learning and comprehension.
- Teachers can use the extra day for professional development, collaboration, and planning, which can positively impact the quality of instruction.

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school community.

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Angel Retiz

**From:** [Jalylenne Salto](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:59:51 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jaylenne Salto student at DCCCHS

**From:** [Miguel Leyva](#)  
**To:** [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org)  
**Cc:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 days week  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 12:59:53 PM

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Miguel Leyva F  
DCCCHS student

**From:** [Rosemary Armijo](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [charles.turner@demingps.org](mailto:charles.turner@demingps.org)  
**Cc:** [Nunez, Noel](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Concerned student.  
**Date:** Monday, December 4, 2023 1:01:52 PM

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Dear Administration,

My name is Rosie Armijo and I am a student at DCCCHS that is concerned regarding the 5-day week that wants to be implemented next year. My reasonings as to why I don't agree with this decision and a lot of others can testify to this is because our Fridays off give us opportunities to work, schedule appointments, family time and for some transportation obstacles that are faced. Teachers or staff members can use these Fridays wisely to plan and make decisions for the classroom. some families depend on some of my peers to go to food drives to pick up food or go to different organizations that help out with everyday needs at home. I came here to DCCCHS because of the 4-day weeks because I needed that extra time to get work done and help my parents with what they need at home. In conclusion, I consider these 4-day weeks as productivity days and strongly agree that they need to stay the same. Not all of my peers have the luxury of not having to work to help around the house and that is one of the reasons that I strongly stand on to keep the 4-day week. Thank you for your time hearing our feedback. Si Se Puede!

Sincerely, Rosemary Armijo