

**From:** [Rose Dominguez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; Albuquerque Teachers Federation](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 12:37:47 PM

---

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 completely against the circumvention of state law HB 130. I am a veteran teacher in NM. It is disappointing to know that my professional development hours will be replaced with instructional hours especially when new curriculum is introduced by district yearly. Taking away professional development time from teachers adds a greater workload to already overworked teachers. Professional development time is an opportunity to hone their skills and seek advise from seasoned teachers. Taking away this opportunity will place an unnecessary strain on new and veteran teachers that could cause early retirements and new teachers quitting due to burn out.

I am also disappointed to lose parent teacher conference time to instructional time. It is important to build a relationship and communicate with parents their child's work in the class. Parent teacher conferences is a great way to support that relationship. Losing conferences will take away that opportunity for parents to discuss their child's progress. This loss could further alienate parents from the classroom.

Lastly, the rural schools in our state have a need to have 4 day school weeks. Children have to travel many hours to and from school each day, thus, making 4 day school weeks a perfect compromise for those rural communities. Forcing these communities to goto 5 day schedules places an additional economic strain on these small communities.

I think arbitrary changes by the PED will create a lack of faith and trust in the system. Teachers are educated professionals and should be treated as such. Many teachers continue to better themselves by achieving Nationals Boards, obtaining masters degrees, and other continuing professional growth opportunities. COVID was an unfortunate event that paused the world for two years. Unfortunately, the students' education regressed, but adding more instructional time is not going to repair the loss of two years. Educating teachers in current teaching strategies and curriculum will through professional development, but these student loses will take time to recover. Lastly, teachers can't teach if students aren't there. Therefore, more pressure has to be placed on the shoulders of the parents, not the teachers.

Respectfully,  
Rose Dominguez  
Music teacher, NBCT  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Honold, Kevin](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] against the proposed changes  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 12:39:37 PM

---

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 Kevin Honold. I'm the Special Education Coordinator at Tierra Encantada Charter School in Santa Fe. Our current schedule suits the needs of our school and our community. Changes such as those being discussed will be highly disruptive to our families, students, and staff, and will certainly lead to teacher departures at a time when we are already struggling with staff shortages. I understand the concerns that gave rise to this idea, but the proposed solution will only make matters worse. Please don't make such substantial changes solely in the spirit of "doing something"; this approach to problem-solving is ill-advised and has little to recommend it.

How about investing in more teachers and staff instead?

Thank you.

Kevin Honold

Special Education Coordinator  
Tierra Encantada Charter School

(505) 409-1501

***CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This electronic transmission (including any files attached hereto) contains confidential information that is legally privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure. The information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or any employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, dissemination, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this confidential information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please destroy it and immediately notify us by telephone. Thank you.***

**From:** [Riley Olsen](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 1:07:37 PM

---

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

Riley Olsen  
P.O. Box 454  
Gila, NM 88038  
[rilesolsen@gmail.com](mailto:rilesolsen@gmail.com)  
575.654.0620  
December 17, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this letter as a concerned employee of 17 years of Cliff Schools in the Silver Consolidated School District, in Cliff, NM, and am in direct opposition to the proposed changes to HB 130. The Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these proposed changes by the PED since they threaten the established system of our school, which has successfully operated a full-time 4-day-per-week schedule for over 20 years. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of Cliff Schools.

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.

As published by 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 in 5. 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.

Our students are thriving at Cliff Schools, and are part of a caring community of teachers and staff, with the student's best interests at the forefront of everything we 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 several 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 additional school days 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 who have to transport their children to school. I feel we will see an increase in absences if these changes are made.

I am a teacher and also a parent of two who graduated from Cliff Schools and saw how the 4-day-week educational model served my daughters, our family, and our community. The 4-day school week allows our teachers at Cliff Schools to prepare high school graduates who have proven to be more well-rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults who are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of society.

The proposed changes to HB 130 are 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.

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 reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well for over 20 years. I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns. 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,  
Riley Olsen

4th-grade teacher  
Cliff Elementary  
Cliff, NM

**From:** [Susan Lime](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 1:18:06 PM

---

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

To whom it may concern,

I was notified that the NM Public Education Department (NMPED) is accepting public comment on proposed rule change for 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements until Monday, December 18th, 2023 at 5:00 pm.

For the reasons in the bullet list below, and in agreement with AFT-Los Alamos, the LAPS School Board, and the LAPS administration, I do NOT support the adoption of the proposed rule change to NMAC Rule 6.10.5, School Calendar Requirements.

- NMPED's notice does not provide adequate time for school districts to prepare for this unexpected rule change that dramatically impacts our students, teachers, and families;
- The rule change may be at odds with the law;
- This rule change removes the ability to accept a teacher's professional development hours as instructional hours; and
- This rule has unintended consequences that will limit critical staff planning time, affect student, teacher, and family schedules, require sudden development of additional curriculum, and will be disruptive to our secondary schools.

Sincerely,

Susan Lime

**From:** [Haley Ellett](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule feedback/comments  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 1:59:18 PM

---

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 email finds you well. First and foremost, I want to express my gratitude for your dedication and hard work in shaping the education experience for the students of New Mexico. Your commitment to their success is truly admirable.

I am reaching out to you today with a special request. As you may be aware, there is a proposal to change the Instructional Day Count in our school district. However, after careful consideration and analysis of our unique circumstances, I believe it would be in the best interest of our students and staff to remain with the current Required Hours system. I kindly request your consideration in developing or maintaining individualized instructional needs per school district rather than creative a blanket rule across our state school systems.

There are several factors that drive my recommendation to maintain the Required Hours system. Firstly, our school is in a rural area, with a population that faces specific challenges. Limited resources and financial strain make it difficult to adhere to a strict Instructional Day Count. By focusing on Required Hours, we can more effectively allocate resources and provide our students with a comprehensive education.

Furthermore, it is important to note that our school has consistently met the required hourly requirement, demonstrating our commitment to instructional time. This approach allows for flexibility and accommodates unforeseen circumstances such as weather-related closures or other disruptions. It also ensures that students receive the necessary amount of instruction without compromising their overall learning experience.

I believe that by meeting these requirements, we can effectively advocate for the retention of the Required Hours system. Your expertise and insight would greatly contribute to the success of this endeavor.

Once again, I want to express my appreciation for your willingness to assist in this matter. Your dedication to our students' education is truly commendable. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am confident that together we can make a compelling case for maintaining Required Hours rule and do what is best for the children of New Mexico.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,

Haley Ellett

Agriculture Educator, Artesia High School

President, New Mexico Agriculture Educators Association



**From:** [Sonya Reid](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Against a 5 Day School Week  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 2:00:16 PM

---

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

I am writing today to strongly oppose a five day school week. I feel this is a bad idea all the way around, but particularly for our small rural schools. The following are a few reasons why I feel so strongly about this.

- 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 addition to the facts stated above, I feel that making a 5 day week mandatory in our schools that have gone 4 days since I was in elementary school, will only push students away. Causing the graduation rates to drop significantly. Not to mention the student population will drop, as I am sure we will see more and more students go online or get their GED's instead of attending classes. We have seen first hand what this has done to our youth as far as the lack of social interaction goes with the COVID 19 pandemic. It is equally important for students to engage with others in order to become productive citizens.

I also feel that you will not only be pushing away students, but also educators, in a field that is already suffering. I have personally heard several veteran educators that have said they will either retire or find some other form of work if the five-day week were to be mandated. Teacher burn out is a real thing and adding an additional month to the school year will not benefit teachers or staff any more than it will students.

More time in the seat is not the answer for our youth, it is crazy! Our small rural schools have proved that. I only hope that you take the time to look at the data before mandating this on the ENTIRE state. I do not feel we should all be punished, especially with our school having some AMAZING test data, AMAZING staff, and most importantly AMAZING students!

PLEASE DO NOT pass this purposed rule! Our children and our state will suffer!

Sonya Reid  
575-487-2252  
First Grade Teacher

Logan Municipal Schools

**From:** [Kelly Reid](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Against a 5-day school week  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 2:00:19 PM

---

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

I am writing to day to oppose the notion of five-day school weeks for New Mexico. The new proposed 180-day school year is not the way to go in regard to increasing numbers for the state of New Mexico. If anything, this is going to burn students out more and possibly drop test scores. State law 22-8-23.14 states that schools can operate on 4- OR 5-day school weeks, this means that regulations made by department cannot prohibit this due to it being authorized by statute. Not to mention, even if some schools did need increased amount of time due to low scores, this doesn't speak for the schools that do have test scores and graduation rates that heftily outweigh the state average.

I'm a student at Logan Municipality schools, and proud to be one. We have much higher scores than the state average, and to say that we included need extra instructional time because we are underperforming is offensive and undermines how hard I and the other students from Logan schools have worked to maintain the scores we have. In contrast to the state's 76% graduation rate, Logan schools holds a 97.3% graduation rate. It's very easy to note that this is significantly higher. Logan elementary school holds a very high 79% reading proficiency rate and 61% math proficiency rate as opposed to the state averages of 38% and 24%. This being said, Logan schools' proficiency rates more than double the state averages. This leads to the point that this decision of instructional time should be made on a local level. Making this decision at a government level takes away the democracy that the nation was built on as it takes away the local power of schools.

This decision being made is going to be a detriment to students and their lives. There is a very high chance that if this proposed rule passes, graduation rates will drop everywhere, including the state average. The school system is already very demanding of students, and adding more days will only make it more so. Studies have shown that students who attend schools with four-day school weeks get more sleep and time with their families, but possibly have lower scores. For Logan Municipality schools, and many of the schools in the surrounding area, it is not true that there are lower test scores. So, this proposed rule would NOT raise the test scores for the schools referred to, but instead would only decrease the amount of sleep obtained by the students and decrease the amount of time spent with family. This means that there would be no benefit for these schools. The students would likely end up exhausted and possibly dropping out. In short there would be more dropouts, a decreased student population, a higher online schooling population, and more student burnout.

This decision not only affects students in New Mexico schools, but the teachers and staff as well. Teachers and staff in New Mexico schools are already incredibly limited. There is a large shortage of teachers in this state, and many around the country. Making the school year more rigorous and challenging would NOT help this. There would be less teachers

applying to fill in open positions, and there would be more teachers leaving their positions in search of work somewhere else. This will pose a huge burnout for students and staff, ultimately affecting test scores opposite the way they were intended. Teachers will be so burnt out and tired that it becomes more difficult to teach their fields, and students will be too burnt out to learn them. It is already no secret that the majority of students dislike school and attending it, so if time is added to the school year, there's a higher chance of there being more negative than positive effects. Students will drop out, they will get their GED's, they will take up online schooling. They will do anything to avoid this proposed rule and will decrease the student population of schools in the state.

In summary, the proposed rule will not affect all of New Mexico schools in the way that it was intended to. It will cause a large burnout for both students and staff. Not all of the schools that operate by four-day weeks are performing low enough to permit this proposal. It takes away local power, and due to this, it opposes the democracy that the nation is founded on. Students will be unhappy, and the staff shortage will get worse. Taking away four-day weeks is not going to have the desired effects. Please do not pass this rule, as students and staff will suffer and be undermined by its effects.

Kelly Reid  
Logan High School Student  
Logan Municipal Schools

**From:** [Sierra Duran](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed change to extend school year  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 2:06:56 PM

---

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

Good day,

I caught a Facebook post against this proposed change, followed the link to the proposed changes to the wording and see nothing wrong with the changes as they clarify and declutter some of the old language. It appears the school district or perhaps school itself must request the extended year.

As a parent of three, all of which are currently in the public school system, I do not understand the opposition to a year round calendar year. Children do most of their learning in school and the knowledge lost over the summer is a proven problem.

I have been an advocate of year round school since my kids started school. Creating a consistent year round school calendar across NM would be helpful in case students do move within the state. The state creating additional programs such as day care or kids camps to facilitate working parents would also be helpful. We live in a society that has many dual working households or single parent households and a consistent and predictable school schedule helps us immensely.

We don't want schools to raise our kids but the reality is they spend a lot of time in school and a holistic approach of education for kids and maybe even entire families needs to taken. Year round school is a step in the right direction as I would hope more instructional hours would also be used for creative avenues, sports, and knowledge that kids will need to hold onto past traditions and future career fields.

Sierra Duran, MA, CPA

**From:** [Karen Morris](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; aftnmaction@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 2:15:07 PM

---

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

Dear Dr. Arsenio Romero and the NM Public Education Department,

I am writing to you to express my strong objection to the new NMAC Rule 6.10.5 that NMPED is proposing for the 2024-2025 school year.

For context, I teach Freshman English at Los Alamos High School. We are currently contracted for 195 days, with 187 of those days being instructional days with our students. We teach our students on a block schedule, meaning that students take seven classes per semester with one class meeting daily and the other six classes meeting every other day. Due to this schedule, our students are able to gather most of the credits they need to graduate by the end of their junior school years, using their senior years for their few remaining requirements and extra enrichment like internships, jobs, tutoring, and other post-secondary preparation opportunities. At this time, the graduation rate at Los Alamos High School, largely due to the flexibility of our schedule and number of opportunities for students to pursue their interests while still meeting the requirements of the state, has risen to 97%.

The proposed 6.10.5.6. A requires students to be enrolled in four classes per day and does not appear to accommodate the fact that our last class of our day is half as long as the other classes and split over a two day period, considering that a half class. This means that we currently hold 3.5 classes per day at LAHS and would have to reenvision our schedule to have 4 completely different classes per day in our two day block rotation, totalling 8 classes per semester. Increasing our students' class loads to 8 classes per semester would be problematic for our students because it would increase their work loads, squeezing out what time after school that they currently have for sports, activities, volunteering, and recreation with friends and family in favor of homework.

When school becomes incompatible with students' lives in this way, it is more likely that our students will drop out of high school to escape unnecessary expectations that threaten their life balance and overwhelm them with stress. In addition, increasing our students' class loads to 8 classes per semester would be problematic for our staff because more classes would have to be created in order to accommodate this schedule. It may be difficult for the district to hire additional teachers to take on these classes due to Los Alamos' remote location, high cost of housing, and low availability of housing. As a result, our existing stretched-thin teachers may feel pressure to teach more than a 1.0 FTE so that each of these new classes with all a qualified instructor. Teachers who feel that more and more

responsibilities are thrust upon them in order to make our education system functional are more likely to leave the profession due to burn out. Another possible outcome is that teachers who are approaching retirement age may choose to retire on time due to this additional pressure without comparable benefits when they otherwise might have stayed in the profession longer.

I think we can all agree that while time in school is important, the quality of the schooling is as or more important, and the quality of our students' education would not be benefited by a void of highly qualified teachers in our district. Subsequently, staffing our classrooms with unlicensed and not highly qualified teachers in lieu of qualified teachers will not help to bring our district or NMPED closer to its goal of our students earning higher math and reading scores.

The proposed 6.10.5.6. A would also greatly impact the flexibility that our senior students have in their schedules because it would require students to be enrolled in four credit-bearing classes per day even if they do not need to take four classes in order to graduate on time. Right now, seniors may select an "unsupervised period" or "supervised period," which are not credit-bearing, if they have completed the required credits, are currently completing any senior courses required to graduate, are generally doing well academically as measured by a GPA requirement, and are on track for graduation. Forcing these seniors to take classes instead of unsupervised periods would impact our students in that they would lose the option to use this time to accomplish their own goals or pursue their own interests. Yes, the proposed 6.10.5.6. A change would accommodate LAPS students who choose to work in town or arrange for an internship, but it would not provide flexibility for the students who want to use this time to pursue other goals. For some students those goals and interests are to use these unsupervised and supervised periods as time built into the school day to work on homework, apply for scholarships, or tend to the many paperwork tasks associated with applying for college or a technical program. If they feel that this time has been squeezed out of their schedules, when will they complete their homework? Apply for college? Fill out the FAFSA and apply for scholarships? This impact is a problem because for some students, it would have the unintended consequence of failing grades or a lack of ascension to career-preparation opportunities.

Additionally, the 6.10.5.6. A proposed change would impact staffing as well. Currently, approximately 480 students are taking a supervised or unsupervised free period per semester at LAHS. In order to put those students in credit-bearing courses instead, 20 classes of 24 students a piece would need to be created. If a full time teacher teaches five classes, then four new full time teachers would need to be hired to teach those classes. In addition to the aforementioned hiring struggles in our school district, our school also does not have the physical room to house four additional teachers. Additional portable classrooms would need to be brought in with additional buildings built in the future while our

district needs to focus its funds and energy on rebuilding Pinon Elementary School, Chamisa Elementary School, and Mountain Elementary School, all sites that are older than our high school buildings and in various states of disrepair, demonstrating much more need for renovations and new construction.

To best serve our students and staff, I ask that you remove the language that requires that "Secondary students shall attend a minimum of four class periods per instructional day" from proposed NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements."

Thank you for your consideration,  
Karen Morris

English 9  
LAHS  
Los Alamos Public Schools



**From:** [Jamie Estupinan](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 2:26:12 PM

---

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

I am emailing to let you know how I feel about a 4 day week. All kids need that extra day they need a break. Staff and students need a small little break from everything. My kids enjoy going to school Monday- Thursday they are doing wonderful in school. Please consider keeping a 4 day school week.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is in reference to my concerns about the possibility of extending the school year.

First, I would like to say that it is incredibly disheartening that the opinion of classroom educators never seem to be taken into consideration when making monumental decisions such as this. We are supposed to be the experts when it comes to what our students and schools need, yet our expertise does not seem to matter when establishing state rules, regulations, and mandates for education. When is this going to change?

I have taught at a small district in Northeastern New Mexico for the past 8 years. We have a four-day school week that allows staff and students to have Friday off for errands, work, doctors' appointments and finally an extra day of rest that allows all of us to come back on Monday refreshed and I believe, more productive. Based on data, this 4-day week has NEVER appeared to impact our students' learning negatively. Our teachers are phenomenal and have been able to keep up with or surpass 5-day schools in our region when considering academic performance based on state data. Our elementary and middle schools recently were recently named Schools of Excellence (top 10%) in the state of NM, and our high school a Spotlight School (top 25%). Keep in mind this is also in comparison TO 5-DAY SCHOOLS. In past years, we have also had teachers (including myself) that have scored highly effective and exemplary; this accolade was accomplished during a 4-day week. Also, we might take into account that many teachers and students have to travel 25+ miles to get to school in rural districts such as ours. That is one more day of traveling (which can be exhausting) and an added gas expense.

Since this is being sold as a measure to increase student achievement across New Mexico, why not only focus on the schools that need improvement; honestly, otherwise it comes across as punitive. Why is this being forced upon all schools across the state? It seems like a one size fits all tactic, without pinpointing specific, individual school needs and then implementing strategies to address THOSE issues. Isn't that the opposite of what we are taught as teachers? Are we going to make the entire class repeat a lesson because one student is struggling? Absolutely not.

I would also like to know where is the extra funding going to come from to finance the millions of dollars it will cost to add on these extra days? Schools across the state are denied money for extra materials, resources, substitutes, educational assistants, and most important- more QUALIFIED teachers.

Lastly, if you were to take the time and ask the experts (educators in the classroom) what we believe may increase student performance and progress, we may tell you: smaller classroom sizes, more teachers, more educational assistants, allowing educators more autonomy when it comes to instruction, SEL experts at every school, and full-time counselors at every school that only address student mental health. All of these are factors that affect student performance. How are additional days going to address these issues?

Secretary of Education, Arsenio Romero, states, "Our students deserve better." I could not agree more. I am pro-student first and foremost and I am beyond willing to do whatever is asked of me that will benefit our children, but this is NOT it. More days spent in a classroom isn't better, better is better.

With regards,

Alexia McElhinney  
Kindergarten Teacher, Maxwell Municipal Schools  
lexir@maxwellp12.com

**From:** [rooster chadly](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed amendment to 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 2:41:16 PM

---

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

I live in timberon, which is an hour and a half away from my high school. right now we go four days a week. Mondays I help my dad with his auto mechanic business. With the amendment I will have to drop out otherwise my family could suffer loss of income.

Do not vote to go 5 days a week.

**From:** [Sonya Ayers](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PED New State Law  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 2:46:53 PM

---

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

Hello, I'm Sonya Ayers as a junior at Los Alamos High School, with my final year coming soon I feel that this new state law will keep us from having the last year be the best year. This not only applies to the high school but also the elementary schools as well. The younger students need as much time at home as possible with development and academic skills not being fully ready, going to school and being at home are both equally important, especially at the young age. Spending time at home with parents is crucial, taking away the half days on Wednesday is not the way to go about this. For teachers, if this state law decides to put in more classes, it will most likely be impossible with the teachers either quitting jobs and not being able to hire qualified people. one issue I have noticed high school students are concerned with is no free periods. For students this gives us an opportunity to have time to ourselves and get studying in. Our student athletes are training non-stop everyday from 3:30 to late nights after the sun goes down. Having free periods gives the athletes the chance to study when they can't after school and get homework done. As a theater actress, NJROTC cadet, and an athlete this state law is something I will not be looking forward to for my senior year, I want to use the free periods as a time to apply for colleges or even hangout with friends as it will be the last year we all have together as the Hilltoppers class of 2025 family. LAPS wants the schools to look good with amazing SAT/ACT scores, but what about the teachers and the students' mental health? Adding more hours and more classes wont help us in my opinion and it will only make our lives more stressful with work loads some students have outside of school as well. These teachers have families to take care of and they need some time off as well. Thank you for taking the time to hear my opinion.

- Sonya Ayers



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [Melody Tsui](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school day  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 3:13:42 PM

---

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

*To Whom It May Concern:*

*My child attends Alice King Community School, a charter school where students attend 4 days a week. The proposed rule change to the instructional time requirements (NMAC 6.10.5) would have negative implications for our child and family. The 4-day school week provides our family the opportunity to support our child's learning at home. Moving to a 180 day calendar and 5-day school week would cause a major transformation of how Alice King Community School is structured and to its Charter and Mission. This would include possibly removing 20 professional development days for teachers that are used for curriculum development which would change the focus of the school's Charter related to multi-age and inclusion philosophies and teaching methods.*

*We respectfully request that the New Mexico Public Education Department decline to proceed with the proposed rule change.*

*Sincerely,  
Melody Tsui*

**From:** [christa tyson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 3:24:45 PM

---

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

I am a parent to three children in the Los Alamos School District. I strongly OPPOSE the new rule:

*NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"*

Has anyone considered the mental health issues and stress this would cause teachers, students, families, and the community?

In Gratitude,

Christa

**From:** [de Andres Presa, Eva](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 3:36:37 PM

---

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

The new changes to the calendar are NOT going to be beneficial for anybody, especially since there was a legislative change 4 months ago. It'd be important to utilize the time in the classroom better, with meaningful assignments and teaching time.

--

Eva De Andres Presa  
Student Achievement Coordinator  
Tierra Encantada  
Phone: 505-983-3337

***CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This electronic transmission (including any files attached hereto) contains confidential information that is legally privileged, confidential, and exempt from disclosure. The information is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient or any employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, dissemination, copying, distribution, or the taking of any action in reliance on the contents of this confidential information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please destroy it and immediately notify us by telephone. Thank you.***

**From:** [Betsy Stauffer](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; aftnmaction@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 3:45:48 PM

---

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

Dear Dr. Arsenio Romero and the NM Public Education Department,

I am writing to you to express my strong objection to the new NMAC Rule 6.10.5 that NMPED is proposing for the 2024-2025 school year.

For context, I am an occupational therapist at Pinon Elementary School. We are currently contracted for 195 days, with 188 of those days being instructional days with our students. We teach our students from 8:30 to 3:30 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. In our school district, Wednesdays are half days, starting at 8:30 and ending at 12:00. Due to this abbreviated Wednesday schedule, our students are able to attend clubs, get homework help, spend time with peers and their families, participate with extracurricular activities such as skiing, music, martial arts, dance. On these Wednesday afternoons, teachers are given time for professional responsibilities like grading, planning, meeting, and collaborating. This average of 300 minutes of preparation time weekly is guaranteed to our teachers through our collectively bargained agreement and ensures that our educators can provide students with a high quality education. WITHOUT this time to plan, complete required paperwork such as evaluation reports and annual updates for each student on my 40 child caseload, consult on multilayered levels of support for students who do not meet special education criteria but demonstrate need for expertise such as those that I provide, participate with required professional development and continuing education, coordinate with regular education teachers, and more, the quality of the education we currently provide will greatly suffer.

If we lose our early release Wednesdays as a result of NMAC Rule 6.10.5 passing on Mondays, teachers will be asked to perform at the same level and complete all of the same tasks as previous school years but with less time to prepare. Yes, our district can reformat our elementary schedule, but why would that be beneficial for students when our current schedule works for our students, families, and staff? Furthermore, our current schedule does not inhibit our students growth; our students' math and reading proficiency scores are increasing and are currently some of the highest scores in the state.

I ask NM PED to reconsider by voting no on NMAC Rule 6.10.5.

Thank you for your consideration,

Betsy Stauffer, OT/L

*Everything is AWESOME when you're part of a team!*

*Most of what I learn comes from those I teach.*

Pinon Elementary  
Autism Assessment Team





This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.





**From:** [Bethany Scott](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] This is not the solution.  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 3:53:15 PM

---

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

I am a parent of three children in public school, and I am a high school math teacher for Los Alamos Public Schools. I am vehemently opposed to the proposed rule changes for the following reasons:

1. It seems like the assumption is that the problem with NM schools is that students are there long enough. From what I see, that is not the problem at all. First, just because districts add more days, does not mean they are using those days to actually improve education. Second, students' attention spans have shrunk since when I started teaching in 2003. Asking them to stay focused on school for longer is just not going to achieve anything.
2. If you want to improve outcomes, you have to actually improve the teaching--not just have more teaching. If the state wants to really improve our ability as teachers to educate, give us more time for planning, grading, and professional development! If you want better teaching, then we need more time to learn what that is, plan better lessons, provide more insightful feedback to students. You are asking us to better prepare students, but giving us LESS time to actually work toward that goal. In the absence of adequate planning time, we throw together whatever the textbook says, give completion grades and move along. Better teaching requires TIME. Please put money there...quality not quantity should be the goal.
3. Burnout is real. Morale amongst teachers is the lowest I've seen. Extending the school year and shortening breaks is going to drive people out of the profession--it already has! We need that time to regroup and be ready for our students emotionally. Student burnout is even worse. These kids have grown up with constant stimulation and instant gratification through screen time and video games. My students seem to have about 45 of real focus, and yet we have them sit in class for 90. They are overwhelmed and don't have the skills or resilience needed to maintain effort. I don't think they need more days of school or hours in school.
4. Let's make changes that target specific problems. These rules feel like taking a hacksaw where a scalpel should be used. The problems we need to address in Los Alamos are vastly different than what needs to change in Cimarron or Grants or Farmington. Blanket rules from the state limit our ability to be flexible and meet the specific needs of our students. Please don't take control away from local districts to decide what is working (or not) for our students. We can come up with more targeted solutions than one big bandaid applied state-wide.

Please do not implement these rules. I do not believe they will benefit anyone, and will likely cause more damage than not doing anything.

Bethany Scott, M.Ed.  
Los Alamos High School

**From:** [Krista Jurva](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback:6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 3:57:17 PM

---

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

To Those Making the Decisions on our children's education,

I am writing to you concerning the rule to make all public schools have 5 day/week school days. I know that this comes to you late, but my hopes is that you will see it and consider what I have to say. I have been thinking long and hard how to voice something so important to you all and wanted to make sure I was able to in a way that you might hear.

My three sons attend Loving Municipal Schools and have been for the past three years. They have had a wonderful transition into this school and met other students that have helped them greatly in their studies as well as their social skills. I've watched as my children have come into the people they were intended to become. We have all loved all the staff and people we have met in Loving. The four day school week has been an added bonus to what we have already come to love. We have been able to teach our boys on Fridays of their fathers trade which is farming/ranching. The time we have been given to be with them more has enhanced all of our lives.

With all of that being said, I know and realize you face families from all sorts and families like mine is not always the case. I know you are looking out for all students as a whole and have much to consider. To you more time in school means more kids are cared for and allowed to eat, etc. So a family like mine is probably not the ones you are forced to listen to anymore, hunger, poverty and the such is perhaps what is of concern to you? I can't imagine the challenges each of you face with all the knowledge you are given of the goings on in the state of New Mexico. I do know that more and more of the parents rights are being taken away. More decisions are being made that are not in our children's best interest. I don't want to sound ungrateful for all that you do I just know that it is impossible for you to know and be in tune to all the different schools in our state. So having each school district decide what is best for their school, having local people keep an eye on what goes on with the kids of their city takes the pressure off of you all. We need to be a community minded school district. Our own kids are our priority. We are around to see what works and what doesn't. In Loving, having the four day school week works for us and has for the past decade. Our testing numbers are higher and we have happy well adapted students. The faculty and staff are not worn out due to having to raise everyone else's kids.

With this new rule it feels as though one more right is being taken away. You have already made it possible that our children can change the sex of their body without parents knowing, along with many other changes that have been made, why do you want to take away all of our rights and decisions on our children's education? I don't know if you have children or not and I am not one to say how you raise them, but I am certain that You want to be the one who decides what is best for them just as I do. Please don't take away one more thing from our schools, from the parents. Put the decision making back to each community to decide what is best for their schools. We all need to become part of the same team working for the same outcome, what is best for our children to live happy, healthy lives. We can do that by giving back our rights and allowing us to have a say so.

I appreciate your time and consideration. Please know we are praying for you all and over you all as you carry this great burden on your shoulders. I am grateful for the work you do and hope that somehow we will get to be part of carrying that burden from now on.

Sincerely,

Krista Jurva  
Loving Municipal School District Parent

**From:** [GAVEN KUYKENDALL](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC RULE 6.10.5 (school calendar requirements)  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 4:06:37 PM

---

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

To Whom It May Concern,

As the father of three children in the New Mexico Public School System, I wish to voice my deep concern about the proposed rule change governing school day and year length. To be clear I oppose the proposed change on the basis that I feel prolonging the time children spend in the classroom will not improve their educational outcome, and hence there will not be a resulting improvement in NM educational ratings. Further more, the increased time pressures placed on teachers for prep time will further tax an already hard pressed instructional force.

Dr. Gaven Kuykendall  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [ehumble\\_1113@yahoo.com](mailto:ehumble_1113@yahoo.com)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Request to Revoke Proposed Rule on Calendar Reform  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 4:37:43 PM

---

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

Secretary Arsenio Romero  
New Mexico Public Education Department  
300 Don Gaspar Ave.  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Subject: Request to Revoke Proposed Rule on Calendar Reform

Dear Secretary Romero,

I am writing to express my concern and dismay regarding the New Mexico Public Education Department's proposed 180-day school year in HB130. As a Governing Board Member of Roots and Wings Community School (RWCS) and a parent of a student attending Taos Integrated School of the Arts (TISA), I see the negative impact as described by the proposed HB130 requirements through two different lenses.

I have not been apprised as to any benefit that regulating a 180-day school year would enjoy.

Both RWCS and TISA do exceptionally well in New Mexico's education landscape. RWCS operated on a mostly 4-day school week until additional school hour requirements pushed them into a mostly 5-day school week this year in order to comply with the additional hours and still rely upon the public transportation many students utilize in order to get to the school. TISA has been and still does operate on the 4-day school week. The four day school week gives families a chance to rest, engage in activities as a family, and to participate in community events. It is an enrichment to our personal lives to have a four-day school week. Students are refreshed and rested when starting classes on Mondays, are able to focus better on schoolwork throughout the week, and overall have a positive attitude towards school. Both schools enjoy high attendance rates and academic performance.

From a school's perspective, the four-day week offers many benefits. Staff burnout is lower, employee retention is higher, and the costs associated with maintaining the building(s) and programs are lower. If there are schools for whom budget is no matter, I am not aware of them.

I am utterly befuddled why the NMPED thinks it should fix what is not broken.

I also think it is an egregious and gross overreach of the NMPED to think it can insert itself into our local cultures and personal lives to tell us how many days we need to be physically present at a school.

I believe education is an investment in the future. I'm not sure what kind of message the NMPED is sending by proposing to degrade the education experience for students, educators, and families.

I appreciate your time and efforts. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Anderson

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)



**From:** [Ivan Vitev](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [Ivan Vitev](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Negative feedback on proposed PED change, 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 4:54:23 PM

---

**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 disapproval for the proposed increase in credit/time in school requirements which will negatively affect students, severely limit their ability to participate in extracurricular activities, and put additional stress on the teachers.

- This is completely useless because:

- it limits the prep time for students, and will likely lead to lower scores on various subjects.
- it limits or eliminates time for extracurricular activities, which both serve to build different skills - leadership, social, etc. They are required for college admission. This will decrease NM students' the chances for college admission
- Practically eliminating summer vacation, will not allow students to participate in summer camps, engage in summer programs, help with the family business, or travel to broaden their world view
- Students already spend so much time in school that they have no meaningful summer vacation. The proposed change will likely make the summer vacation less than a month.
- I have little doubt that the constant stress that the NMPED plans to put on students will affect their physical and emotional health (and I can foresee lawsuits)
- The same is true for teachers. This will exacerbate the teacher shortage problem who will seek employment in states with less incompetent education department

- What can help is: increased funding for education; better pay for teachers; engagement of parents - parent teacher conference beyond elementary school; better engagement of teachers themselves - quality of classes can vary.

To be completely blunt, this is a proposal by career bureaucrats who are disconnected from the educational system. The proposed measure is superficial and only serves politicians who are staging a farce so that it looks like they are doing something. It is ineffective and will affect the students in mostly negative ways.

Ivan Vitev

**From:** [Alethea Jahn](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [act@atfunion.org](mailto:act@atfunion.org)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 4:54:51 PM

---

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

I am writing in opposition to this rule change in its entirety.

Our elected representatives worked hard to fashion a law that increased class time and allowed for local control. This rule conflicts with the law and disregards local control and, in doing so, disenfranchises voters.

The current law has not been in effect for an entire year and so no data is available to determine if it is effective or not. Yet, the PED sites test scores from the year prior (before the current changes were enacted) as evidence that the changes are not working. This appears to be nothing short of a power grab by the executive even though the Governor signed the current bill onto law.

This is literally more if the same. How does that saying go about doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result? How about trying something different like funding smaller class sizes, funding counselors and social workers in every school, address truancy in a meaningful way, and enacting policies that ensure the safety of every person on a campus?

Finally, any changes enacted should be carefully considered to increase educator retention. This rule will have the opposite effect and may directly cause additional educator flight. You can have students in a classroom 365 days of the year it won't mean anything without highly qualified educators to teach them. Unfortunately, many students are already experiencing this based on the news reports of the teacher shortage in the state.

Respectfully,  
Alethea Patterson-Jahn  
NM Resident  
Veteran Educator

**From:** [Zane Pedersen](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 5:00:34 PM

---

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

Dear NM Government,

As a student at Los Alamos Public Schools, I believe that this bill detracts from the friendly learning environment and the drive to succeed by removing opportunities for hard working students. The removal of free periods means that students who finish credits early in their high school years are not allowed the freedom to have non credit-bearing classes. In addition, the increased load of an extra class as well as the removal of an essential time for studying and personal time will be detrimental to the overall mental health at NM schools.

Zane Pedersen



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [tastorz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 5:11:50 PM

---

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

Dear PED

I am writing regarding NMAC 6.10.5: School Calendar Requirements. I'm a member of NEA-NM. The organization does not support the proposal, but that's not the only reason that I'm opposed to it. I feel that another increase to the amount of work time required of teachers would be devastating for me and my colleagues. I'd actually consider leaving the profession or the state if this change took place.

As you know, teaching is a grueling profession. Most educators put a huge amount of energy and care into our daily tasks. Adding required time to our load will increase the likelihood of burnout. We need the little time that we have to do mundane things like laundry or grocery shopping, essential things like spending time with family and friends, important things like participating in interesting summer classes or reading novels. The list goes on.

Oue school calendar was JUST lengthened! Please do not add to our exhaustion again!

Sincerely,  
Thea Storz

**From:** [Dustie Gonzalez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: HB130  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 5:12:43 PM

---

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

As an educator in New Mexico for more than 18 years, I have seen many efforts to enact change in the New Mexico educational system. The newest attempt is house bill one hundred thirty (HB 130). I am not only not in favor of this bill but am adamantly against it.

I will first speak as an educator. I have experience as an educator in both a school system with a four day week and a five day week. I am currently employed in a school with a four day week. This school has had much success with a four day week for twelve years. According to the state data, academically they outperform many of the schools in New Mexico. The middle school is a blue ribbon school and was honored in Washington DC last year. Many students here are part of the FFA program. The program has had many students over the years place at the state competition. This year the program had students place at the national FFA competition. According to the New Mexico Vistas data reporting system, put out by the NMPED, both the elementary and middle school received designations of excellence and the high school received the designation of being a spotlight school. The success of this school can be attributed to the ability of the administration and educators to service the needs of their unique study body. Every school in New Mexico is unique and has vastly different needs. As educators we are asked to differentiate for our student body based on their individual needs. Why are the same government officials asking our educators to incorporate supports that contribute to equitable classroom structures and design classroom learning environments that minimize barriers and optimize learning for all students trying to pass a bill (HB 130) that is a cookie cutter approach to education and does not take into account the unique and diverse population within New Mexico. Please be an advocate to stop HB 130, and allow each district to make their own decisions to better serve their individual communities.

Secondly, I will speak as an advocate for our student population and our community.. According to section C of HB 130, schools must have a minimum of 180 instructional days and at least 50% of the weeks must be 5 day week. This will not only impact the health and social well-being of our students but also the finances of some of our families. The four day week allows students in rural areas to be actively involved in their school and their community. Students in rural areas tend to be actively involved in several activities and are at the school 5 to 6 days a week. Many of our students have part time jobs, in which they help their families financially. . Balancing academics, athletics, community events, FFA, work, college, etc is very challenging for the student body in rural schools.. Rural schools have effectively structured their school calendar to bring success to their student body for many years. If a system is not broken, why fix it?

As a grandparent of three students who recently went from a five day week school system to a four day week, I understand the benefit of a four day school week. They are more involved, less stressed, and doing well academically. The four day school week is only one of the factors that have contributed to their success. They have relationships with all their teachers, are held accountable, are actively involved, and understand it is their responsibility to work for learning the four days they are there. They are extremely happy, less stressed, and have more time for their family and outside interests. I understand a four day week may not work for all school districts, but it is working for some. Since we are a diverse and unique state, why are we trying to make school districts carbon' copies. Why are we taking school districts' ability to implement a calendar that contributes to the success of their student population? HB 130, is an attempt again at overreach from our highest government officials. Please put a stop to HB 130.

Lastly, I would like to speak as a tax paying citizen. Instituting a five day week will not guarantee the improved success of schools but it will ensure there will be an increase of spending. Schools will

see an increase in transportation costs, food costs, utility costs, and salary increased spending. Where will districts get the money to pay for this? HB 130, would again constitute a tax increase for the working class. The taxpayers of New Mexico will have to foot the cost of bad decisions made by our elected officials. HB 130, is a one size fits all model, which has been shown not to work in education, as well as an attempt to empower (actually an overreach of power) our government officials. Again, please support the people of New Mexico by voting against HB 130.

Thank you for your time,

Dustie Gonzalez

**From:** [MAYA SNOWDEN](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 5:48:25 PM

---

**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 am writing to you regarding the NMAC Rule 6.10.5. that is proposed to take effect in the next school year.

There are several issues concerning this new rule. As a student at LAHS I take seven classes a week, three classes per day that are 1.5 hours in length each and a fourth class period that is forty five minutes long. With our block scheduling, we have A and B days- four periods a day with our last class being taken everyday. We start at 7:50am and end at 2:35 in the afternoon. A schedule, with flexibility where students can balance academics with extracurricular activities. In contrast, the new rule calls for eight classes (four per day) a longer school day, further burdening students, not to mention our teachers. Who will be required to spend even more time preparing, all the while you have encroached on their personal/family time. I am not sure the rule change would be beneficial, as we would have a bigger workload with less time to progress through homework. This would have a negative impact on grasping and understanding the material. As it stands this semester, with the new schedule, we have had a long, and intense semester.

As a student who has to wake up at 5:00am to be at school for drill and physical training, often 4 days a week and not leaving school until 4:30pm twice a week. I have been unable to practice Jiu Jitsu all semester, an art that I have been learning for over 12 years, but has become a casualty of "your schedule". I am a student in the National Honor Society, with good grades, and your new schedule proposal will only serve to undermine my academic goals.

The next issue in the 6.10.5. rule calls for the removal of free periods for upperclassmen. Most students at this age have a job. Without the use of free periods students wanting to work would be diminished. LAHS has a 97% graduation rate, a number supported by the flexibility of our schedule. Students balance employment, with their sports, and with their classes. Some students will not be able to assist in giving their family financial support. Free periods are a necessity for students. Especially if the students are taking AP's. How are these kids supposed to balance this work load with the little time you give them? With no free periods, students will be more frequently burnt out. We would be getting home later, going to bed later, getting very little sleep, and waking up very early just to get to school. This would have negative effects on students mentally, lowering test scores, and graduation rates. Whether you agree or disagree, you guys need to get this right, because whatever you are doing is not working, nor is it fun anymore.

Furthermore, as we continue to use this schedule I have already noticed some negative effects. I have had multiple conversations with teachers and students that do not like this schedule. Many students are already feeling burnt out, despite the many week long breaks. If this is how we feel this semester, how will we feel next semester, where there are very little week long breaks? We never wanted those extra long week breaks in our schedule because we knew you would add on those days to the end of the year. Next year we start at the end of July. Are you

kidding me? July! What about summer assignments? As a student who is planning on taking four AP's next year I need more time for my assignments.

What problem are you trying to solve with this new schedule?

None of us students and staff wanted this schedule. It is not benefitting us but harming us. And the 6.10.5, the schedule you propose will only create more issues.

Listen, this year's transition to the new schedule has been very difficult. Most of us are exhausted from having to work within its parameters. Are you sure you want to institute an even newer and more radical schedule change? Please take this email into consideration when deciding whether or not to pass this rule.

Thank you,  
Maya Snowden  
Tenth Grader at LAHS



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.



**From:** [Lance Wright](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC,  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 6:17:35 PM

---

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

Mr. Secretary,

I would like to address you concerning your proposed rule change in 6.10.5 NMAC. New Mexico is a very diverse state and approaching education in this state with a one size fits all does not benefit all districts and can be very detrimental to many districts. Many of the smaller districts have been on a four day for many years and have proved how it will work in these districts. Cloudcroft has been on the four-day school week for many years and continues to be a top performing school district as seen by our High School being ranked as excellent meaning in the top 10% of New Mexico Schools and both our Middle School and Elementary are ranked as spotlight meaning in the top 15% of New Mexico schools. We can do this by using a four-day week and still meeting the additional hours that have been added. To state that we are against additional school time is not accurate as we have added the time. We truly believe that quantity must include quality time. Just adding quantity is not the best solution for educating our students.

By having a four-day week we have been able to recruit and hire quality educators that are willing to make the extra drive up the mountain in sometimes adverse weather to work a four-day week. If we were mandated to go back to a 5 day this would increase the travel expenses to these educators and would potentially cause us to lose quality educators to districts closer to their homes, were they wouldn't have to make the drive up the mountain and could commute in much less time.

Having a four-day week also allows us to have professional development on days when classes are not scheduled. We are also able to provide and make available additional education to students needing additional help on the day not part of our scheduled school week.

Moving away from our four-day week we would experience additional costs. Transportation costs would increase such as fuel, drivers expense, wear and tear and maintenance on buses. Food costs would increase by about 25%. Having the schools fully open five days a week there would be additional utilities costs as well. We would also experience additional costs for substitute teachers. Currently educators can schedule appointments on the day off during the week. In a rural community finding substitute teachers is very difficult and adding more days which substitutes will be needed will bring down the quality of education our students are getting. We should all be able to agree that having the educator in the class makes a greater difference than having a substitute in the classroom.

As a school board member for almost 11 years now our community has elected us to do what is best for our students and as you can see by the rankings of our schools, we are in the 10 and 15 percent of the state. We have been able to hire quality educators and have dedicated staff to our students which are working. Mandating us to go for a 5-day week has the potential to have the opposite result of what you're trying to get. Furthermore, this is a huge power grab trying to take away local control from all school boards across the state. I urge you to reconsider your decision on mandating a 5-day. We all need to remember why

we are here. It's not for a political agenda but what is best for our students, and the ones who will know that the best are the local school boards.

Very Respectfully

Lance Wright

Secretary Cloudcroft Board of Education

**From:** [Tracy Thompson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 6:18:49 PM

---

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

Dear Dr. Arsenio Romero and the NM Public Education Department,

I am writing to you to express my strong objection to the new NMAC Rule 6.10.5 that NMPED is proposing for the 2024-2025 school year.

For context, I teach Humanities, a dual credit English class, at Los Alamos High School. We are currently contracted for 195 days, with 187 of those days being instructional days with our students. We teach our students on a block schedule, meaning that students take seven classes per semester with one class meeting daily and the other six classes meeting every other day. Our students are able to gather most of the credits they need to graduate by the end of their junior year, using their senior year for their few remaining requirements and extra enrichment like internships, jobs, tutoring, and other post-secondary preparation opportunities. At this time, the graduation rate at Los Alamos High School, largely due to the flexibility of our schedule and number of opportunities for students to pursue their interests while still meeting the requirements of the state, has risen to 97%.

The proposed 6.10.5.6. A requires students to be enrolled in four classes per day. At LAHS, however, the fourth class is half as long as the others and therefore meets every day. It appears that under this proposed rule, PED would consider that shorter class a half class and require LAHS to reenvision our schedule to have 4 completely different classes per day, which would total 8 classes per semester, one more than students currently take. Requiring students to add an additional class into their schedules will not increase learning; rather it will give them less time to work toward the in depth knowledge required in many classes. An additional class will likely increase stress and potentially decrease the quality of their learning, as they would study even wider, rather than deeper. Teachers would need to take into consideration that students were enrolled in 8 classes, rather than a maximum of 7, and decrease homework expectations. In addition, this change would require LAHS to hire more teachers and potentially increase class size because LAHS would need to add an additional class period into the master schedule. Because LAHS is a remote community with a high cost of living and a serious housing shortage, hiring new teachers is incredibly difficult.

The proposed 6.10.5.6. A would also greatly impact the flexibility that our senior students have in their schedules. Currently, eligible seniors are allowed to have up to two free periods per semester, that is, enroll in 5 classes rather than 7. This flexibility allows seniors to have time to complete homework during the day before they go to work, sports practices,

music rehearsals, or any of the other activities that LAHS students participate in. They also use the time to complete college applications, volunteer in the community, research scholarships, and spend time with family and friends. Many of our seniors enroll in dual-credit and AP classes, which carry heavy homework loads, and work in the afternoons. They are able to do so only because they have flexibility in their schedules, which allows them to arrange their schedules so that they can also develop other interests necessary for their post-secondary plans. If they have to take 8 credit bearing classes per semester, they will need to choose easier classes, and the number of students taking advanced classes will drop. For students who are not drawn to advanced classes in high school, the additional burdens put on them by this proposed rule may lead them to drop out of school entirely because they will not see the value in taking extra classes not needed for graduation.

Additionally, the 6.10.5.6. A proposed change would impact staff in that we would have to add a significant number of classes to our schedule, which is a problem because the buildings cannot accommodate more classes, or even larger classes. We would need to hire more teachers and likely pay current teachers for more contract hours. These increased costs would be significant and detrimental. An unintended but costly result for our students would be that staff members would have less time to devote to each student, would burn out much faster, and may even leave the profession at a time when we struggle to hire teachers.

I ask NM PED to reconsider adopting the changes to Rule 6.10.5 because it will add unnecessary requirements that inhibit rather than contribute to meaningful education for students.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Tracy Thompson

Teacher  
Los Alamos High School  
Los Alamos Public Schools

Tracy Thompson  
Los Alamos High School  
Humanities  
505-663-2574



*Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail, including all attachments is for the sole use of the intended recipients and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited unless specifically provided under the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of this message.*



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [Jacqueline Rodriguez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 day school days  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 6:48:32 PM

---

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

Our family enjoys 4 day school days it helps with attendance my kids look forward to going to school only 4 days a week. Doctors appointments can be scheduled on Fridays and they don't have to miss a day of school. Don't change 4 day weeks.

**From:** [Marianne Marshall](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 6:50:29 PM

---

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

I am writing to voice my concern about the changes that have been proposed to how the instructional time requirements will be calculated for the 2024-2025 school year.

School districts made changes last year. Has there been any follow up to see what has worked?

These changes will make it very difficult to have in place before 2024-2025 school year begins. Contracts for teachers will need to be renegotiated. Each school district can have different needs in our state. Let the school districts have a voice in what happens. Listen to them.

It appears there is a rush to make changes again. Why? Let's take the time to be sure to get it right.

Thank you for your time.

Marianne Marshall  
Los Alamos

**From:** [AMELIA GELFAND](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Student Objection to Proposed Changes to the NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 6:56:03 PM

---

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 a junior at Los Alamos High School and I object to the proposed changes to the NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements".

The proposed changes would greatly affect the schedules of myself and other 2025 graduates because many of us have already completed most of the required credits to graduate and this would cause us to be in classes we do not care about and do not need to be taking. These changes would also remove students' ability to have free periods, which will cause many students to lose time they would normally spend studying or working on homework. Free periods are an asset for students taking many advanced courses or for students who have busy after school schedules. Requiring students to be in class rather than free period would also affect teachers and their class size. It would cause class size to be increased, taking away from the quality of learning for students, or for teachers to add extra classes to their schedule, taking away from their planning time.

If these changes are implemented and school districts are required to make them for the 24/25 school year, there is not enough time provided until schedules must be submitted for a school district to apply these changes in a way that is most effective. providing such little time for districts to planout the changes, could possibly make it even less effective than the current schedule.

Thank you for considering my opinion,  
Mila Gelfand

 This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.



**From:** [Sam Gutierrez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 school calendar requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 7:05:10 PM

---

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

I am responding to the proposed calendar change requirements, for students and teachers to increase school days from 4 days a week to 5. My children attend two different school districts that are both 4 days a week. They are both very happy and in the top their classes. During testing they always perform in the top 5 percent of the state. If proposed changes go into effect my children will be homeschooled like a lot of other kids in the area. The state will lose 2 more well performing kids. According to a teacher I spoke to the other day there are more than 100 homeschooled kids in the area. Thank you

**From:** [Jory Mirabal](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed change to school day requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 7:10:58 PM

---

**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, educator and administrator I am writing in hopes to get those that have decided to push through the proposed legislation that would be a change to our school's requirements when it comes to school days. This proposal is without merit and does not take into consideration the diverse needs of many communities, especially those that are rural and have a long standing tradition of 4 day school weeks.

As a parent of 6 children, they have been the successful byproduct of growing up in a rural school and the benefits that a 4 day week affords them. My oldest 3 have since graduated high school. My oldest starts medical school this summer, the second is majoring in animal science/pre veterinarian and the third is majoring in education. I still have 3 at home. We live on a family ranch 30 mile down a dirt road, where we put in long days and weekends just to help the family ranch survive. Our days on school days start around 4:30 am and we return home around 6:30 most evenings. We are able to continue providing public education opportunities to our kids while so many of our friends and neighbors are choosing to home school there children because of the four day week. This allows us to be able to work on the ranch 3 days a week. It also makes the cost of commuting to school more affordable at a time when fuel and vehicle expenses are out of control. Our way of life is very dependent on being able to work on the ranch as often as possible and being a family ranch, like most in our state, we depend on the help of our children. They in turn are able to gain valuable life skills that can't be learned in a classroom. This change to schools being able to provide a 4 day week will drive many families out of the public school system and into a home school environment. It will also have many unintended negative consequences for families and family business.

As an educational professional I have seen first hand the benefits of allowing school districts to provide a 4 day week to their students. It goes back to the basic needs and goals of each individual community to decide what is best for the students and parents they serve. Why take this important aspect of our school system away? The fact is that 4 day schools out pace their 5 day week counterparts in almost every measurable category. This will also lead to many unintended consequences for our system. Many teachers and staff, most of which commute great distances to our school, have expressed that they will leave the educational system. Our rural schools are already being stretched thin in providing quality teachers and staff at almost every level and position, this change will make this task virtually impossible. In a time where teacher moral and retention is at an all time low, this is yet another hit that we can't afford to take at this time. We utilize our 4 day week to provide opportunities for staff to be trained and receive professional development opportunities on the extended weekends. Now this will not be provided and when it is will be done at the expense of class time on not done at all.

Teachers are becoming increasingly agitated with the requirements asked of them and lack of understanding to the demands of the profession they are in. We are at a breaking point when it comes to providing quality teachers in the classroom and this will be another obstacle that we will not be able to overcome.

I'm of the belief that reform can be done in creative and innovative ways that would not be intrusive on local control and 4 day schools that have proven capable of educating our students in a successful manner. We are not in favor of changing the law and rules that have served our

schools well. This change is not what is best for our schools. I appreciate your time.

Kind regards,  
Jory Mirabal  
Parent, teacher, coach and administrator

***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:** [KayLinda Crawford](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [Guy, Jennifer](#)  
**Cc:** [KayLinda Crawford](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 7:17:01 PM

---

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

Dear NMPED,

Please DO NOT enact 6.10.5 NMAC.

6.10.5 NMAC would have many negative impacts, such as:

- a longer school day
- an increase in the number of credits required to graduate
- additional days added to teaching contracts
- loss of the half-day each Wednesday teachers now use for planning and prep
- loss of the critical AT time that many high school students rely upon to meet one-on-one with their teachers
- changes to the master schedules at the middle school and high school
- loss of the option for students to have a free period

6.10.5 NMAC would have many **devastating unintended consequences**. School districts will likely witness the Law of Diminishing Returns if you adopt 6.10.5 NMAC.

1. There would be an increase in mental health problems. By adding more hours to the school day and increasing both the student's and teachers workload, you will cause great additional stress for students, teachers, and their families. An increase in mental health problems would most likely cause issues, such as:

- increased drug use, chronic stress, burn out, stress-related health problems, increased violence, teen suicide, dangerous decreases of self-esteem, a dangerous increase in the likelihood of a school shooting.

2. Adding classes will decrease the quality of the classes overall and will decrease GPAs. GPAs will drop because students will have to dilute their attention to deal with more classes which will cause all of the classes and grades to suffer.

3. 6.10.5 NMAC puts quantity over quality and will result in diminishing returns.

- decreased GPAs will hurt opportunities for academic scholarships to colleges and universities

- truancy will increase
- enrollment in hard classes will drop
- students will have to choose between classes and athletics or other extracurricular activities -- this would be demoralizing to so many students who rely on athletics for diversion from

the already very rigorous school day, for exercise, socialization, goal setting, team spirit environments, etc. If students are simply too busy dealing with unreasonable academic requirements, they will be forced to quit sports and or after school jobs.

Many students are intrinsically interested in taking the AP classes and want to achieve high GPAs and enjoy athletics. My student is one of those who is pushing herself as hard as we will let her. HOWEVER, there must be a limit. We have experienced her stress level getting so high that it caused much additional family stress and her health suffered. She couldn't even have a conversation due to her fragile nerves and anxiety. She wants to challenge herself with a reasonable number of AP classes along with her core classes and achieve a GPS worthy of academic scholarships, and participate in sports. We support her and have helped her find a healthy balance. So, please do not add any additional demands to her day. You will hurt her overall performance.

My other student, who graduated in 2023, excelled in NJROTC and is now pursuing a college degree while working toward earning a commission with the United States Air Force. If 6.10.5 NMAC had been in effect during her high school years, she would not have been able to excel in NJROTC because she would not have had the time needed to thrive in the NJROTC program. I can't imagine what her high school career would have been like if she had not been able to find the time to participate in NJROTC all four years.

Many students are fine with only focusing on the current core requirements and participating / excelling in sports or in building life skills through an after-school job. If you add more academic demands and time to the school day, you will add unnecessary stress, you will hurt the student-athlete, you could cause a student to lose an after-school job.

As you can see, this rule would be detrimental to all types of students.

Please do not adopt these proposed changes.

Thank you,

KayLinda Crawford, Los Alamos, NM

505-695-4996

**From:** [Cristina Varela](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [IMARI VARELA](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public feedback: NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 7:25:05 PM

---

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

Good evening,

I'm writing to share my concerns and opposition of the proposed NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements.

Our teaching staff are already overtaxed and facing significant stress due to the limited time they have to meet the enormous amount of expectations placed on them as teachers. By reducing their planning time, their stress will increase significantly. The proposed changes would force schools to increase class sizes in the likelihood the increased staffing is not achieved, and many of our students are already having difficulties connecting in the classroom and getting the focused attention they need in order to succeed. Secondary students will have no free periods in which to destress, catch up with school work, rest between school and extracurricular activities, and/or have a job.

I'm having an extremely difficult time understanding the benefits of this proposed rule change, and an even harder time believing that NMPED has the best interests of the students and staff in mind.

I strongly oppose this rule change.

Tina Varela

**From:** [Rebecca Tomlinson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed school changes  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 7:32:24 PM

---

**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 regarding the proposed changes to the required school hours for upcoming years. As a teacher here in New Mexico, I am appalled at the fact that our educational leaders believe that adding more hours to our school day is going to increase our overall students performance. Adding more hours to our school day and decreasing time off will not only lead to more teachers leaving our school districts but will also lead to higher absenteeism. Which will most likely increase drop out rates. We have students that travel more than an hour one way to school and then another hour back home; This is when weather is good. Now think about when we have snowy icy weather and how much longer they will be spending on the bus. This is going to lead to higher student burnout, drop out rates and overall effect them mentally and emotionally. I will be the first one to advocate for the important of education but at the same time, students need to have valuable time outside of school for extracurricular activities and for spending time with their families. This is how we take care of our students emotional health which at this point in time is very fragile for a lot of our students. Furthermore, increasing hours will do nothing to make sure students are actually attending classes. This will not change their outlooks on the school system, in fact it'll make it worse. We first need to address our absenteeism rates. We need to figure out what the actual root cause of it all is.

As far as the teacher's go I have been teaching in New Mexico for quite a while and I've seen our time off dwindle further and further down. No one in the higher levels who is making the laws. As far as the teachers are concerned, no one at the higher levels is taking into account the time we spend outside of class grading and planning for our daily lessons. Our job is not a 9 to 5 job. We put in a lot more time behind the scenes that no one sees or takes into consideration when making these laws. Our time off is very valuable to us so that we cannot only recharge for the next year but spend valuable time with our families.

I have 2 children who I do not spend enough time with because I am so busy with all of the bureaucratic paperwork along with planning for my lessons, grading papers, calling parents, and trainings. New Mexican students livelihoods vary from district to district, so how do you expect to compare New Mexico to other completely different states and how they run their educational systems that specifically adapt to them?

Lastly, our problem is not how many days we see our students. It is about the quality of education they are getting. We need to get back to the basics At the prime developmental ages, these would be kindergarten first and second grade period we need to focus more on reading, comprehension and basic mathematics. We need to stop passing students on either at a school level or by parent decision. Students should only be passed on to the next grade level if they have mastered the requirements expected of them. This is coming from a high school science teacher who does value science in education, however, students at the primary level need more focus on the fundamentals rather than history science or any other subject other than reading and mathematics. Students in our states are extremely low in both of these areas and I believe it is because we no longer focus on teaching these kids the basic principles. Instead we are so

busy worrying about state or national tests and overlooking the fact are students are not getting the education they deserve. We need to stop over testing these students so that we can focus more on their educational needs. This will not be accomplished by burning them out with more days in a classroom. This will be accomplished by focusing, especially in the early years, on the very basics and making sure they master these basics.

I urge the governor and the New Mexico public education department to look at the whole picture, to stop and actually see what is going on in schools, why students are not in school, why we can't hold onto good teachers, and what we can do to change our educational system, and how to make it a more positive and effective learning environment. Isn't it about time that our public education department asks teachers who are in the trenches what can be done to better educate our students in order to give them a brighter future instead of being stuck at the bottom of the nation's ranking.

Rebecca Chase  
High School Science Teacher



**From:** [Kimberly Petersen](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 7:34:23 PM

---

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

Vote NO

As a parent of 2 bio-kids and 3 kids adopted through NM CYFD, I have children with a diverse range of academic abilities, from highly gifted to average, and some who require substantial extra support at school. None of my children would benefit from additional time spent in school.

And I fear that we will lose good teachers if we continue to expand the required number of school days and school hours.

Please do NOT support NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements."

--

Kimberly Petersen  
foster/ adoptive parent in Los Alamos, NM

**From:** [Mary R. Harper](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 7:34:44 PM

---

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

I'm writing to express my concerns about your proposed rule to mandate 180 days of classroom instruction.

I have four kids. Two are graduated, but two are in a charter school. Their school attends four days a week, but holds optional attendance on Fridays. They attend Mon-Thurs 8am - 4pm, so it is long days. Fridays allow students to receive tutoring, complete makeup work missed for illness, participate in internships, and hold activities to prepare students to participate in events such as Model UN and Governors STEM challenge.

One of my sons is gifted and on an IEP. He attended most Fridays in 6th grade to help him with missed assignments due to the adjustment with being a new middle schooler. He is currently a high schooler and looking forward to participating in accelerated educational opportunities on Fridays, as well as internships.

My other son has ADD and has a 504 plan. He is an 8th grader and attends every Friday for tutoring and to complete missed assignments. Teachers can help him with individual instruction and support him in learning strategies to navigate his ADD challenges. He also has health challenges that have given him a lot of absences for illness and medical specialist appointments. Friday's ensure he can make up missed work.

My two sons represent the diverse reasons their unique school schedule is a match for their unique needs. Loosing this flexibility would be a detriment to them and their advancement in education.

Please reconsider this rule as it removes creative options from schools to meet a variety of needs.

Thank you,  
Mary Harper

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Megan Jackson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Vote NO on NMAC Rule 6.10.5  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 7:39:02 PM

---

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

Dear Dr. Arsenio Romero and the NM Public Education Department,

I am writing to you to express my strong objection to the new NMAC Rule 6.10.5 that NMPED is proposing for the 2024-2025 school year.

For context, I teach 4Y Pre-K at Aspen Elementary School. We are currently contracted for 195 days, with 188 of those days being instructional days with our students. We teach our students from 8:30 to 3:30 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. In our school district, Wednesdays bo school days for our 4Y Pre-K students. On Wednesdays, teachers are given time for professional responsibilities like grading, planning, meeting with parents to address concerns/progress, attend professional development requirements from the state for Pre-K teachers, and collaboration with related service providers for our special education students. This average of 300 minutes of preparation time weekly is guaranteed to our teachers through our collectively bargained agreement and ensures that our educators can provide students with a high quality education.

The proposed 6.10.5.8 C 1 requires 180 instructional days per school year and would not include professional development time and the proposed 6.10.5.8 D would require that elementary school days be no shorter than five and a half hours. In order to meet these requirements, our elementary schools would have to discontinue our early release Wednesdays, which would be a problem for students because it would require a schedule change for afterschool programs and drastically change how families would need to plan for after school care. Another consequence for students could be that release times would change to being earlier on a daily basis, again creating a problem for after school care. This change would also be problematic for staff as they would have to deal with a schedule change in order to get the allotted average of 300 minutes of prep time weekly. Staff also have children who will be affected by this schedule change. An unintended result may be that teachers leave the profession due to the increase in demands of their time.

I ask NM PED to reconsider voting no on this proposed rule change.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Megan Jackson

4Y Pre-K  
Aspen Elementary School  
Los Alamos Public Schools

Thanks so much!



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [IMARI VARELA](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 7:39:59 PM

---

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

Good Morning!

My name is Imari Varela, and I am a student at Los Alamos High School. As you may know, the recent decision on changing the school schedule, along with adding hours and days is causing a lot of chaos. I think that passing this law will cause many issues as well as having a lot of downsides. As a sophomore at LAHS, I think that there will be no issue keeping the schedule the same as this year. A lot of changes can change the average high school student in a negative way. For example, more students in classrooms, lack of teachers, the toll it will take on mental health, and many many more problems.

Take into consideration the staff and the teachers, here at LAHS, we have a hard time finding, and keeping, teachers and staff. If this law does get passed, we would need to add more staff in order to keep the students safe and controlled. Why get more teachers rather than making the groups larger? Because you would need to hire staff either way. Making one single teacher handle 40 plus students is not ideal, so you would need to add more staff to a classroom either way.

Aside from that one issue, there are many more issues as well, the biggest one being the mental health of the students. LAHS has a tendency of having higher mental health issues because of the expectations that the lab has brought the students. Putting this law in place would have a huge impact on the students and their wellness. Think about the resources that will be lost due to lack of time and money. Think about the potential rise in suicide cases. Los Alamos already has a 13.3 percent suicide rate, and I doubt it would decrease if this law is put in place.

While thinking about those things, also think about all the opportunities that this law is taking away from students. According to Walden University, in 2021, it is reported that over 30 percent of students had a job while in school, and 36 percent of students had a job during the summer. If this law does go into effect, students will lose the freedom of having a job, due to the longer hours in the school day. Some students don't even work for the social aspect. In fact, a lot of students work so their parents can afford living expenses, and this law would take that away from them.

As well as mental health on the line, physical health is also in danger. While schools might be in session for a longer amount of time, with more homework, and the majority of students have after school activities to participate in, when would we have time to get a good night's sleep? The CDC states that 7 out of 10 students don't get enough sleep on school nights, while also stating, "Adequate sleep contributes to a student's overall health and well-being. Students should get the proper amount of sleep at night to help stay focused, improve concentration, and improve academic performance." and this law being

passed would not help the students perform better.

To conclude this email, these concerns are very important to address, and this issue needs to be thought about before it is put into action. Passing this law would create more problems, rather than fixing them. Overall, this law would not be beneficial towards students in each school in New Mexico. Thank you for your time,

-Imari Varela, LAHS Sophomore.



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [Tammy Morales](#)  
**To:** [Feedback, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 7:44:40 PM

---

**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, I oppose adding more time to the school year next year. The school year has already been extended by the legislature and a one size fits all approach to education is a disservice to many students. My children attend a top-rated school in the state, AIMS@UNM charter school. My children take their studies seriously and do well in school. In a school that ranks 16<sup>th</sup> in the nation and #2 in the state, according to US News, what is the justification for additional instructional days?

To that end, there are many issues within our state which directly affect how well our students are doing. According to New Mexico Voices for Children, our state is currently 49<sup>th</sup> in economic well-being with 24% of children living in poverty. The truancy rate for APS last school year was 34%. We have several schools in the district that are transformational opportunity pilot (TOPs) schools that have extended days and hours per day. What does the data show about the achievement of these schools? These are just a couple of factors that need to be evaluated, researched and considered before simply adding more days to the school year.

As an educator, if this change is voted for, I will consider leaving the field. I have taught for 26 years, earning a master's degree and National Board Certification. I am working on my maintenance of certification this year and love my job, but the stresses are many and tacking on extra days in "hopes" that student achievement will improve will cause an even greater amount of undue stress and lead to more teachers leaving the field, teacher burnout, and in my case, retirement. I work in one of the top-rated schools in APS that was just named a School of Excellence. I have great students and parents who value education. Adding extra days is not prudent for this school.

Again, this proposed rule change is a one-sized fits all approach that will not help to improve New Mexico's achievement gap. Please consider the many issues that plague our state and in turn our students and work to address those issues first.

Thank you for your time.

Tammy Spaulding

**From:** [ALEA KRETZ](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 7:54:53 PM

---

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

Hello, my name is Alea Kretz. I am a freshman at Los Alamos High School. The proposed changes to the School Calendar Requirements are not what New Mexico needs. **I am writing to strongly discourage the proposed school calendar requirements.**

Being a student at LAHS I perform well academically as well as in multiple extracurriculars. If you increase the amount of time that students have to be in school that decreases the amount of time I and other students have for homework, family, jobs, and extracurriculars. Which causes an increase for all students, not just me. Having time to see family and do things you enjoy decreases stress, which is something that all students need ([citation](#)). If these proposed requirements are passed, this will also remove free periods. I have multiple friends who have free periods, and they use that time to study for AP classes. Los Alamos was recognized as the 2023 College Board Advanced Placement Small District of the Year. One large reason we are able to get this honor is because of free periods. These AP classes require a lot of homework, free periods are when many students complete that work. In addition to being a time for schoolwork students also use their free periods to work. Which gains the students money that they can use to pay for college or other postsecondary options.

While quickly searching the internet you can see a lot of articles stating that extended school time is effective in increasing academic outcomes ([citation](#)). But most of those studies are from before the pandemic and many of them refer to the positive effects on lower socioeconomic/academic groups. There is evidence to the contrary in northern European and Asian countries who have shorter school days and higher academic outcomes but they are more mono cultures in general. It seems that what is very important is how effectively the time is used ([citation](#)). However, I do not see a plan for increasing instructional effectiveness and levels of student engagement in this proposal. I really do not think more days or more hours will automatically translate to better outcomes without a strategic plan and staff training for the added time. It also needs to be considered that post-pandemic, both teachers and students are struggling with stress, burnout and poor mental health, so what may be needed is more of a balance with academics - movement, community service, time outdoors, connection - not just more traditional learning ([citation](#)). I think we should devote any additional time to training teachers in more effective student engagement methods. And it seems obvious that people who are less stressed and feel more confident will perform better ([citation](#)).



In Summary, I ask you to please, please refrain from passing the proposed School Calendar Requirements.

Thank you for your time.

-Alea Kretz

LAHS 9th Grader

1319 3rd Street, Los Alamos NM



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [JULIANA JORDAN](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback on the School Instructional Time Requirements (6.10.5 NMAC) change  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:06:11 PM

---

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

Hello,

I am emailing about the proposed changes to school instructional time requirements by the NMPED. There are many problems with the proposed changes however the ones that I am most knowledgeable about and therefore the ones that I am emailing about are the following:

“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.”

“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.”

“ 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.”

First, I'd like to address the number of hours that will be required if this proposal passes. According to the definition for Instructional hour put forth in this bill, Los Alamos High School only has ~5.5 instructional hours per school day. This is because of the two 10 minute passing periods around lunch, the 45 minutes of lunch, and the 35 minutes of Academic Time (time where students are not required to do anything but can go see teachers about anything they are confused about) cannot be counted under your definition. This means that for there to be 1,140 hours of instructional time when the school days are 5.5 hours long (the minimum listed in the proposal) there would have to be 208 days of school in a school year. Keep in mind that at LAHS the school day runs from 7:50 in the morning until 3:10 in the afternoon, (or 2:35 if you aren't counting academic time) which is not an unreasonable length for a school day. However, 207 days

of school is unreasonable as it only leaves 53 non-school days (subtracting weekends).

Next, going back to Requirement A, let's talk about attending a minimum of 4 class periods a day. Now, LAHS works on a block schedule. This means that on A days we go to three 1 ½ hour classes (1A, 2A, 3A) and one 50 minute class (4AB). Then on B days we go to three different 1 ½ hour classes (1B, 2B, 3B) and the same 50 minute class (4AB). However, apparently this proposal only counts 4AB as half a class period and therefore LAHS does not currently fulfill the requirement of 4 class periods per day. Now, while technically it is not 4 class periods a day, because we have 4AB everyday we end up with a full class period that's actually longer than the others. If this proposal went through then the school would either have to make the school day longer to fit a full 1 ½ hour 4th period each day and we would need to add another class to our schedule which means teachers have another class to teach, students have another class they have to do homework for and we have no homeroom OR we switch to a 7-period schedule which would mean that teachers wouldn't have as much time to teach each day and would have to split their lessons up between multiple days, students wouldn't have as much work time in class which would mean more homework, and there wouldn't be as much time to complete said homework since class would be everyday.

Finally, onto the second part of why 4 class periods a day is a problem, Free-periods! LAHS allows juniors to have 1 free period and seniors to have 2 if they wish to take them. With this new proposal free periods wouldn't be allowed anymore which would mean that all the students who have them would have to take another class which is a problem for two reasons. The first is that more students taking a class means bigger class sizes which means more work for teachers and less learning for students. The second is that many students (myself included) try to take all their required classes in 9th, 10th, and 11th grade so that way they can have a relatively chill senior year classes-wise. Getting rid of free periods would mean that students would have to take electives to fill those spots which would leave less time for things like college and scholarship applications.

This proposal is micromanage-y and in my opinion will do nothing to increase graduation rates. If the NMPED really wanted to increase graduation rates then they would increase the funding schools get and implement programs to increase parental involvement. Those are really the only major things that set LAHS apart from other schools and considering we have 97% graduation rate and recently won the 2023 AP Small District of the Year award I'd say that those two things actually work as opposed to this proposed change which won't.



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [Leslie](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [joseph.sanchez@nmlegis.gov](mailto:joseph.sanchez@nmlegis.gov); [Campos, Pete](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Not in favor of HB 130 with revision to Regulation 6.10.5  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:06:29 PM

---

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

Hello,

My name is Leslie Blakney I am writing this letter to state that I am opposed to the HB 130 with the revision to Regulation 6.10.5 including the rule that is attempting to make all districts move to 180 school days.

To start off I would like to mention some facts about 4 day school weeks:

- \* **85% of NM 4 Day week schools are scoring efficient or better.**

- \* 25 states are practicing 4 day weeks. It originally started out as a practice for rural districts, but is catching on in suburban and urban areas.

- \* The amount of overhead is reduced in the areas of building operations, maintenance, transportation and food services.

- \* Four day weeks help attract teachers and retain quality teachers.

- \* Benefits of four day weeks are kids get to spend more time with family, friends, and on outside interest. Older students are allowed the opportunity to get resume building public service or paid work.

I think that it is a mistake to try to make the entire school system in New Mexico into a one size fits all. I truly believe that it would be an even larger mistake to remove the 4 day school weeks. I think the reality of kids living in rural areas is considerably different than those that live in a larger metropolitan area. Many of the schools that run on a four-day system score efficient or much higher, have the highest graduation rates, and of those kids that graduate a high number of them go onto finish college.

I am a resident of Colfax County where the majority of schools in our county and surrounding areas are on 4 days a week due to commuting and the lifestyles and economics that are in these rural areas. I grew up on a four-day school week and cannot truly have enough good things to say about it. I received an incredibly solid education while still being allowed to participate in extracurricular activities and my families ranch without compromising academics. In my eyes the benefits far out way the cons to keeping the four day week, especially in rural areas. It might actually be a model that some of the metropolitan schools should try.

Just a few points that are of my personal opinion on 4 day weeks being more beneficial:

- \*Commute time and expense for families/ teachers - We are a ranching family that

commutes 50 minutes one way to school and adding another day to the week would make it considerably harder for families like ours to get children to school. It not only makes logistics harder, it also adds another day of fuel expenses for families. Many teachers are in the same boat, it would financially be another expense for them. Metropolitan areas have buses that run, that is not always an option in the areas where we live due where some agricultural families live vs school districts lines.

\* Job Appeal- Rural areas are not always the easiest places to ask people to move to. One way that schools in our areas are able to attract and maintain quality teachers is the appeal of the 4 day week.

\*Location- due to the remote location of many of these schools, having a four day week allows there to be a day for "travel". Many sports or school extra-curricular actives happen on Fridays and Saturdays which allow for the long-distance travel not to get in the way of the students academically. Due to the distance many of these schools travel for sports, FFA, etc , students would miss the majority of the day on a 5 day school week; in reality being in school a day less than they are on the current four day school week. Having an open week day also allows for student and staff to plan doctors appointments, dental appointments, large grocery shopping trips, etc. without having to be away from class. We are about 2 hours away from major stores like Sams, etc. So when many of us "go to town" it is for a purpose and to get supplies since it takes a significant amount of time.

\*Financial obligation- adding another school day to the week would increase the school district's costs all the way around. Heating bills, food costs, fuel costs, etc are just the obvious ones that come to mind. I think many school districts are already under a financial strain so to add another day just finacially doesn't seem to make sense.

\* School Districts Say- I think that is the whole purpose of a school board is to help the school districts make the best decisions for their students and staff. Many of these rural school boards are incredible! I think the PED is overstepping by trying to make this model fit all of New Mexico. I think the state needs to trust their districts and boards as those individuals have more eyes and ears within the communities.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I hope that the PED really does consider the adverse effects this rule change would have on rural communities.

Sincerely,  
Leslie Blakney

**From:** [Kris Johnson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule change 6.10.5  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:08:25 PM

---

**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 Kris Johnson, and I am a teacher in Artesia Public Schools. I am writing to oppose the proposed rule change 6.10.5, which seems to have been fast-tracked legislatively with extremely limited opportunity for input by the general public, school boards, superintendents, and others truly dedicated to continually improving education in New Mexico.

The Rule Change calls for all schools to meet 180 days plus meet the required instructional hours as defined by NMPED. My request is that you keep the extended days as an option for local control instead of being mandated by NMPED. I understand that by some measures, K-12 education in New Mexico ranks at or near the bottom in the nation. I suggest that trying to fix what's broken – instead of what's not broken – is the best approach toward improvement in education. The great need is to address the continuing post-Covid truancy epidemic. At present, our school districts have no real teeth legally to enforce truancy problems. Rule changes to school attendance from 2020 have not improved attendance and attendance issues within the school year are not the focus of Rule 6.10.5. Please focus changes on improving rules for attendance and truancy to include real consequences. Our students who are attending school 85%- 95% of the instructional time are developing and making good gains academically even when compared to national statistics.

Negative effects of Rule 6.10.5 will be significant. It will disrupt and undermine the budgets and scheduling in small, underfunded districts that are performing well and pulling up state average performance scores under the current schedule. The cost of effectively forcing such districts which have settled successfully on a four day schedule to convert to a five day schedule to meet the provisions of Rule 6.10.5 sabotages their autonomy and will undermine their solvency, creating still more issues for the State to have to attempt to solve. I'm a 9<sup>th</sup> Grade science teacher who looks forward to and loves getting students each year who are coming from our most rural and smallest K-8 school, which operates on a four day schedule, because they are so well prepared and high-functioning. Many of my sharpest students come from that school, and it is an example of something that's working that doesn't need to be fixed by disrupting and sabotaging what they have going.

Respectfully, I request that School Instructional Days remain a local decision per district discretion. Like others in New Mexico, our community elects officials to protect, provide, and ensure the educational process in our communities and ours is a successful board who invests in the best interests of its students and families. Rule 6.10.5 seeks to wrest control away from districts like ours, where schools consistently test well above the state average, instead of fixing what is broken.

Kris H. Johnson, Science Dept.

Artesia Junior High School  
1508 W Cannon Avenue  
e-mail: [kjohnson@bulldogs.org](mailto:kjohnson@bulldogs.org)

**From:** [Angie C](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:20:48 PM

---

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

To whom it will concern,

Adding 2 weeks to the current school year is ineffective & costly.

- Educators have shouldered the increases of instructional and professional development hours implemented this school year, but we can't continue to do more with less support.

The last time that 2 weeks were added it was with the promise of more instructional time for students, instead only 2 days of instructional time was added for the students and the rest was devoted to meeting times for teachers. This cheated both the students (of the promised instructional time) and the teachers (forcing them to attend meetings and training with no incentive for it rather as a way around union clauses) which is downright shameful. Shall we do this again? Was one time not enough?

- To give students effective instruction, we need instructors in the classroom. Making unilateral changes to educators' working conditions without our input is a proven way to drive educators out of the profession.

It has been proven time & time again, both in practice & by research, that the best thing to do for students is to shrink class sizes to allow for more time & attention to be given to the students by teachers. Adding more time to the year will not make the differences sought nor will it make this profession seem any more appealing to new teachers or teachers whom are able to retire or pursue another career. There is a teacher shortage and making this profession less appealing than it already is would be a foolhardy move.

- This proposal is a disruption of educators' and students' lives.

Do children not deserve a summer break any more? Do families not deserve to spend time together anymore? This slow and transparent attempt to make all APS schools year-round is quite disappointing. Not to mention that teachers are people with families of their own as well. Do you even know or care how many hours they put in for lesson planning & grading outside of regular school hours and their own instructional time? Already they go in much earlier than students arrive, are you going to rob them of their summers as well?

- Adult learning = student learning. That's what the current law (HB 130) is based on. This PED proposal does not include Parent Teacher conferences or any time for adults to learn together and work together.

Extending the school year this way doesn't allot any time to help parents understand their students' needs any better. It doesn't plan for any collaboration between parents



or guardians & teachers. It doesn't provide any time for educators & guardians to plan to support students who need it or for them to determine how to support students who need the help.

- Changing law through rule is unacceptable and is an overstep of the executive branch. This is reminiscent of the tactics used by Gov. Susan Martinez and her Sec. of Ed. Hannah Skandera.

This feels like a step backwards. Like a desperate attempt to simply appear to be doing something drastic to the media while students do receive the help they need, while parents are left in the dark, while teachers do not receive much needed support. A move designed to make numbers move up or at least make the public think that numbers might move up instead of making a true effort to uplift the community. A misuse of power without regard to the will of parents, students, & teachers or the consequences such an action with unfold.

- This is a false solution to a complex problem. Students need more than additional seat time to succeed.

We know this, we have seen this. Yes APS has taken some steps in the right direction with meals for students and more resources parents coming about in the past decade. Yes several of the trainings now provided to teachers are a much needed move forward. Yet this idea of quantity over quality feels like a step backwards for everyone involved.

- Our students are affected by chronic health conditions, physical and cognitive disabilities, poverty, housing and food insecurity, abuse and neglect. Staffing our schools for the whole child means that every preK-12 school has a specialized instructional support personnel (SISP) team—composed of licensed school social workers, licensed school psychologists, certified school counselors, licensed school nurses and other highly qualified personnel— who work with teachers and parents to address barriers to educational success, ensure positive conditions for learning, and help all students achieve academically and ultimately become productive citizens.

Is APS really, truly prepared to commit to have these resources available for the totality of those 2 additional weeks (regardless of whether or not any of that time actually ends up going to student instruction)? Or is this like the time that certain members of upper management had a party believing that their additional funding was assured when it wasn't. Has APS budgeted for the full monetary cost of this? It doesn't seem that any other cost has been thought of.

**There are unfortunately, many families who treat the public school system like a free day care instead of the educational system it is for children.** The longer school year and no early release Wednesdays (for teachers to have meetings with families, SAT, FBA/BIP, Health & Wellness, etc.) is all for parents' or guardians' convenience and not necessarily what is best for family engagement or students.

**When will parents be held accountable for their responsibilities to their children?** Such as taking children to school on time, not taking vacations during the

school year, completing make up work with extended absences, and doing homework. Homework would really help with test scores and improving the standardized testing but families do not want to do homework with students. Not to mention there is no guarantee that extending the school year would even achieve anything if families decide to vacation during it anyways. Attendance makes a difference, yes, but currently nothing is actually being done to crack down on truancy which would make extending the school year even more of a joke.

Teachers are already overworked and underpaid. Whether you or anyone else will admit it, you are hemorrhaging teachers. Are you really going to give veteran teachers another reason to retire? Currently exhausted & unsupported teachers another incentive to leave to private schools or to leave the profession altogether? New potential teachers another con on their list of whether they should toil over a degree that might not even benefit them or their potential family in the long run?

Of course many of your teachers are passionate about helping students and want to make a difference, but they are also human. They can become dissatisfied & downtrodden to the point of moving on if pushed. Even a devoted & steadfast individual whose dream was to be an educator can be pushed to their breaking point. Are you going to push them again now?

**From:** [AUDREY SCHWETTMANN](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:20:52 PM

---

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

These rules are inhumane. If the schedule is changed to this students are only going to give up sooner and grades will definitely get worse. The schedule is just fine now. If the schedule has this drastic of a change students will give up on their classes and grades will get worse. Los Alamos public schools are some of the best schools in the USA so there is no need to change the schedule. Us students have done nothing for this to happen. Students will be extremely upset and staff will decrease and feel overworked. Do not do this schedule change. It's already hard enough for students already. There is no point for this. I understand that this school wants to have their students succeed more but it will definitely only make it worse. Stop making weird and not needed changes.



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [J Kretz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposal 6.10.5 NMAC Change Not Helpful  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:22:25 PM

---

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

Hello,

My name is Jamie Kretz, I have 3 kids in Elementary and High School at Los Alamos Public Schools, additionally my husband is a secondary level science teacher in our district. **I am writing to strongly discourage the implementation of the proposed changes to the School Calendar Requirements.**

There is no doubt that New Mexico is struggling in education, but when looking at a problem it is important to know what does help look like?

Chronic school absence is already a large problem in New Mexico Schools ([citation](#)). Adding additional days and time to the calendar will not address the chronic absence and could make the problem worse and widen the educational gap that we are experiencing in the state. Help does not look like increasing a standard that 40% of students are already not able to meet. I would encourage the PED to look into the reasons that these students are chronically absent and work with partners in the state to address these issues; it is not the responsibility of the PED to address all issues that are found as a result of any investigation into chronic absence.

Last year's last minute legislation changes to school calendars put a lot of stress on schools across the state last year. These additional changes will yet again put unnecessary stress on administration, teachers and students in the second half of the current school year that will carry into the next. Help does not look like increasing stress levels on teachers who are already on the front line of these challenges or increasing stress levels of students who are clearly dealing with a lot of things inside and outside of school. Proper strategic planning of change implementation needs to be done to minimize impacts to stakeholders. This includes proper notification, training, and time prior to implementation.

Identifying the correct root cause and implementing a strategic change management plan is necessary especially for a change this size. The proposed changes will not result in any positive changes to educational scores in New Mexico and may make graduation rates drop due to the proposed increase in requirements not being met.

Please do not implement the proposed 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements, this is not what help in this situation looks like.

Sincerely,

Jamie Kretz  
1319 3rd Street  
Los Alamos, NM

**From:** [Lisa Fabish](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] proposed amendment to 6.10.5 NMAC Against  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:22:40 PM

---

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

I am the aunt of two Cloudcroft Students. I recently read about the proposed amendment to 6.10.5NMAC regarding the number of school days required for all of NM. The proposed amendment would negatively impact my family's education and hurt the entire community.

Cloudcroft is a Spotlight school in New Mexico. And Cloudcroft follows a 150 day school year, as it has for many years. My niece and nephew and their classmates benefit from a schedule designed by a community dedicated to meeting the whole needs of its students and its teachers.

My niece and nephew's attendance in school has dramatically increased since they moved from Texas where they had a 5 day week. My middle school aged nephew participates in extracurricular activities including two hour science Olympiad practice and two hour basketball practice on Mondays. My niece's high school schedule allows for her to travel to Alamogordo for an additional community college class as well as working part time. They schedule doctor appointments—many of which require up to two hours of travel—on Mondays so they never have to miss school. Both kids help raise the family livestock and gather firewood for heating their mountain home.

My niece and nephew live in the mountains, where labor shortages mean high school students' work is fundamental to the economy and where winter storms mean livestock and firewood are crucial to survival. The economic, agricultural, and community fabric of Cloudcroft is supported by a time-tested school schedule that allows families to achieve both educational and community goals that those of us who live in cities cannot understand and should not dictate.

I hold Masters Degrees from both Yale University and San Jose State University, and I come from a long line of educators: I value my niece and nephew's education very highly. That is why I oppose the change and support the community in setting its own academic schedule in a way that optimizes student and family success.

Do not take this away from my niece and nephew or you will devastate the town emotionally, financially, and academically.

Thank you,  
Lisa Fabish, MS, MBA

**From:** [NIKOLAI NELSON](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:23:27 PM

---

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

Dear New Mexico government,

As a student at Los Alamos Public Schools, I believe that this bill detracts from the friendly learning environment and the drive to succeed by removing opportunities for hard working students. The removal of free periods means that students who finish credits early in their high school years are not allowed the freedom to have non credit-bearing classes and pursuing their own personal interests. In addition, the increased load of an extra class as well as the removal of an essential time for studying and personal time with their families and friends will be detrimental to the overall mental health and success in extra curricular activities at NM schools.

Thanks for your time and consideration,  
LAHS student



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [David M. Holtkamp](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to rule change for 24/25 school year  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:32:26 PM

---

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

Good evening,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed rule change. The Los Alamos Public school system, its students and parents have already been adjusting to the additional requirements from last year. It is infeasible and unreasonable at this time to expect teachers, students, and families to once again commit more time to additional hours in school when it is unclear what the benefits of additional hours mean.

Teachers already commit so much time and resources to serving students in our communities. Expecting them to give up more of their hours and not honoring their professional development towards instructional hours is not reasonable. Teacher burnout is already at an all time high across our state. This is unacceptable to make teachers give up more of their time when they already give so much.

Requiring high school students to have 32 credit hours when the current requirement is 24 credit hours is not clear why the change is necessary. The additional 8 credit hours adds additional stress onto high school students that are already under stress for busy schedules, extra curricular activities, jobs, and preparations for college. If the 24 credit hours is the requirement, then 32 hours should not become the minimum expectation.

Parents, teachers, and students have already made massive changes to our schedules due to the recent schedule changes for 2023/2024. Asking that everyone make more changes to our schedules for the coming year is not feasible nor reasonable when we are not even sure what the benefit has come of the most recent changes. Asking all of us to change our lives once again for additional hours in school when the quality of education has not identifiably improved is not an acceptable request for the families of New Mexico.

In summary, please find these comments in opposition of the proposed rule changes for the Public Education of New Mexico families. We need to focus on making sure that the current changes we have adapted to are successful before introducing more changes.

Sincerely,  
David Holtkamp  
Parent of primary students in Los Alamos



**From:** [Tami Elkins](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for:  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:33:38 PM

---

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

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

To Whom it may Concern:

I am opposed to the school calendar changes. I teach at a 4 day week, K-8 school and we have tremendous student success. On completion at our school, students continue their education more prepared than their 5- week peers. Just as each student is different and needs to be considered on an individual basis each school deserves that same consideration. We are not all the same. Rural schools should not be denied the opportunity to continue to do what has proven to be successful. I fear that if you take away the 4 day week, you will lose student, teachers, and schools. This will be detrimental to these communities.

Thank you,  
Tami Elkins

**From:** [Andrea Kennedy](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback: 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:35:26 PM

---

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

Feedback: 6.10.5 NMAC

We love the four-day school week at Loving Municipal Schools. The schedule aligns with our work schedules and facilitates greater family time and activities outside of school. Our sons score at the top of their classes and Loving Municipal Schools score above New Mexico State averages. The biggest impact to student success is involvement of parents, not the number of days the kids spend in school.

We live in a rural community and our sons travel 80 minutes to and from school each day; so the four-day schedule saves a significant amount of time and money on fuel. Definitely a 'greener' solution. The four-day schedule also helps the community recruit and retain teachers.

Please empower the local school district by keeping decision making at the local level, where the needs of our community are met.

Please consider other means of improving the education system in New Mexico. Focusing efforts on helping to recruit and retain teachers by establishing debt forgiveness and mortgage assistance programs. This will help attract talent and enable teachers to integrate into our New Mexico communities. A bonus program for teachers who remain in the classroom over a school year would help reduce turnover. Improve the nutrition of school meals. Provide resources school districts can use to encourage parental involvement. Look for ways to improve the quality not quantity of instruction in the classroom.

**From:** [John Kennedy](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback: 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:37:19 PM

---

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

Feedback: 6.10.5 NMAC

We love the four-day school week at Loving Municipal Schools. The schedule aligns with our work schedules and facilitates greater family time and activities outside of school. Our sons score at the top of their classes and Loving Municipal Schools score above New Mexico State averages. The biggest impact to student success is involvement of parents, not the number of days the kids spend in school.

We live in a rural community and our sons travel 80 minutes to and from school each day; so the four-day schedule saves a significant amount of time and money on fuel. Definitely a 'greener' solution. The four-day schedule also helps the community recruit and retain teachers.

Please empower the local school district by keeping decision making at the local level, where the needs of our community are met.

Please consider other means of improving the education system in New Mexico. Focusing efforts on helping to recruit and retain teachers by establishing debt forgiveness and mortgage assistance programs. This will help attract talent and enable teachers to integrate into our New Mexico communities. A bonus program for teachers who remain in the classroom over a school year would help reduce turnover. Improve the nutrition of school meals. Provide resources school districts can use to encourage parental involvement. Look for ways to improve the quality not quantity of instruction in the classroom.

**From:** [Caitlyn Martinez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:39:56 PM

---

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

Good evening,

I am writing regarding Tucumcari Public Schools, 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.

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.

Hours in class, not days in class, appear to be correlated with performance. As long as sufficient hours are spent in class during a 4 day school week, there are no significant differences in academic performance: Thompson, Paul N., and Jason Ward. "Only a matter of time? The role of time in school on four-day school week achievement impacts." *Economics of Education Review* 86 (2022): 102198.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0272775721001138>

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.

Our whole community revolves around the 4 day school week. Work schedules, community events, etc. all bear it in mind and our lives have grown to incorporate it over many years. With the longer school days, most parents do not have to arrange or spend money on after school care, important in our low income community. Our school district also saves significant money with the four day week, which can then be focused on supporting learning.

The proportion of kids involved in extracurriculars is much higher at small, rural schools. Close to 1/5th the middle school population is in just wrestling this winter sport season. Even more are in basketball, cheerleading, FFA, and other clubs and sports that are active during the winter months. The kids start school at 7:45 and finish wrestling practice at 6pm. Tournaments are full day events. On a five day school week, that's a 60+ hour, 6 day week for these kids if the tournament is on a Saturday. I know because my husband is the middle school wrestling coach and when we had one of our 5 day school weeks a couple of weeks ago, he was away from home for more than 80 hours since he gets to school before the kids and can't leave until they've all been picked up from practice. The 4 day week lessens the time burden on both the kids and their teachers/coaches. How can we expect them to perform well in academics with such a large portion of kids working this many hours per week? When are they supposed to rest and relax? Or do homework?

When extracurriculars fall on Fridays, students don't have to miss school. If they had school

on Fridays and had to miss school to travel and attend extracurriculars, that's a huge portion of the student body all out of school at once. Teachers don't teach new material with 50+% of the class out. Those days would end up wasted at these small schools anyway.

Our school struggles to hire quality teachers because of our small community and rural location. Even now, we have a significant teacher and substitute teacher shortage. The 4 day week is one of the few attractions our school has for hiring new teachers. We will be greatly and further hindered by a mandated 5 day school week in attracting quality teachers to our district.

My husband and I both had a 4 day week through high school and thrived with it. We would prefer the same for our children. I am a veterinarian that specializes in pathology. My husband has a master's in education and is a level 3 teacher at our middle school here in town. He also coaches and volunteers with the youth in our community through our church. Our concern regarding this issue is not only for our children but also the children of our entire community and the community as a whole.

I will be contacting my state representative to request they address this issue with new legislation if this rule is passed.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Kindly,

--

**Caitlyn Romero Martinez, DVM, MS, Diplomate,ACVP**  
Veterinary Clinical Pathologist  
Zoetis - Global Dx

**From:** [Machelle Lang](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reference: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:43:23 PM

---

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

As a parent of a high school student, this rule is not conducive to her best learning. The flexibility of schools to determine their schedule based on their students needs and their curriculum is best in their interest. As a parent and a voter in this state and in the county of Sandoval vote against requiring a five-day school day. Dawn Lang 1464 Jemez loop. Rio Rancho.

**From:** [Shelly Kristensen](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No to requiring a 5 day school week  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:44:12 PM

---

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

My daughter attends ASK Academy in Rio Rancho, NM. They currently have a 4 day school week with Fridays being optional for extra help from teachers. ASK has informed us that NMPED is looking to require 5 day school weeks. I believe the districts should continue to have the flexibility to set their own schedule. Having Fridays available for extra tutoring has been invaluable for our academically rigorous school. The freedom of school choice should also give schools the freedom to set schedules that work for their programs, curriculum and student body.

Sincerely,  
Michele Kristensen

**From:** [Rachel Dollens](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No to a 5 day school week  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:44:58 PM

---

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

A five day school week would cause kids to become burnt out and bored, causing them to not focus and grades to go down as well as stress levels to go up, probably causing more conflict between peers.

Rachel Dollens  
505-507-7036



**From:** [Kiley Spurlock](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reference: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:45:07 PM

---

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

To whom it may concern,

My son attends the ASK Academy in Rio rancho and the flexibility for a 4 day school day with 1 day left open for extra guidance at school or at home for homework if needed has been extremely beneficial. This new proposal requiring a 5 day school week restricts his school's weekly schedule that has been in place for years efficiently. I am not in favor to force a 5 day school week. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Kiley Spurlock

**From:** [Cooper, Karen](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 day rule  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:45:28 PM

---

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 multiple children I feel it is a disservice to force schools to conform to one pattern of schedule. Allowing scholars to have Fridays for a time to focus on areas needing improvement opens the door for learning and growth. Taking this away would be unfair and increase hardship on scholars who have already grown accustomed to this schedule.

Thank you,  
Karen Cooper

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

\*-\*-\* Presbyterian\_Healthcare\_Services\_DISCLAIMER -\*-\*-\* This message originates from Presbyterian Healthcare Services or one of its affiliated organizations. It contains information, which may be confidential or privileged, and is intended only for the individual or entity named above. It is prohibited for anyone else to disclose, copy, distribute or use the contents of this message. All personal messages express views solely of the sender, which are not to be attributed to Presbyterian Healthcare Services or any of its affiliated organizations, and may not be distributed without this disclaimer. If you received this message in error, please notify us immediately at [info@phs.org](mailto:info@phs.org) If you would like more information about Presbyterian Healthcare Services please visit our web site <http://www.phs.org>

**From:** [Annette Saiz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar a change  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:46:11 PM

---

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

PED leave our calendar alone . We are a rural community and this calendar works for us. Not all districts or learning should be all the same . We have had great success with this 4 day schedule . Our schools are thriving . We have great teachers who work in our district because they love the 4 day school week it is hard to get good teachers to rural communities. I see it in my school because I run our daycare . It helps young parents as they navigate parenthood at a young age . It helps them not be overwhelmed and have time to do their homework or appointments for their children . I don't feel that all schools should be put into one basket. It's like learning not all students learn the same . Again I ask to reconsider this change . Please take it from the parents , teachers and staff who see this is the right thing for us and our district . Aren't we in the business for student success not failure .

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Amanda Coca](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reference: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:46:35 PM

---

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

I am a parent of a student at ASK academy. Part of the driving force behind us choosing the academy is the Fridays off. My student seemed to get burnt out with the traditional 5 days a week. The 4 day school week at ASK academy has helped him to excel and he works so hard during the week knowing he gets a 3 day weekend.

At times when he has needed extra help, it has been amazing for him to not have to stay after school because he can go on Fridays to get extra help. I really hope you consider the families that are at this school BECAUSE of the 4 day school week.

Amanda Coca

**From:** [Laura R](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:49:03 PM

---

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

Hello,

As parents, we do NOT support the adoption of the proposed School Calendar rule change. Decisions should be made on a district to district basis. Maybe some district would benefit from changes but not our district so let each decide what is best for them. What a nightmare this could create. These changes will require additional staff and space which we do not have the resources for. Students need quality teachers and smaller class sizes but not more time in the classroom! We believe that this rule has unintended consequences that will limit critical staff planning time and be disruptive to our secondary schools. We believe that NMPED is failing to give districts adequate time to prepare for this unexpected change that dramatically impacts our students, teachers, and families. We have not seen data to support this type of change and how it would help. Please consider what the families are sharing when making decisions.

Thank you,

Jonathan and Laura Regele

**From:** [James Morris](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Days in School  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:49:46 PM

---

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

To whom it may concern,

My kids go to The Ask Academy in Rio Rancho, and I would HIGHLY encourage the PED to move forward with the proposed 180 days in-school, as well as a full 5-day school week. Ask currently runs on a 4-day a week schedule, with Fridays being for make-up work or tutoring. To say the Friday school is a joke is an understatement. Their 4-day a week schedule is nothing more than an extra day off for already lazy teachers! The students have the option to attend Friday school from 8-10 am, and teachers schedule their time with students in blocks of 30 minutes. The day isn't even reserved for intervention, make-up work, or other tutoring that may be needed. Just 2 hours... that's all the students get on Friday! It is NOTHING MORE than a 3-day weekend for teachers and admin.

New Mexico has been among the bottom dwellers nationally in education for as long as I can remember. Moving to stricter standards and less time off for teachers who are clearly not doing their jobs correctly would help ensure that our students are no longer those bottom dwellers! The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, and expecting a different result! Stop doing what you've always done, and try something different!

James Morris

---

**From:** Parent Committee <parentsupportcommittee@theaskacademy.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:32 PM  
**To:** Parent Committee <parentsupportcommittee@theaskacademy.org>  
**Subject:** Monday Deadline

PED is considering a rule to require public schools to spend at least 180 days in school (outside of teachers' professional development or other work time), AND it must be 5 days a week. This would force ASK to move to a five day a week schedule, and we would lose flexibility for Fridays to be for intervention, makeup work, internships, etc.

You are encouraged to submit a public comment. It is due by Monday, December 18, 5pm. However, hearings begin on Monday at 1:30pm, so sooner is better.

You can express your concerns by emailing:

Email: [rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov)  
Reference: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements

More details: [https://www.abqjournal.com/news/youre-making-a-mistake-lawmakers-take-education-secretary-to-task-over-proposed-180-day-rule/article\\_b26cc90a-9bc2-11ee-af2c-1b8c3fc42063.html#tncms-source=home-featured-7-block](https://www.abqjournal.com/news/youre-making-a-mistake-lawmakers-take-education-secretary-to-task-over-proposed-180-day-rule/article_b26cc90a-9bc2-11ee-af2c-1b8c3fc42063.html#tncms-source=home-featured-7-block)

--

Cheryl Kemnitz  
PSC Facilitator  
(505) 688-2455

**\*CONFIDENTIALITY WARNING:** This email may contain confidential or proprietary business information and is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). Any unauthorized use or disclosure of this communication, including attachments, is strictly prohibited. If you believe that you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete it from your system.\*

**From:** [Melanie West](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I am against school calendar changes  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:50:58 PM

---

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

Hello,

I am asking that the Public Education Department stop the rule change and cease trying to force through more student and teacher days. I was born and raised in Santa Fe and have attended public schools here. There is always a balance of time in school with the learning gained in the wider natural and cultural experience of our home state of NM. More time in classrooms is not the wise choice.

Thank you,  
Melanie West

Sent with [Proton Mail](#) secure email.



**From:** [James Morris](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:51:07 PM

---

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

To whom it may concern,

My kids go to The Ask Academy in Rio Rancho, and I would HIGHLY encourage the PED to move forward with the proposed 180 days in-school, as well as a full 5-day school week. Ask currently runs on a 4-day a week schedule, with Fridays being for make-up work or tutoring. To say the Friday school is a joke is an understatement. Their 4-day a week schedule is nothing more than an extra day off for already lazy teachers! The students have the option to attend Friday school from 8-10 am, and teachers schedule their time with students in blocks of 30 minutes. The day isn't even reserved for intervention, make-up work, or other tutoring that may be needed. Just 2 hours... that's all the students get on Friday! It is NOTHING MORE than a 3-day weekend for teachers and admin.

New Mexico has been among the bottom dwellers nationally in education for as long as I can remember. Moving to stricter standards and less time off for teachers who are clearly not doing their jobs correctly would help ensure that our students are no longer those bottom dwellers! The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, and expecting a different result! Stop doing what you've always done, and try something different!

James Morris

---

**From:** Parent Committee <parentsupportcommittee@theaskacademy.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:32 PM  
**To:** Parent Committee <parentsupportcommittee@theaskacademy.org>  
**Subject:** Monday Deadline

PED is considering a rule to require public schools to spend at least 180 days in school (outside of teachers' professional development or other work time), AND it must be 5 days a week. This would force ASK to move to a five day a week schedule, and we would lose flexibility for Fridays to be for intervention, makeup work, internships, etc.

You are encouraged to submit a public comment. It is due by Monday, December 18, 5pm. However, hearings begin on Monday at 1:30pm, so sooner is better.

You can express your concerns by emailing:

Email: [rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov)  
Reference: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements

More details: [https://www.abqjournal.com/news/youre-making-a-mistake-lawmakers-take-education-secretary-to-task-over-proposed-180-day-rule/article\\_b26cc90a-9bc2-11ee-af2c-1b8c3fc42063.html#tncms-source=home-featured-7-block](https://www.abqjournal.com/news/youre-making-a-mistake-lawmakers-take-education-secretary-to-task-over-proposed-180-day-rule/article_b26cc90a-9bc2-11ee-af2c-1b8c3fc42063.html#tncms-source=home-featured-7-block)

--

Cheryl Kemnitz  
PSC Facilitator  
(505) 688-2455

**\*CONFIDENTIALITY WARNING:** This email may contain confidential or proprietary business information and is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). Any unauthorized use or disclosure of this communication, including attachments, is strictly prohibited. If you believe that you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete it from your system.\*

**From:** [Catherine Adams](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Extend school year and 5 days  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:51:24 PM

---

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 very concerned that the new ruling for 5 day school week with no flexibility to smaller rural district, charter schools, or districts trying to provided training, intervention, or internships on these days puts a great stain on many New Mexico Schools. Please consider this carefully and then give districts and schools flexibility for what works best for communities and students based on their unique needs.

Thanks You

Catherine Adams

Concerned parent and educator

**From:** [mistie williamson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 day school week  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:54:08 PM

---

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

Hello, I would like to address the PEDS 180 day, 5 day a week possible rule. My daughter is currently a junior at The Ask Academy and has been a student at this charter school since 6th grade. She has school 4 days a week with a longer than average day. On Fridays she is able to get extra help on assignments, make up work or have extra time to study if needed. We chose this school because of the modified schedule. It is important to teach our youth that not everything occurs Monday through Friday for 8 to 5. I am a medical provider and my day starts at 5:30 am and sometimes ends at 8:30 pm. I work 4 long days every week. We have to have some flexibility and not be so rigid with our rules. The 4 day school week works for our students and our staff. If this rule passes we will likely lose staff which will affect our students learning and not in a positive way. Stop trying to fit everything into the same rigid box. That is not the real world and a huge disservice to our current population.

Regards,

Mistie Williamson

**From:** [Sherida Burnett](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [Tami Elkins](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposed to Changes in 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:55:42 PM

---

**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 is to express my deep concerns and opposition to the proposed amendment in rule 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements. The proposed changes will force our tiny, rural school to change from a 4-day school week to a 5-day school week. Our school, Penasco Elementary School, is a part of the Artesia Public School District, but is located 65 miles from any town. The district has always had the common sense to understand that a 4-day week creates the most success for our extremely rural students. Our school currently only has 18 students total, ranging from kindergarten to eighth grade. A change like this could devastate our school as many families would fail to see the benefit in continuing to send their kids with the hardships that adding an extra day to the week creates. Many of our students travel almost an hour across dirt roads just to get on the bus, and then they travel an hour on the bus to school. This change could create an extra 3-4 hours of bus ride for many students. Homeschooling would become a much better option for many families. The fatigue from traveling many hours in a school bus (or any vehicle for that matter) could not possibly help kids succeed in school. The costs created by extra overhead, fuel, bus maintenance, etc... could not possibly help our district. In addition, our children almost exclusively come from ranching families. The benefits of the 4-day week in agricultural communities is tremendous and cannot be ignored. Our kids are getting a public education while also being allowed a day out of the week to learn, help with, and develop a love for the agricultural way of life that our future depends on. Also, our children are excelling in their classroom education as proven by test scores that easily surpass the rest of our district and much of the state. In fact, as you already know, 4-day week schools across the state outperform 5-day week schools. They are consistently meeting and exceeding YOUR standards. I fail to see any benefit to this proposed change. If you truly have the welfare of students in mind, then please consider the input of parents who have the ultimate concern for their welfare and the most intimate knowledge of what would allow our children to succeed and thrive. We are the boots on the ground, NOT those in the PED who feel they have the authority to decide on how to direct our kid's education while ignoring what the data and the public say. I have read through the comments and fail to find any that are in support of this change. Please do not ignore that kind of outcry. Please do not continue to suppress the success of NM students with unnecessary changes that harm kids and cripple school districts.

Sincerely,

***Sherida Burnett***

(Mom of Kendi, Koy, and Kayton- students of Penasco Elementary School)

86 McCasland Rd.  
Pinon, NM 88344  
575-308-9025

**From:** [Tania Harvey](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:56:01 PM

---

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

My boys have been successful at The ASK Academy due to the extra tutoring and intervention they receive every Friday. I wholeheartedly believe that every school should switch to an "optional" Friday schedule so students who have fallen behind can get the individual attention they need to get back on track.

**From:** [Beth Stelle](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:56:30 PM

---

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,

I am a resident of Los Alamos, NM and the parent of two students in Los Alamos Public Schools. I would like to share my concerns over the proposed rule change to NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements. Last year, NM school districts experienced considerable upheaval as they rushed to adjust school calendars to meet the new requirements of House Bill 130. It is concerning that the PED is putting students, teachers, and families in this same position just one year later by proposing new instructional time rules that not only have a very short implementation timeline but also appear to be at odds with HB 130. This rule may have unintended consequences that will limit critical staff planning time and may be especially disruptive to secondary schools. I do not support the adoption of the proposed rule change.

Sincerely,  
-Elizabeth Stelle  
Los Alamos, NM

**From:** [Darren Paredes](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:04:09 PM

---

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

My name is Darren Paredes, and I am a student at the ASK Academy. I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed requirements that would significantly impact our school.

The suggestion to transition to a 5-day school week is troubling, as our current 4-day schedule has proven to yield outstanding outcomes in comparison to the two other high schools in our vicinity, namely Rio Rancho and Cleveland. Our unique model not only facilitates a more effective learning environment but also allows teachers the invaluable opportunity to provide individualized tutoring on the fifth day, along with dedicated time for professional development.

It is worth noting that a growing number of schools across the nation are embracing the benefits of a 4-day school week. Given the success we have experienced with this approach at the ASK Academy, I am perplexed as to why New Mexico is considering the imposition of a 5-day week.

As a student deeply invested in the academic well-being of our community, I must express my full opposition to these proposed revisions. The current structure benefits not only students but also teachers and parents alike. The 4-day week has fostered a more engaged and productive learning environment, and any shift away from this model is a cause for concern.

I implore you to carefully consider the ramifications of such a change on the educational landscape at the ASK Academy. Your support in maintaining our current schedule would undoubtedly contribute to the continued success and prosperity of our school community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on the subject.

Sincerely,

--



**Darren Paredes**  
He/Him  
[dparedes2025@theaskacademy.org](mailto:dparedes2025@theaskacademy.org)



**From:** [Brooklyn Bird](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Going to a five day school week.  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:05:15 PM

---

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

Brooklyn Bird  
615 Broken Bow St.  
Silver City, New Mexico, 88061  
[brooklynbiscool@icloud.com](mailto:brooklynbiscool@icloud.com)  
1-575-956-3691  
December 13, 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 of Cliff Schools and I believe that a four day school week is more beneficial than a five day school week for multiple reasons.

1.

We do almost the same amount of learning time throughout the week due to hours of school not, the days. So an extra day would not be necessary if a four and five day school week have the same learning hours..

2.

Also a five day school week causes more burnout for students. When the students have after school activities, sports or just other activities in general, another day of school along with that can be a lot. On a four day week you get an extra weekend day for going places, spending time with friends and family, doing homework, recovering from sports activities and more time for weekend jobs.

3.

Another thing that will be harder for students that go on a five day week is less time for jobs. Many high school students have after school or weekend jobs. If we go on a five day week those students will lose money and job experience. It may not seem like a big deal but depending on the job, you may lose a few hundred dollars from losing those days to school hours.

4.

Most people may think that if there is a shorter time away from school there is less loss of learning, which in some cases is true but as a student with a three day weekend I usually have homework to remind me of what we were learning that week. Even if I don't have homework over the weekend I still remember that we were learning since we went over it mostly all week.

5.

My school is very small and doesn't always have funding for certain things. If we went to a five day week it would be harder to run all the air, heating/cooling, lights and electrical utilities including ovens. The school would have to cut back on the sport and school supplies portions of money just to keep the school working. Especially in the winter when it's extremely cold.

6.

In New Mexico there is already a teacher/subs shortage, and making every school go to a five day week would make the number of needed teachers and subs go through the roof. Teachers that go to a four day school week do that for a reason. If you changed the amount of days many teachers would retire or quit.

7.

Also, there is a lack of evidence that a five day school week is better. There is no actual study showing which one is better mainly because every student has different levels of skill. I have ADHD and know that I already have a hard time focusing and am extremely burnt out from all of the stress from the week and the sports and activities I have throughout the week. I know a lot of people with ADHD and other learning challenges that would feel the same way. Some students might benefit from a five day school week for more learning time but no one knows what's best for everyone since everyone learns differently.

8.

Schools have attendance problems as it is, but if it was mandatory to go five days instead of four the attendance would drop even more. Students get used to a four day week and it would be hard to adjust. Also kids already don't want to go four days a week, so if you added another day a lot of kids would just ditch.

In conclusion, I urge that you reconsider the five day school week being mandatory, it would be easier for the students, teachers, staff and parents if it stayed the same. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Brooklyn Bird

**From:** [ELLERY RATHBUN](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:08:18 PM

---

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

NO GOD PLEASE NO I WILL END MY LIFE SO FAST PLEASE DONT DO THIS NO ONE WANTS IT

 This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [Sophia Nichols](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PED 180 Rule  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:08:53 PM

---

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

Hello,

I am a high school junior who attends a STEM charter school in Rio Rancho and as I have been reading more and more about this proposal it makes me more and more puzzled. While I understand the theory and reasoning behind the concept I don't see it playing out very well. More time with teachers for instance is definitely needed and a positive thing for most students yet, generally the schools and various communities that would be most affected by this law already have that. As a student that currently attends a school with a four day week the amount of time and patience my teachers put into each student is unmatched compared to a district school. Having the Friday's for intervention and EXTRA help is tremendously helpful and important. If you take into consideration my comparison to district schools and say "well that's what we need in other schools" I have a feeling it won't change. It feels like most district schools have SO many kids and not enough teachers for that extra time to be properly put to use. Students will complain about having majority of their year spent in school and the teachers with lack of adequate pay will not enjoy this ON TOP of their educational and instructional days they must take. Last but not least most students use the excess time they have to work, participate in internships, and focus on prep for anything they have going on in their lives and to take that away is unfair along with unnecessary.

If you're not affected in any way by this law how can you make or propose it without thinking the total amount of consequences through?

I truly hope you genuinely take into consideration everything everyone has to say before you make a massive amount of people upset.

Thank you for your time,  
have a nice day/night.

**From:** [Andrew Marshall](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:13:29 PM

---

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 voice my concern and opposition to the propose 6.10.5 rule change. The proposed rule makes many changes to the school calendar beyond what was changed in this school year. Half a year is inadequate time to assess the results of the current calendar.

I am also concerned about removing professional development time in the instructional hours. Teacher retention is difficult in this state. By changing this rule, some districts will just reduce professional development, which will not help with our teacher retention problem. The students and teachers of this state would be better served spending energy on improving teacher's environment, including their salaries.

Furthermore, the rule makes it difficult for high school students to prepare for college. Free periods are a necessary part of the schedule for students taking multiple AP credits. In fact, when I was in high school in New Mexico, I knew several individuals who would never have taken an AP class if they didn't have the additional time to study.

I am also concerned that this rule is another attempt to fix problems in some districts in the state without accounting for the challenges in other districts. New Mexico is a large state and each district has its own unique challenges. This rule is dangerous for districts with high suicide rates due to academic pressure.

This rule seem extreme given the changes to the school calendar that have already been made recently. There has been inadequate time to assess the current changes. I am concerned that this rule will have many unintended negative consequences and is not being made based on up-to-date data.

Andrew Marshall, Ph.D.

**From:** [Nancy Hooker](#)  
**To:** [Campos, Pete](#)  
**Cc:** [Aguilar, Shannon](#)  
**Subject:** Cimarron Municipal Schools resolution regarding NM PED proposed rule change on the school calendar  
**Date:** Saturday, December 16, 2023 5:46:47 PM  
**Attachments:** [2023 12 Resolution Cimarron.pdf](#)

---

Hello Senator Campos,

Attached is a copy of the resolution that the CMS Board passed unanimously regarding the Proposed Rule Change.

I feel that the PED has significantly overstepped their authority in overriding the legislation that was passed with this proposed rule. It is looking to me that it might be time in the 2025 Legislative session to consider taking steps toward going back to some form of a stand-alone elected state board of education. This governor has continually made the education department a political pawn at the expense of the education of our children. We need to stand together to support our kids.

Thanks for your support.

Nancy Hooker  
School Board President  
[nhooker@cimarronschools.org](mailto:nhooker@cimarronschools.org)  
214-578-9539

# CIMARRON MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS

165 N. COLLISON AVE., CIMARRON NM, 87714

(575) 376-2445 (575) 376-2442-FAX

[Cimarron Municipal Schools](#)

## Resolution of the Cimarron Municipal School District Board in Support of New Mexico Schools Superintendents' Efforts to Challenge the Public Education Department's Rule Hearing

**Whereas**, the Cimarron Municipal School District Board (the Board) is committed to maintaining the highest standards of education and ensuring the well-being and academic success of all its students;

**Whereas**, the Cimarron Municipal School District consists of three campuses with six schools, one of which is designated as Excellent, one Spotlight and the rest are designated Traditional.

**Whereas**, the Public Education Department (PED) has proposed changes to the public school calendars and instructional hours which significantly impact the educational framework of our community;

**Whereas**, the proposed changes necessitate over 50% of school weeks to consist of five days, thereby directly contravening the legislature's intended flexibility in implementing the required 1,140 instructional hours annually, as mandated by House Bill 130, and this requirement fundamentally alters the established educational structure and undermines the legislative intent focused on increased instructional hours rather than mandating the structure of the school week;

**Whereas**, these changes threaten to disrupt our successfully established school calendar and the thriving educational system in the Cimarron Municipal School District, which has effectively operated a full-time 4-day per week schedule since 1972;

**Whereas**, there is a profound concern that these changes may lead to a loss of local control over educational decisions and undermine the unique needs and successful practices of our school district, especially in rural areas like ours;

**Whereas**, the Board acknowledges the concerted efforts and strong advocacy of New Mexico Schools Superintendents, including our own, who have lobbied against these changes and are preparing to present their objections at the upcoming public hearing;

**Whereas**, there is a need for solidarity and a unified voice from school districts across the state in response to these proposed changes by the PED;

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Cimarron Municipal School District Board hereby declares its full and unequivocal support for the New Mexico Schools Superintendents in their efforts to challenge the PED's proposed changes to the school calendar and instructional hours.


**Be It Further Resolved** that the Board urges the PED to consider the significant impact of these changes on local communities, the importance of maintaining local control over educational practices, and the need to preserve the unique and successful educational models that have been established in districts like ours.

**Be It Further Resolved** that the Board encourages all members of our community, including parents, staff, and other stakeholders, to participate actively in the public comment process and to attend the public hearing to voice their concerns and opinions.


**Be It Finally Resolved** that this resolution be sent to the PED, the New Mexico Legislature, and relevant parties to express the Board's stance on this critical issue and to underscore the importance of collaborative decision-making in educational policy.

Adopted this 14th day of December 2023 by the Cimarron Municipal School District Board.

Nancy Hooker  
Board President

DocuSigned by:  
  
96359B9D56F7490...


Dollie O'Neill  
Vice President

DocuSigned by:  
  
A4AD18AA9E6146E...

Kari Jaramillo  
Board Secretary

DocuSigned by:  
  
E4E796497AA0455...

Kaycee Sandoval  
Member

DocuSigned by:  
  
E37D5366569240F...

Laura Gonzales  
Member

DocuSigned by:  
  
826202749C72422...



**From:** [Shenea](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 days  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:17:01 PM

---

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

This new rule would not help students who attend Stem Charter schools that push a high academic pace as well as a tough rigorous curriculum. Those students need Friday to finish work or get support. This is a bandaid solution that doesn't focus on different needs. The PED is far over reaching with this kind of rule. This is why so many students are failing in NM.

Sincerely a Disappointed Parent!

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Douger Opie](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 Day School  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:18:09 PM

---

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

In regards to the proposed 180 mandatory school days. We moved here from out of state. The school hours were less, the school days were fewer with longer breaks during the school year and we had a better educational experience in that district. My children are bored and I had to take them out of the Rio Rancho public schools and put them in a charter school where they were adequately challenged and they get more work done in four days than was ever even close to attempted in 5 days. Requiring them to do 5 days or removing the flexible scheduling is not helpful for my children and I will be opposed to it. New Mexico public schools needs to come up with a better way to use the time they are already using rather than continuing to poorly manage additional days.

Douglas Opie

**From:** [JOHN KANG](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The issues with NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:21:44 PM

---

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

Hello NMPED,

Simply put, the suggested rule changes are entirely contrary to any meaningful development of the school system and will actually almost certainly be very detrimental to students, teachers, families, and the school district as a whole.

Already, increased hour requirements have created a school schedule that is disorganized and ineffective. The beginning quarters are far shorter than the ending quarters out of necessity, making teachers have to completely adapt the pacing of their lessons to accommodate this hectic schedule. Los Alamos' award winning AP program now has less days to learn before AP tests, but more completely useless days after it, during which students have to be in school for an entire 9 week stretch with no break.

However, the suggested changes would make this much much worse.

Teachers would have to teach even more days, increasing their workloads when the schools are already understaffed. They would have to teach more classes to accommodate the 8 class requirement for students, and these classes would be larger, as well as harder to manage because students would be forced to take classes they don't want to. This is exacerbated by the suggested ban on free periods. Considering the additional workload on teachers, it would not be at all surprising if many leave, worsening the problem even more.

Meanwhile, the changes would also negatively affect the students. More school time requirements means that students have much less flexibility in terms of extracurricular activities and summer programs, which are very important for development and college admissions. Students would be unhappy, as they would be forced to take additional classes which are entirely unnecessary for them to graduate and be successful. In both the elementary and secondary schools the students would have less breaks, resulting in stressed, overworked students who actually learn less effectively. In the classes they actually want to take, they would get less teacher attention due to larger class sizes. The AP program would be practically devastated, as it is simply not possible for students to take multiple AP classes with such a packed schedule and no free periods. New Mexico can say goodbye to the reason Los Alamos got recognized by the college board this year.

The effect this would have on the community is clear.

All of this, I learned from just a little bit of thought and being in the affected school system. Imagine what the NMPED could do if they actually thought for a moment and PERSONALLY ASKED those in the state's school systems what they need. Sure, there are surveys, but it is very disheartening to send off a thoughtfully filled out survey into unknown hands, and have them come up with these kinds of ideas. Honestly, nobody I have met supports the rule changes.

Our schools deserve attention, not requirements.

Do better.

John Kang, LAHS student



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [ANNA KERSTIENS](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:28:26 PM

---

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

Hello,

I'm here to tell you guys not to go through with this. Though this is a good idea, on paper it's not that amazing of an idea in real life. You can have the smartest town because of this, but the most unhappy people living there. Unhappy people means everyone is meaner, so no one wants to move here or even visit. Putting in this rule will ensure that no one has any fun, because everyone will be so busy with work. This is also horrible for the teachers. Some teachers already teach 2 classes and some don't want to teach 2. This makes the 2 subject teaching teachers teach 3 classes. That will make them stressed out, angry and they will never have time for their family. And the teachers wouldn't get paid more. I hope you put my thoughts into consideration. Thank you.



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [Kandice Favorite](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] "NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:29:31 PM

---

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

Dear NMPED,

I am opposed to the school instructional time requirements you are proposing. Education should be quality over quantity. Requiring students to take more classes and spend more time at school is not going to improve their education. This kind of requirement is likely going to cause increased class sizes which will decrease the quality of education. It could potentially cause financial hardship to school districts as they will need to hire additional teachers to fulfill these requirements.

Requiring teachers to work more days throughout their contract will likely cause more teachers to leave the profession. This is going to make our teacher shortage worse, as well as losing high quality teachers with irreplaceable skills and experience.

Finally, the brief implementation time is setting districts up to fail. Districts need more time to plan a big change like this for effective and successful implementation and to allow all stakeholders to prepare for the changes it will bring.

Respectfully,  
Kandice Favorite

--

**Kandice Favorite**  
Mountain Elementary School  
Third Grade Teacher



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [Victoria Garcia](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Day Rule  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:29:42 PM

---

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

To whom it may concern,

My son is a student at The ASK Academy. He is a sixth grader this year, and for the first time since first grade is absolutely loving school. The schedule is perfect for him. When he was absent, due to illness, he was able to go for extra support on a Friday and get caught up.

The school being able to set up its own schedule has been so beneficial for not only my son but all of the other students and families at ASK. I heard from many parents how the schedule was so helpful for them and their student.

Schools should be able to set the best schedule for their communities as they know what their community needs.

Sincerely,

Victoria Garcia

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Sara McCarty](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:37:18 PM

---

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

Please do not put this rule into place. Increasing hours and days of the same quality schooling isn't going to get our students ahead. And if you do go forward with this, give the schools more than a few months to figure out how to implement it! Major changes to the schedule should have AT LEAST a full year's notice.

Sara McCarty  
Concerned NM parent



**From:** [Anne Lynn MacNaughton](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [act@atfunion.org](mailto:act@atfunion.org)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School calendar requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:39:18 PM

---

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

I am a Level III educator in the local secondary public school.

The proposed rules changes are unlikely to bring desirable results. They are additional burdens for overworked professional instructors and given the current extreme teacher shortages, especially in the northern part of the state, they are unwise and very likely to prove unproductive and more expensive.

Please turn these down.

Sincerely,  
Anne MacNaughton  
Taos, New Mexico

**From:** [Amanda Ramirez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No to NMAC Rule 6.10.5  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:41:48 PM

---

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

Hello,

Please do not pass these new rules, they would have many negative impacts on children across the state. Los Alamos mid your highest achieving district and these rules would force both the middle school and high school to drastically change their schedules. They've been using these schedules for over 20 years, and they are successful. These new rules will also affect my senior who is set to graduate next year.

Stop forcing unnecessary and unhelpful changes. More time will not fix our crappy education system. Smaller class sizes, better curriculums, and more flexibility for kids, every one is not the same. Quit punishing the smart ones and making them sit in boredom while teachers try to get the slower ones up to speed. Your whole equity model is just making our whole state stupider, which is scary because we are already at the bottom. Butt out and give power back to the districts. The schools have become so much worse over the last 10 years.

Thank you,  
Amanda Ramirez

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jeanine L. Wood](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] thoughts on NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:44:59 PM

---

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

I am writing to express my deep concerns with the proposed NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements. We have just had a change to the school calendars and hours required on a state level this last year. It is far too early to see the effects of the most recent rule change, let alone to be proposing new changes.

Furthermore, I have some specific concerns about the provisions in the rule, especially the removal of professional development time as part of required instructional hours, the insistence on high school students taking eight classes per week, and the removal of the option of free periods for high schoolers.

Teaching is a very challenging job and doing it well requires a lot of preparation. I taught for several years at a college level, never more than one class at a time, and it was a 20 hour/week job even though my instructional time usually only constituted about five of those hours. The actual time spent in the classroom actively teaching is the tip of the iceberg! If we want teachers to do a good job and if we want to retain them in their jobs in New Mexico, we need to give them adequate time to prepare for their teaching time. Increasing required instruction hours while simultaneously removing the ability to count professional development and preparation as part of those hours will significantly impact teachers' ability to do their jobs.

On a purely district level, changing the number of classes that high schoolers need to take each week to eight will have a significant impact on the Los Alamos School District schedule at the High School and the Middle School, on a week by week and day by day level. LAPS requires seven courses for a full schedule and we have a schedule that works well for our 7th-12th graders. Adding an extra class will limit the amount of time students have to focus on each class. Many students will struggle to complete required work and understand the material if they are being spread that thin.

I'm especially concerned about the removal of the option for a free period in high school. I am a graduate of Los Alamos High School, and took a free period in both my Junior and Senior years. I needed the extra time in my schedule to keep up with multiple AP classes. It also taught me some valuable time management skills before I started college and had a typically flexible college schedule. I know plenty of students who struggled in college to keep up with fewer classes and more free time simply because they had not yet learned to manage time well. They weren't given any flexibility at younger ages and then were thrown into complete flexibility without preparation. Giving high school students some flexibility in their schedules while they still have the structure of high school and living at home will help them succeed in the future.

Furthermore, students who take challenging classes need the lighter course load and extra time to study. Who is this rule serving? Students who struggle more in school may be afraid to take any challenging classes at all if they know they won't have any extra time to study. Students who choose to take AP classes will simply be under more pressure, getting less sleep. Students who don't care about their studies are not going to suddenly care more if they are required to

be in class longer. Students who need to support their families with paying work will be hurt by having more class time to juggle alongside jobs. It's a one-size-fits-all rule that doesn't take into account the large size of our state, the disparities in wealth and school quality, and the diversity among school districts.

I actually do support some changes to the school calendars. I am interested in a serious effort to encourage all school districts to go on a balanced or year-round school calendar. But this rule will not accomplish that. Instead, it stands to make high school graduation, teacher retention, and quality teaching more difficult. It also seems ill-considered: too much change, too fast, without the time needed to assess how well the current changes to school calendars are working. Please table this rule and consider the data before making any further changes to school calendar requirements.

Sincerely,  
Jeanine Wood  
Los Alamos, NM

**From:** [jessnm15@gmail.com](mailto:jessnm15@gmail.com)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] No to 5 days of school  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:45:26 PM

---

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

As a mother to a son who left a middle school that was 5 days a week to now a charter school (Ask Academy) that is 4 days, it has been a life changing experience for him.

In this day and age, the 5 day school week is exhausting for our kids. Not only do they have a rigorous school schedule but their evenings are filled with homework and after school activities. The weekends are non existent because of the busy weekends.

Since my son has changed to a 4 day school week, he is motivated and rested. His weekends are filled with practices from his extracurricular activities, so that extra day on the weekend gives him time to catch up on schoolwork and rest enough to be ready to tackle another week of school.

Please don't change this for his school. I am a teacher for RRPS and I wish all schools could switch to a 4 day week.

I know firsthand as a teacher that adding more school days to the calendar year is NOT the answer to fixing NM's education/attendance problem.

Thank you for reading!

Jessica T.  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lisa O'Quinn](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:45:43 PM

---

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

Hello

New Mexico should be very proud of the education they've provided my daughters at ASK Academy in Rio Rancho.

New Mexico has always struggled to provide the optics of good education in state. But ASK Academy is top tier and something New Mexico can be proud of.

Their ASK Academy education is STEM related and my oldest daughter is on track for college at SUNY ESF after graduation.

Changing ASK Academy to a 5 day a week schedule is a HUGE mistake, a glaring mistake.

Their 4 day a week academic schedule with the 5th day support academic day is part of the whole process which makes ASK successful. The Friday support day is critical to their academic program. Changing or forcing their schedule will negatively affect the success of ASK.

It's not broke at ASK, so don't break it. That would be a mistake.

Lisa Olive O'Quinn

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

**From:** [Tiffany Hinojosa](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Change Feedback  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:45:44 PM

---

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

I am writing to state that I am in total and complete disagreement with the proposed changes.

1. The new rule would require districts to provide 1140 hours of instruction AND a minimum of 180 days each school year. This drastically limits New Mexico schools from having options based on the need of that district.
2. The rule no longer allows the district to include professional development as a part of the required instructional hours. To have the highest level of teachers, we need teachers to be afforded the time to take training without having to add additional hours.
3. The rule will require that students are in school 5 days a week for at least 5.5 hours a day at the elementary and 6.5 at the secondary schools. Once again, this change is taking away the options for each district to be able to determine what schedule best fits that area.
4. The rule requires secondary students to take 4 credit bearing classes each day (8 classes each week). Let me reiterate one more time, that you are taking away options for each district to determine what is best for their area.
5. LAHS students would complete a total of 32 credits. Graduation requirements are for students to complete 24 credits. This is my biggest disagreement. This is legally not required, and yet, NMPED feels it necessary to mandate taking more classes than legally necessary?! Why?! Our students should be able to have the freedom to choose if they want to take additional classes and what best suits each student home/school/future situation.
6. The rule change would go into effect for the 24/25 school year. Not only are all of these changes going negatively impact our schools, students, teachers and communities, but you want this all to happen with less than a year's notice?! This is unfair and completely impractical.

I will state once again that these changes are not making our school systems better, but instead making a standard that doesn't fit the needs of each community. Standards are supposed to be broad to afford the flexibility for each district and student to be able to make decisions that best meet the their needs. I urge you to not move forward with these changes until you have given ample time and put effort into understanding the impact and hearing from the NM communities if these proposed changes are agreed upon (or even an option). Please, please, please do not move forward with these changes.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Tiffany Hinojosa  
Los Alamos, NM

**From:** [Tiffany Hinojosa](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:47:22 PM

---

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

On Sun, Dec 17, 2023 at 9:45 PM Tiffany Hinojosa <[tiffany.r.hinojosa@gmail.com](mailto:tiffany.r.hinojosa@gmail.com)> wrote:  
I am writing to state that I am in total and complete disagreement with the proposed changes.

1. The new rule would require districts to provide 1140 hours of instruction AND a minimum of 180 days each school year. This drastically limits New Mexico schools from having options based on the need of that district.
2. The rule no longer allows the district to include professional development as a part of the required instructional hours. To have the highest level of teachers, we need teachers to be afforded the time to take training without having to add additional hours.
3. The rule will require that students are in school 5 days a week for at least 5.5 hours a day at the elementary and 6.5 at the secondary schools. Once again, this change is taking away the options for each district to be able to determine what schedule best fits that area.
4. The rule requires secondary students to take 4 credit bearing classes each day (8 classes each week). Let me reiterate one more time, that you are taking away options for each district to determine what is best for their area.
5. LAHS students would complete a total of 32 credits. Graduation requirements are for students to complete 24 credits. This is my biggest disagreement. This is legally not required, and yet, NMPED feels it necessary to mandate taking more classes than legally necessary?! Why?! Our students should be able to have the freedom to choose if they want to take additional classes and what best suits each student home/school/future situation.
6. The rule change would go into effect for the 24/25 school year. Not only are all of these changes going negatively impact our schools, students, teachers and communities, but you want this all to happen with less than a year's notice?! This is unfair and completely impractical.

I will state once again that these changes are not making our school systems better, but instead making a standard that doesn't fit the needs of each community. Standards are supposed to be broad to afford the flexibility for each district and student to be able to make decisions that best meet the their needs. I urge you to not move forward with these changes until you have given ample time and put effort into understanding the impact and hearing from the NM communities if these proposed changes are agreed upon (or even an option). Please, please, please do not move forward with these changes.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Tiffany Hinojosa  
Los Alamos, NM





**From:** [James Mumma](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Mandatory 180 Day in school  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:51:38 PM

---

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 regarding PED's possible mandate for 180 day in school requirement. I don't believe that it should be pursued in the case of higher performing charter schools.

My bias will undoubtedly show in my reasoning but my son, and soon daughter, goes to the ASK Academy which participates in an 8-hour 4 day school week that I believe provides a quality, rigorous education. This isn't to say that nothing happens on Fridays, but ASK is unique in that all teachers make themselves available for office hours for individual instruction and intervention for their scholars. ASK also starts their school year about 2 weeks before normal public schools.

The proposed mandate would seriously hamper the ability of my scholars to participate in the unique approach to education that ASK employs. I doubt that a band-aid prescription of "more days" would increase the quality at ASK.

I understand that 180 days may help some schools, but PED should allow some flexibility for those brick and mortar schools that have a unique or unorthodox approach a la home/family schools.

Thank you for your time and if you'd like me to expand on my comments I can make myself readily available.  
Thank you.

James Mumma  
702-354-7582  
[James.mumma.72@gmail.com](mailto:James.mumma.72@gmail.com)

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [davisjenna29@gmail.com](mailto:davisjenna29@gmail.com)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:51:57 PM

---

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

Hello,

I am strongly against this! Our child goes to a charter school that's starts earlier in the day and goes later in the day so that they have Fridays off. Fridays are the days to work on school projects, as well as a day to come in and have time with a teacher if they need additional assistance. This rule to make it 5 mandatory days is ridiculous and will not help NM get better at education. Bring in more teachers, pay them better. I'm a Montessori teacher at a private school that pays well, bring in teachers that are passionate, have principals that aren't jerks and are there to support the teachers and the students. Mandating 5 days a week isn't going to make NM better.

**Jenna Davis**

**From:** [Carla Mtz Photography](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [carladabeyta@yahoo.com](mailto:carladabeyta@yahoo.com)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:52:12 PM

---

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

Good evening,

I read through the proposed rules that would affect 2024/2025 for New Mexico Public Schools and I am completely appalled that NMPED would want to dramatically change its requirements which would create devastating hardships for schools across New Mexico. I cannot believe how out of touch NMPED is with the already trying times for not only students but faculty as well. Rural communities are already at a disadvantage because they are trying to hire and keep faculty and with these proposed changes it will devastate further our students and staff. The rule that will require that students to be in school 5 days a week for at least 5.5 hours a day at the elementary and 6.5 at the secondary schools will negatively impact schools who function on a 4 day week schedule. Then there is the rule that will no longer allow districts to include professional development as a part of the required instructional hours. This means that we would most likely have to add additional days to the teaching contract to maintain professional development time provided through the collective bargaining agreement. Also, the new rule that would require districts to provide 1140 hours of instruction AND a minimum of 180 days each school year and not allow districts to count hours NOT days. Again, this would negatively impact ALL school districts! Lastly, it is hard enough to keep the students engaged and helping them to graduate then NMPED wants to change the graduation requirement from 24 to 32? WHAT IS WRONG WITH ALL OF YOU!

I am completely frustrated and anxious just thinking about all the changes that NMPED wants to implement for 2024/2025 and beyond. Our rural communities and even those with more financial means will find hardship in the proposed changes. I implore the NMPED to take a step back and listen to the concerns of the citizens of New Mexico and especially our educators and DON'T BREAK them down further. Please support our educators and students so that they can flourish and not loose them all together by either finding jobs outside of New Mexico for our teachers or our students dropping out of school because its too much too soon!

Please take the time to hear the concerns and keep in mind that sometimes what looks good on paper isn't always the best choice "STOP – LOOK – and LISTEN".

Thank you!

A concerned New Mexico parent.

Carla Abeyta

**From:** [REBECCA BEAUX](#)  
**To:** [Feedback, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Response to Proposed PED Requirement Changes  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:57:50 PM

**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 put thought into writing this email as a reflection of mine, and my peers', perspective of the proposed PED rule changes. As a student, I do not think this plan would be in the best interest of our state education system.

To start, I am a student at Los Alamos High School. Our town's public schools give a high quality of education, which is ranked high in our state, and nation. Our schools are located in a town full of families who work at the Los Alamos National Lab. This sets a higher standard for our schools to meet than the rest of New Mexico. [laschools.net](#) says, "Los Alamos Public Schools offers a well-rounded learning opportunity for students in PreK through 12th grade with a 97% graduation rate." Our graduation rate is well over the ~76 percent of New Mexican high schools. But regardless of this common generalization, I believe that these new requirements will do more to decrease graduation rates, rather than improve them.

Moving from 24 to 32 required credits means introducing more of something that does not work, rather than facing anything which could actually solve the problem. An extremely significant increase in the time required of us to graduate will simply be discouraging. Those of us who look ahead to graduation, are now worrying at how this would put our goal further away, by at least a year. An over 33% increase in required credits will only burn out the students, the teachers, and cost us all time. I am not sure that this could, or should, be done without requiring at least another year of school. Then there is the matter of this years' juniors. Will we all be kept from graduation next year because we have not fulfilled these requirements?

Part of a good education is the availability of challenging courses. I would like to point out that without free periods, many students will be *unable* to take these classes. Often, these classes require hours of homework and study. Free-periods make that possible. For those of us who have busy lives, this is not a realistic commitment for outside of school hours. We are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities or programs. Those of us with sports or work would run into conflicts.

This leads into the extended school day. Already, student athletes have to balance school, homework, practices, and recovery. This can be difficult, as we get home late, tend to certain responsibilities, and then start on our homework. More classes would mean more homework. After all of this, getting enough sleep to allow our body to recover from training is important. Extending school hours might push back practice times even later. Then those with jobs. How are we supposed to save up for college if there is no free-period or afterschool time to work a job? This would also be hard on local businesses in many of our small towns who hire youth.

I would like to return to the topic of burnout. We would need more courses to be offered in order to meet these requirements. This means more teachers would be needed. These teachers would also have more time taken out of their schedules. As professional development days do not count towards our required hours, the teachers would work more. Consequently, school funding would be more strained than before. This is possibly going to affect the quality of education that schools can provide.

Students need to be looked at as people who do get overwhelmed. Stress and anxiety is high, and would definitely increase. Applying to colleges, and thinking about our futures, will be complicated. Scholarships, NCAA sports, university registration, and related programs will depend on the details of our high school graduation. Anxiety, and feeling overwhelmed, is very harmful to students. I have had peers commit suicide, and very much fear that these statistics will be worsened with such a stressful and abrupt change in expectations.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my thoughts. I hope that the input in these feedback emails will be reflected in your decision.

<https://www.laschools.net/about#:~:text=Los%20Alamos%20Public%20Schools%20offers.puebl%20speaking%2025%20different%20languages.>



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](#) user.

**From:** [Becca Jones](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:58:44 PM

---

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

Dear PED,

I write this letter as a parent of a 7th grader, and a former teacher in Los Alamos Public Schools. After nearly a decade teaching at the high school level, last year was my last year teaching. My decision to leave very much had to do with the ever changing and arbitrary policies that are being imposed upon students and teachers with ZERO objective data to support changes.

Districts and teachers are given no plans of action about how teachers and school districts are supposed to successfully implement the changes and have offered ZERO proof for how additional hours contribute to the WHOLE student. More time does not mean quality time. The imposition of the proposed change to contact hours WILL mean higher numbers in classrooms at the high school level because additional teachers will have to be added, among a slew of other serious issues, inconveniences, and sometimes safety concerns.

STOP what you are doing. This is NOT the right decision for New Mexico students. You will lose more teachers, you will see a higher dropout rate, you will see greater mental health concerns among staff and students.

You will NOT see higher test scores, happier students, more balanced students, or families that can maintain this ridiculous schedule. STOP and listen to families. Listen to teachers. Listen to students. Listen to teachers who are sad they had to leave, but for their own sake, and the sake of their families could not continue to be trudging upon by people who don't remember what it means to teach.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca Jones  
Los Alamos Public Schools  
Parent and Former Teacher

Sent from Gmail Mobile

**From:** [Daniel Garcia](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 10:05:43 PM

---

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

This email is in opposition to any rule changes to the New Mexico public school calendars until data can be collected to see if the changes implemented last year had a positive effect.

Los Alamos Public Schools continues to set the standard for public schools with high test scores, high graduation rates, highly qualified teachers, involved parents, excellent music and sports programs, and many other metrics that objectively demonstrate success. All of this is accomplished with a 4.5 dsw. The Rand report mentioned that Rio Rancho implemented a 4.5dsw and that quantitative differences between 4.5dsw and 5dsw would converge to zero. This reflects two excellent school districts that don't need to change but the proposed changes to the law will effectively punish the high performing schools by making it harder on the educators. There is no mention of the 4.5 dsw directly in the proposed changes but maybe it should given the record of success demonstrated by LAPS. LAPS teachers use the half day to work and prepare. This rule will take that away. How could that possibly be beneficial for the students?

If attendance is the concern, then how would adding days possibly result in better attendance? There are numerous studies that show that outreach and extra programs have a positive effect on attendance not increased instructional days.

Lastly, I see a lack of parental involvement and accountability as the reason behind the poor performance of New Mexico schools but this is never discussed. When I went to public school in New Mexico (80s-95), the teachers, administrators, staff, and coaches were respected by the parents and students and given the authority to teach because there was an inherent and unwritten contract regarding accountability and personal responsibility. This came from the parents. Without the parents as part of this solution, these changes are just an exercise in futility. In Los Alamos, there is a culture of education and parental involvement in the education process. Educational success at LAPS is no secret, it's the parents and the fact that the community values education and the educators. Why would anyone want to change this? Let LAPS do what it knows how to do.

Sincerely  
Daniel B. Garcia  
Parent of LAPS students

Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Teresa Tafoya](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] referencing NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 10:08:45 PM

---

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

Hello,

I was thinking about how our school year was extended this year and now there's a push for more? We haven't received any data due to that we haven't done a full school year and a few more to collect adequate data to justify another extension. During last spring, it was the same argument that kids need more school time. Our school district does exceptionally well compared to others and had a shorter school year and less hours of the day. So if our scores were far better than other districts then that Have more days and hours within the day means adding more isn't the answer. Other school districts all ready have longer school days and are still doing bad. What our schools need is quality education. What PED needs to understand that in order for students to excel we need to focus our schools as a place of education and not a place of child care as it has been doing. Our schools are not a place for teachers to raise children and take care of them when they are ill. Our schools are a place to educate children with quality instruction time and resources. PED is so focused on "attendance" which is child care and not education. We need healthy students and good parents are being punished for keeping their sick children home. So now the state threatens them. How is this helping in learning. Sick children at school do not learn effectively and more children end up getting sick. It's a never ending cycle unless there is support to support families when their child is sick. Adding days to recover this doesn't help due to that what they have missed they've been punished already. If PED really wanted better scores then we'd have better health. It isn't supported because of the criteria PED has set, for example school nurses. Each district is only supported by the state to have x number of nurses per x number of students. We have schools that are far apart and may not have enough students to fill that criteria for that school. So the district will then only be able to have less nurses which means not all the school sites have a nurse. This impacts the health of children. A school office is not a nurse and they are not qualified (school office staff or teachers) to make health decisions as a licensed nurse would. Also, Teachers and families are for smaller class sizes which would need either more teachers or instructional assistants to assist this. Once again, PED has their "criteria" that x number of teachers per x number of students in the district. Our schools need staff support for quality, not more school hours. Staff doesn't need to be always be pushed to push the curriculum constantly for more and longer days. It's wearing on our kids and staff.

Adding more time does not help, it burns out staff, students, and parents. Like how I said earlier our school district has already added days and we're already burned out and we're expected to go into June? Why are we already burnt out you may ask. Your secretary of education put out a letter pretty much putting down school staff in that "districts need to be held accountable". No matter what these teachers are doing and students it isn't enough and adding more hours is breaking them down. They need support. There has been a decrease in moral from that letter. That is not leadership from our state. Leadership doesn't "threaten" and once again now threatening and being passive aggressive about this force in more school time isn't professional and our districts need professional leadership that is willing to help them not talk down to them.

Our students need time with their families. Having them more at school breaks down the family structure in family relationships. Families need time as well to build that structure and taking away from that puts these kids at higher risks of drugs and other harmful activities. A family can't build that on just a couple of hours a day. Kids need to be kids at home. By the time they get home they hav smelt downs because they are exhausted by the school day. They are not adults, they are kids. This isn't good for their mental health. So pushing for more school hours is negatively impacting their mental health. They need a home life and not such a long school day of work work work. By doing that the stage is doing them injustice and is toxic to them.

So for our staff and kids please do not extend more days and hours. We do not need to impact their lives negatively as it already is. As it is, it's already going downhill and adding more is not the answer, it's the nail on the coffin to our our education system here in New Mexico.

Teresa

**From:** [Holly Garcia](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 10:12:47 PM

---

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

To All Whom This Concerns,

I am a teacher for Los Alamos Public Schools. I have a Bachelor's in Business and a master's degree in Early Childhood Education. I'm a Level 3 teacher and I love teaching. As you can see, I left the business sector to become a teacher. It is definitely the more difficult and stressful job out of the two. Now you all are thinking of making it even more challenging. We already had a huge change last year. My children and I lost 10 days being together and I had to find more childcare.

That being said I work at a top elementary in Los Alamos Public Schools. Our school is special. We have very educated and dedicated teachers and staff that help our students become successful and pass the required benchmarks each year. I understand that not all schools are like Mountain Elementary and the rest of Los Alamos schools, but I do know that we are not broken. Our circumstances are different. Most of our students' parents are involved in their child's education, we are a well off community, but we also still have behavior problems, bullies, and kids that don't care. We have inclusion that is honestly not working for certain students. When one child is disrupting the whole classroom and school to the point that work is not getting completed, inclusion is a problem. So, yes things are not perfect here in Los Alamos, but the things we have going for us are test scores, reading and math progress, happy students, somewhat happy teachers, a high graduation rate, and much more. So, why fix LAPS if we are not broken? Why are you all trying to make us all the same when we are succeeding. Why not concentrate on the schools that are not doing well.

Something that has helped me become a better teacher is the required PreK Professional Based Coaching program. I was once upset about having to work on this every other week, but now I see my growth. There is so much data out there and I know this is working. It is almost Christmas break and I have seen significant gains with my students. Just maybe this form of professional development is the right way to go. Choosing a standard from PreK's Menu of Practices and working on that goal, the goal I feel can use some restructuring. Then with the help of my PBC coach, my goal helps me continue that practice in my classroom and I am later able to check it off as a success on my students New Mexico Early Childhood Observational Tool, ECOT.

Please don't add more time to successful schools and please don't take our early release. We are exhausted, frustrated and ready to give up. Nothing we do seems good enough. I know early release and less hours doesn't work for everyone but it works for Los Alamos Public Schools.

Thank you,

Holly Garcia  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Mary A Mirabal](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: School day requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 10:13:00 PM

---

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

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** **Mary A Mirabal** <[mmirabal@magschools.us](mailto:mmirabal@magschools.us)>  
**Date:** Sun, Dec 17, 2023 at 10:05 PM  
**Subject:** School day requirements  
**To:** <[Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.us](mailto:Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.us)>

To Whom it May Concern,

As a parent and an educator I am opposed to the new rule that would require our schools to mandatorily move to a 5 day week. There isn't any data to show that this is a decision based on improving school performance. Schools that have a 4 day week are outpacing 5 day week schools in every category. This decision is not in the best interest of our schools, students or families. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kind regards,

Mary Anne Mirabal

***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:** [Kristina Calder](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reference: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 10:18:02 PM

---

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

I feel this is a major set back for our students and district. Each school should be allowed to set hours/days that work best for their staff and students. I also feel requiring a 5 day school week will lead to more student burnout, lower test scores and more absences.

Please reconsider this calendar requirement.

Sincerely,

Kristina Calder.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lori Paul](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 10:26:09 PM

---

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

As a public school employee, and as a parent of children who attend a charter school that is currently on a 4-day school week, I am very STRONGLY OPPOSED to the proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements that would require 180 days of school exclusive of professional development days and parent teacher conference days and would require all schools to be on a 5 day school week. With the ever growing shortage of teachers and other school professionals (including speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, etc.) and the continued high rates of student absenteeism, adding more days to the school year is not the solution and may, in fact, exacerbate both of these problems.

Teachers and other education professionals are struggling and morale in the schools is at an all time low. Many educators are considering leaving the profession due to burnout. Adding more to educators' plates by adding additional days is not going to do anything but push more educators to take the final step to leave the profession, which will leave the public education system in the state of New Mexico in an incredibly bad position.

In addition, school districts have had to implement action plans to try and get students to come to school more consistently and to reduce chronic absences and adding more school days to the year is not going to help this problem and will likely make it worse. Furthermore, taking away the option of a 4-day school week penalizes rural districts and charter schools and the families who chose to attend these charter schools because it fits the needs of their family/community. Removing this option will likely lead to even further increases in student absenteeism and a shortage of educators to fill positions in our state, as a 5-day school week does not fit the needs of all educators, communities, and families.

Education has been severely underfunded in this state for a very long time. Recent increases have definitely helped to improve this situation, but continuing to put more and more demands on educators to justify these absolutely necessary increases is demoralizing and adds to the feelings of being unappreciated and unsupported in an incredibly important, but incredibly difficult profession. Educators put in countless hours above and beyond their contracted duty day to do their very best for the students of New Mexico on a daily basis and yet we are continually asked to give more and more, frequently to the detriment of our own wellbeing.

Please take these points into consideration when reviewing the proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements and DO NOT approve this rule that would cause another upheaval in the public schools of New Mexico and have negative impacts on the educators who work so tirelessly for our students as well as negative impacts on the students of New Mexico.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Lori Paul

**From:** [Sondra Wyman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 10:31:54 PM

---

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

I am contacting you as a New Mexico School Board member to express my concerns regarding the proposed rule change to 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements.

The rule change comes before New Mexico school districts have had a full year to judge the effectiveness of the calendar changes that were made this year, and will force districts to make drastic changes for the second year in a row with very little planning time. Those changes impact not only academics, but also athletics, activities, teacher burn-out and retention, families, and transportation to name a few.

It would be helpful to understand the reasoning behind this proposed change.

Is it to make all school districts in New Mexico operate the same? Each district understands the needs of their community better than PED. It is over-reaching and micro-management to dictate how districts manage instructional time. They each have unique situations to accommodate.

Is it to improve student outcomes? Research confirms that too much instructional time in a school day is detrimental to the well-being of students and does not improve student outcomes.

Is it because New Mexico is ranked last in the nation for education? If so, where is the data to support the idea that the proposed change will improve that ranking? Has a true root cause analysis been completed in New Mexico to determine WHY New Mexico is ranked last? If so, where are the results of that analysis?

It is disingenuous to propose changes in a rule that conflicts with the law and provides very little transparency. By offering only one opportunity for public comment at a day and time when most parents and educators are unavailable to attend does not foster trust. Professionalism and transparency are expected of school board members by PED, yet PED is not operating to the same standard. PED's actions with this rule will erode trust among parents, educators, board members and school districts.

The proposed amendment has many significant and unintended consequences, with no data to support it. Please withdraw proposed amendment to 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements.

Sincerely,

Sondra Wyman



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [Dion Bush](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 day proposal  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 10:36:16 PM

---

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

Hello,

I would like to thank you all for taking an important role within the education department. I must say that I was hesitant myself on how my child would respond in an environment with 4 days of school. Well, my child is excelling in every class! He is only 2% away from having Straight A's. My child's school offers tutoring sessions on Fridays for those students who need it. I believe this is a great idea. My child comes home excited, telling us that he had learned CPR as he is only 11 yrs old. Most adults have never even took a CPR class. Most schools have 5 day classroom settings and offer tutoring at the end of the day where the students brain is already exhausted. Even though most adults cannot absorb that much information in one day, we continue to ask our youth to. The questions at hand should be #1 Are the students getting quality education? #2 Is there an efficiency issue with schools having 4days of school? Please reconsider this change as students are thriving with current process.

Thanks,  
Dion



**From:** [Maria Clayton](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 day school week  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 10:39:40 PM

---

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

Hello,

As an 18 year resident of New Mexico, and mother of 5, I implore you not to require 5 day school weeks. I have now had 2 students graduate from The Ask Academy, in Rio Rancho, as well as one currently attending. Their 4 day weeks, with the opportunity to receive help from teachers, or work with classmates on projects on Fridays, has been invaluable. Our charter school is different, and has a proven record of success. Please don't change that.

Please leave these decisions up to local leaders.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Maria Clayton

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Joan Gauschman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] opposition to 180 instructional days  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 10:42:36 PM

---

**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 a fourth grade teacher at a Title I elementary school in Santa Fe and I would like to offer a more rounded perspective for those who are not working directly in a public school classroom. My school has had a sixth grade teacher vacancy this entire school year. There are 24 students across the hall from me, who have had no teacher. The other two sixth grade teachers sacrifice their every planning period trying to help a revolving door of subs or taking extra groups of kids into their classrooms along with their own groups of 25. This example of dedication to the kids is the heart and attitude of every teacher I have taught alongside in my 20 years in education.

Well, you might ask, how many such teacher vacancies could there be in SFPS? Surely that is the exception, not the norm. As I write this, on the SFPS website there are vacancies for 71 teachers, 11 special educators, 5 preschool or early childhood guides and many more if you count educational assistants and part time teaching positions. In a district with 30 schools, that is over 87 teaching positions we cannot fill right now. Adding more instructional days and not even compensating our teachers for them, nor give us more sick days will only contribute to the problems. We also have a substitute teacher shortage. Frequently, when a teacher is out sick at my elementary school, the class must be split sending small groups of children to other classrooms because there simply are not enough substitute teachers.

This school year 250 hours were already added to teachers' load with no pay increase. This requirement was met largely by adding time to the beginning and end of school days. This amendment for SFPS would be another week of school with students without compensation, as we are already now at 176 instructional days. Also worth noting is that this PED proposal of 180 instructional days will not be flexible. This means that schools like Taos Integrated School of the Arts which currently have a 4 day week, will be forced to change to a 5 day week. There is extensive research showing much greater employee retention at 4 day a week schools than 5 day a week schools.

Retaining our quality teachers is already a problem. If you want to help our children, please LISTEN to those of us working directly with them. To me it seems as if the NMPED views both students and teachers as a factory, demanding greater input to yield greater output. Conversely, teachers recognize that adding more school

days will lead to greater teacher burn-out and greater student truancy. We, the people working directly with our children, have many great ideas about how to help our students become more successful academically, the most obvious being smaller classroom sizes, especially for kinder-3rd grade to build fundamental writing and reading skills. We need MORE teachers, a lower teacher to student ratio to make a stronger impact, not LESS incentive to stay in this profession.

Please. Listen to teachers.

Joan Gauschman

**From:** [Erin Perez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 10:45:43 PM

---

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

Dear NM PED

My name is Erin Perez, and I am a parent of a student in the Los Alamos School District. After reviewing your rule change proposal of Rule 6.10.5, I am writing to express my strong disagreement with this proposal. First of all, more contact hours does not equal better outcomes. Quantity does not equal quality. Not to mention, in many cases is detrimental to mental health in our students. The data is clear that increasing contact hours to improve outcomes, without very clear goals, procedures, and an abundance of teachers, and support staff, is a flailing effort. NM PED has done nothing to set the stage for this type of implementation in order to create an environment where we see positive outcomes with increased contact hours.

NM PED is so grossly out of touch with what is need to improve education quality in this state! Asking already overworked, underpaid educators who have given so much already, to give more is such an insult and a clear example of the absolute lack of concern for our teachers and students.

There has been no time to even see the impact the new changes made to the schedule this school year will affect students and staff, and yet even more changes are being proposed? This is not how this process works! PLEASE STOP what you are doing. This is NOT the right decision for New Mexico students. You will lose more teachers, you will see a higher dropout rate, you will see greater mental health concerns among staff and students.

You will NOT see higher test scores, happier students, more balanced students, or families that can maintain this ridiculous schedule. STOP and listen to families. Listen to teachers. Listen to students. Listen to teachers who are sad they had to leave, but for their own sake, and the sake of their families could not continue to be truded upon by people who don't remember what it means to teach! Just LISTEN!! Thus proposal is not going to fix the problems our education system is facing in this state. To fix these problems it's going to take an administration willing to actually listen to teachers and students. Is this administration actually capable of doing that? I hope for the sake of the students in this state it is.

Sincerely,  
Erin Perez

**From:** [Jennifer Donley](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Against NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 11:06:43 PM

---

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

I am writing to express my frustration with the proposed set of changes for the NM school calendar. My children attend Barranca Mesa Elementary in Los Alamos, and the proposed rules would have a number of (presumably unintended) consequences for their schooling and for the district as a whole.

At the elementary level, the requirement that students be in school for at least 5.5 hours a day will significantly impact teacher planning and prep time. More generally, however, I find it disturbing that the rules would have negative impacts across the district at all levels, including changes to the block schedule at the high school level, the loss of free periods for high schoolers, and the loss of professional development time for staff in the required hours.

While I appreciate the need to improve public schooling across the state, blanket changes such as this will have negative impacts on our state's highest performing schools while likely doing little to improve outcomes elsewhere given recent studies on the impact of simply extending the time in the classroom. We need to trust our local educators to make the best choices in their districts and to work on implementing more nuanced changes to improve the quality, not quantity, of the time our kids spend at school.

Finally, as a parent attempting to plan for the coming summer and fall, I am very disheartened by the prospect of yet another year of major uncertainties surrounding the calendar. Any proposed large changes such as these should be discussed and voted on at least a year out to give districts and families the time to adjust and plan accordingly.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Donley

**From:** [Matthew Kretz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMASC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 11:09:13 PM

---

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

Hi,

I am writing to discuss the proposed amendments to NMAC Rule 6.10.5.

I appreciate that NMPED is trying to find ways to improve student educational outcomes in the state. I am well aware that New Mexico, as a whole, has a lot of room for growth in this area. Hoping I might be able help is the main reason I left my position as a mechanical engineer to become an educator.

I am, therefore, usually on board with trying things that could help bring about a positive impact. However, I fear that this proposal has not been well thought through (despite, what I'm sure, are positive intentions) and will ultimately have a negative impact on the very thing that we are trying to improve, student learning.

Many of the public comments submitted already do a much more eloquent job of stating the same concerns I have, so I will not belabor those points. I would, however, like to add two points from my perspective:

- Prior to becoming an educator (just over two years ago), I would have read the public comments from educators, concerned about adding workload to teachers "potentially driving good teachers out of the state", and I would have written the whole thing off as juvenile as I compared the education calendar to the ~260 days that I worked. However, the actual hours/days that a dedicated educator works is not reflected in the time that is mandated on the calendar, and I would now take those comments very seriously.
- In an [article](#) discussing how New Mexico education is not meeting expectations Dr. Romero himself is quoted as stating:

"Our next step is to be able to work closely with them in partnership, to be able to go in and work with those individual schools and do some planning around what we're going to do next, what kind of interventions and support can take place," Romero said. "What that's going to look like is a partnership between the Public Education Department and those districts and schools to really do a root cause analysis, so we can really get to the bottom of why is that school performing the way it does."

Based on the response from educators, the public, school boards, school districts, etc. it does not seem, to me at least, that this next step with NMAC Rule 6.10.5 was the result of working in a partnership. If it is, in fact, the response to a conclusive root cause analysis, I think that analysis being shared to the public would go a long way towards helping communicate the reasoning behind this proposal.

In closing, I urge the New Mexico Public Education Department to **not implement these changes at this time** but instead heed Dr. Romero's own words and work in partnership with the school districts to find a solution that would be effective in improving student achievement.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on this matter and for your continued efforts to improve education in New Mexico.

Regards,  
Matthew Kretz

Topper Freshman Academy / Los Alamos High School  
Conceptual Physics  
Student Leadership

Confidentiality Notice: This email, including all attachments, is for the sole use of the intended recipients and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure, or distribution is prohibited unless specifically provided under the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of this message.



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [Jhordan Granger](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Change  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 11:13:24 PM

---

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 Jhordan Granger, and I am a choir teacher in the Artesia Public Schools. I am writing about the purposed rule change 6.10.5

**OBJECTIVE:** 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 establishing a school calendar for the school year.

Examining the requirements purposed for the Rule Change, I noticed that the Rule is purposing schools meet for 180 days in addition to meeting the required instructional hours as defined by the PED. Most of the Rule Change proposal satisfies educational and instructional needs for staff and students.

Below are three objectives for your consideration.

1. School Instructional Days, Students attending 180 days,

**OR**

2. School Instructional Hours meeting 1140 per school year.
3. Teacher Professional Development of 60 hours.

However, I would hope you would consider these points:

4. Test scores per district, for comparison, and see if schools that have adopted this extended school calendar, or similar, do indeed have higher test scores and what their processes are.
5. Teacher retention rates with the same examination as mentioned above. We are already at a low retention and even hire rate here in New Mexico. I don't believe extended time in the school year will be a positive motivator for that cause.
6. Attendance and/or Truancy is one of our biggest issues in schools that we have post covid. Getting students to attend school currently is hard enough, even with incentives. That targeted population of low attendees will continue to get larger if the school year increases. If anything, the money we will save from not implementing an extended school year could go towards helping us how to solve that issue.
7. Burn out for teachers and students alike is a very real possibility and it happens more often than not. Both look forward to a brain break to regroup, refresh, and prepare for the new year. A lot of development happens in those summer days without the pressure of academia. I am afraid that summers have been continually growing shorter, and shorter and it has started to affect not only the work ethics and drive of teachers, but students as well. Not to mention the social learning they have been missing out of since Covid.



8. Allowing for there to be local control in decision making regarding School Instructional Days would be more beneficial because the district school board would know, first hand, the best action for the community and it's needs. Our community does a wonderful job at electing people who truly care about the students and their best interests.

Respectfully, as a mother and a school teacher, I request that you allow decisions regarding School Instructional Days be made by our district school board, and will take all of these points above into consideration.

Thank you,

Jhordan Granger

**From:** [Lynn Ovaska](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 -- Thoughts from National Board Certified Master Teacher of 25 Years  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 11:23:15 PM

---

**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 a veteran high school social studies teacher at Los Alamos High School for the past 25 years. I have taught thousands of high schoolers, invested in my own education to be a better teacher, and dedicated my life to the betterment of young people. I love what I do -- whether that is teaching challenging AP classes with success for 20 years, or spending extra hours with students to help them be leaders in our school clubs and activities, or working one-on-one with a student who is overwhelmed at home, and so, so much more. Teaching is my calling and I am honored that I have been making a difference in teen's lives for so many years. Ten years ago, I earned my Master's degree in school and clinical counseling, and also completed my National Boards Certification. I am proud to be at the pinnacle of my profession today. I always figured I'd teach for as long as I could because I love to help children grow, I love the content that I teach, and I love the teaching profession.

HOWEVER...

I feel I am being yanked around by decisions of non-educators and I do not know how to sustain one more out-of-touch change in my teaching world.

Why do politicians -- who do not work in my profession, do not have expertise in pedagogy and child development, do not conduct educational research, do not understand what I do, and do not know what is best for kids -- get to make significant, sweeping, eleventh-hour rule changes that will upend the everyday lives of students and teachers?

Yes, it is a challenging time in education right now, but we are all dealing with many troubling societal problems. I see it all every day in my high school classroom with students who get overwhelmed in learning but they also struggle in their families or worry about the world outside of school. All of us adults want solutions, but you must know that they cannot be found in our schools and classrooms, especially on the backs of teachers who are already spread too thin.

Your proposed *NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Instructional Time Requirements* is another impulse move by politicians who naively think that more time in the classroom with more required classes and hours in the building will make world problems go away.

After reading through *NMAC Rule 6.10.5*, I am troubled. Education is always evolving but *NMAC Rule 6.10.5* is reactionary and last-minute. In my first few years of education, I experienced the importance of adjusting our teaching methods or schedules for many reasons, but we planned ahead, had meetings as educators, and took care of those needs at the district level or school level. Today, educational changes seem to have limited pedagogical backing. There are so many people with NO educational training or do NOT work in schools who think they know what we need to fix our schools and children, and they cause all sorts of disruption in the lives of children with these kinds of impulsive rule changes.

It is depressing for teachers because we don't see anyone asking us, "What do you need to teach? How can we help you help children? What supports are missing? How can we provide for you?" Instead we are hijacked by political and personal agendas that do not bring out the best in education for students or teachers. In the last administration, I couldn't believe how Betsy DeVos led the U.S. Education Department and promoted the privatization of public schools, made huge financial cuts, and removed protections of the most vulnerable children. But now the pendulum is swinging the other way with this sudden *NMAC Rule 6.10.5* mandating a mindless increase in days and requirements without any idea of what that will look like. Every trained educator knows that it is more than kids just being in the building

most of the day, every day that helps them learn. That is why we went to college and got degrees and continued to complete countless hours of professional development and get additional degrees in curriculum, instruction, leadership, counseling, and more. Ask us. It is not the quantity, but QUALITY of education, that matters. When are we going to talk about that?

I wonder if those in support of *NMAC Rule 6.10.5* even understand how education works nowadays. Everyone thinks they know what happens in school because they remember their own years as a student, but times have changed. Teachers and students have been working really hard to recenter after years in the pandemic. Right now, we are in the thick of reading, writing, remembering, applying, analyzing, synthesizing, evaluating and it is hard work. Plus, we are trying to adjust to the new changes of 10 extra days this year, settling into the calendar and schedule, modifying units and lessons and learning. It is super busy in our classroom and minds. And, we have begun talking about registration for next school year with our students, getting excited about the possibilities.

Therefore, it is especially frustrating that the news of *NMAC Rule 6.10.5* came out right now. Instead of preparing for my last week with students at the end of the semester, I am writing this email and helping manage worries from my students and colleagues who are upset that their school experience might once again change without any discussion or explanation of details. It feels quite disrespectful to be dealing with this in the middle of our final exam week when kids are just trying to do their best academically. Your potential significant change of *NMAC Rule 6.10.5* is upending all that educators do to provide stability and normalcy for students who haven't had much of that for the last 3-4 years.

Good teachers are planners, always reflecting on what they've done and how to organize and plan well for the future. Why cannot the politicians who want to change policies like *NMAC Rule 6.10.5* organize and plan too? Think about it -- how can you ask school districts to reconcile all the changes that *NMAC Rule 6.10.5* would cause as we gear up for 2024-2025? What will our daily schedule look like if we must have 8 classes? How will our calendar look? Do we get advisement days or registration days or PD days? Does this mean I will teach more classes? How will you staff these extra needs? Do I lose my planning period? Will teachers be paid more? Where are you going to get the qualified educators if we cannot find them now? Where will these extra classes meet if we already do not have enough classrooms? How will it affect extracurriculars? If unsupervised periods are gone for upperclassmen, how will they find time to work a job or complete the college application process or help their family? What does my own 10th grader do at school his junior and senior year if he only needs 8 or 9 credits to meet his graduation requirements but has to take 16 credits over the next two years? Who pays for all the increased funding needed for more teachers, classrooms, support?

Bottomline: There are way too many unanswered questions and our children need QUALITY education by QUALIFIED teachers in small-sized classrooms, not just more time in the building, sitting in a desk with any warm-body adult who can "cover" a class.

Please do not enact *NMAC Rule 6.10.5*. because it does not have the expert forethought and educational planning to help teachers and students. If you do, please consider how *NMAC Rule 6.10.5*. will actually add to the deficits you are trying to fix in New Mexico's education system. I am afraid the consequences of *NMAC Rule 6.10.5* might show how education in New Mexico continues to fail.

Lastly, I hope you do realize that teachers like me, master teachers who could help mentor incoming educators in the next few years, are all on the verge of retirement. If we continue to experience such reactionary, non-pedagogically sound policies that we know harm kids and teachers, it will be more and more likely for us to leave the profession.

Sincerely,  
Lynn Ovaska

AP Psychology and Psychology Teacher  
AP European History Teacher

“The root of joy is gratefulness...It is not joy that makes us grateful; it is gratitude that makes us joyful.”

~ Brother David Steindl-Rast, scholar, Benedictine monk, author of *Gratefulness, the Heart of Prayer*

“Noble be man, merciful and good,”

~ Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, German poet, playwright, author of *Faust*

“I have been in a place for six incredible years, where winning meant a crust of bread and to live another day .... In my mind’s eye I see those years and faces of those who never knew the magic of a boring evening at home.... Each of you who knows the joy of freedom is a winner.”

~Gerda Weissmann Klein, Holocaust Survivor, author of *All But My Life*

Los Alamos High School  
1300 Diamond Drive  
Los Alamos, NM 87544  
505-663-2580

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail, including all attachments is for the sole use of the intended recipients and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited unless specifically provided under the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of this message.

--



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [Roberta Greenberg](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [ACT](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 11:34:15 PM

---

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

Once again, PED disappoints and discredits all stakeholders in decisions regarding school calendars.

The proposed 'Rule Change' does not include:

- Parent Teacher Conferences within instructional time
  - This implies that parents will need to meet with educators outside of the duty day, thus restricting parents to a schedule which could impact their work schedule and time with their children.
  - Further, the current schedule has some parents opting to take their children out of school to meet travel and vacation schedules which meet their work schedules. Thus, impacting attendance negatively. The proposed 'Rule change' will likely put more stressors on the schedules of parents.
- Professional Development
  - PED states that Professional Development is necessary to promote student success, but appears to undermine that success with a 'Rule Change' that will inhibit such Professional Development and collaboration.
  - If PD is not included within the duty day and will be held outside of the duty day, will educators be compensated?
  - How will PED recognize as relevant PD?
- Mentorship, Coaching, and Collaboration
  - By its nature, coaching and mentoring should look at what is going on within a classroom, making it necessary to view teaching strategies during instructional time. So, how will coaching be achieved if you can not view what is happening in real-time?

Overall, this 'Rule Change' does not seem to involve any of the stakeholders and appears to be another punitive ploy to meet some target, rather than looking at underlying causes. Another panacea to treat symptoms without addressing the real problem.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roberta Greenberg  
7th Grade Math Educator

**From:** [Nick SPURLOCK](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 11:36:00 PM

---

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

Good evening,

My child is a student at the Rio Rancho ASK Academy. We've been informed that there is a proposal to alter the scheduling requirements of schools such that institutions like ASK would lose valuable flexibility.

Having Fridays dedicated to make-up assignments, academic tutoring, and other such service is important to my family and my scholar. Without dedicated time for such activities my student would be required to take time from other class work to receive help and account for missed work.

A change of this nature to the scheduling is a mistep, the flexibility of ASK Academy was an important decision point for enrolling my child.

Thank you for your time,

- Kiley, Nicholas, and Maddix Spurlock

Get [BlueMail for Android](#)

**From:** [Mike Nelson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 12:08:19 AM

---

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

I would like to comment on the proposed 5 day-a-week school schedule.

My son attends a charter school (the ASK Academy) that operates 4 days a week, with Friday serving as a day for intervention, extra assistance, etc.

This model has proven a success for my son, who must deal with mild epilepsy. I've heard similar from other ASK parents.

I find it interesting PED would consider enforcing a blanket model on all schools rather than rewarding success regardless of how that is obtained.

Need to know what success looks like? Check out the ASK Academy.

Mike Nelson

**From:** [amy.sollars](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [amy.sollars](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 12:52:58 AM

---

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

To those who make decisions for New Mexico's educators and students,

I am angrily writing this letter at 11:45 PM as this is the first time that I have heard about this proposed House Bill 130. I am strongly against the proposal to mandate, additional student hours for all schools and districts. I do not think it is appropriate for you to make these decisions for each individual school. As parents of scholars that attend Ask Academy, they thoroughly enjoy having a four-day school week. And this helps to motivate them to excel in school, even though it is only a four day week. As you may already know, they have high standards for their students and an excellent reputation in the community. Mandating extra hours at the school is completely unnecessary and uncalled for. In my opinion, I think this is just an attempt to justify, your ask for more extra money. I do not think that you really have the best interest of students at heart. This would create an additional hardship for teachers, students and also restrict families from having time both during the week and together during the summer time, if your proposal is approved.

I sincerely hope that you rethink and consider others perspectives, and how much disruption this may cause individuals and their communities. Creating mandates is not a one size fits all solution. I highly doubt that you will be able to achieve your goals by demanding more time. Maybe you need to consider reforming your schools in other ways to enhance performance or attendance issues. Moreover, I think since Covid, students and families are looking for more flexibility, instead of restrictive-mandated rules. I can only see this leading to more non-adherence and forcing families to consider moving to other states where there is a focus on creating community, and parent collaboration in schools.

This just highlights how disconnected the school system has gotten from the voice of the community, and the voice of the parent in having a say in their child's education. Again, I hope that you take a very in-depth look at what exactly you are proposing, more time does not equate with the quality, or effectiveness of education. Instead I firmly believe, it's what you do with the time you have, that should be your focus. Again, our family does not agree with the House Bill 130, and it's proposal to increase student hours mandatorily.

Your Concerned New Mexican Parents and Scholars,

Amy, Jeff, Joy, and Evan Lewis  
Rio Rancho, NM 87124



**From:** [OLIVIA HAMILTON](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule Changes  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 1:15:27 AM

---

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

Hello,

I am a resident and student living and attending high school in New Mexico. I've read through what rules you are trying to implement into our schools. I and many of my peers who I've personally talked to about this topic find these ideas for the school year 24-25 impractical and pointless. As my school district will have to add more hours to the school day and inreturn more days if we are forced to do this. Our entire schedule will have to be changed throughout all of our schools, elementary, middle, and high school. These new rules force students to have more work and less time to work on it. And not allowing students to have free periods prevents students who study during these periods because of their AP classes. Or what about students who work internships? Or what about the students who work during free periods? Some have to work during these free periods to support their families financially. Or what about students who take college classes along with high school classes? What will you tell them? That this is better for them? Why are you doing this to the very same children who you are supposed to be supporting? Why?

I am a high school student, a student athlete, a college student, and I am a person. But with these new rules you are attempting to add I feel as if I am not considered one. I will have to center my entire life around school with these new changes. My time after school, studying, college, sports, and homework will be gone. I will then have to live as if I'm some sort of robot. No time to hang out and enjoy the company of my friends and family. I will be suffocated by school and homework due to the added hours and need for more credits. Each day as I go to school my grades drop more and more with no free periods to catch up on homework or to study. I will eventually fall into a spiral of living as if I'm already dead. I don't want to live as a shell of a person, I want to be heard that this isn't right for my school district let alone any other district in this state. You are taking away the rights of the different school districts to decide what is good for their schools. They know their schools best and what is best for their schools. Not all schools have the same amount of students, staff, funding. So this sudden and abrupt change will only hurt the students and their families as well as the teachers and staff of the school here.

Sincerely,  
Olivia Hamilton



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](#) user.

**From:** [Dmitry Bizyaev](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] About NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 2:39:11 AM

---

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

Attention: The New Mexico Public Education Department and Secretary Arsenio Romero  
Re: *NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"*

Dear NM Public Education Department and Mr. Romero,

I'm writing to you as a NM educator, inhabitant of Cloudcroft, NM, and a parent of my child who attends Cloudcroft Schools.

I'd like to express my concern in proposed measures that will change the House Bill 130 requirements.

The proposed amendments that require certain number of days in school instead of certain number of hours

will make my life difficult as well as life of many other parents of Cloudcroft Schools students.

While the numbers of educational days and hours sound almost the same and interchangeable, the innovations will lead to the impossibility of 4-day school weeks.

In turn, it will trigger the departure of many good teachers from our school, which will turn our good schools to bad.

I will be enforced to consider home schooling in this case, as well as many other parents will do.

Please do not amend the House Bill 130 rules.

Best regards,

Dr. Dmitry Bizyaev

NMSU

**From:** [Stephanie Davis](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 4:56:42 AM

---

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

>

> Dear NM PED,

>

> The rule change, 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements, you are considering will hinder the benefits of alternative school schedules. Our school currently has a 4 day week with Fridays used for intervention, makeup work, and internships. Our school is incredibly successful. We have about a 75% proficiency in most of our standardized tests. Our standardized testing results confirm that our school is successful in educating children. One of the major components as to why our school is so successful is because of our creative schedule.

>

> Thank you for your time.

> A concerned educator.

>

> Sent from my iPhone

>

> Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jess Klagmann](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 5:25:15 AM

---

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

To whom it may concern,

First, thank you for taking our children's education so seriously. I know there are many factors that play into these decisions, and I respect that. I do, however, feel strongly that increasing the number of school days, especially at the elementary level, is not looking at student and staff needs with a broad enough perspective and will ultimately do more harm than good.

Research supports the importance of creative learning and time spent in nature for the development of the whole child. It's also, in my opinion, essential to have the opportunity to travel and see other parts of the world to teach diversity and culture. The early August starting dates already make it impossible to spend time as a family traveling when it isn't too hot to do so. Increasing Wednesdays to full days might have been acceptable, as this doesn't interfere with the larger chunks of time required to fully immerse our children in experiences like camping or traveling. But increasing Wednesdays *and* shortening an already too-short summer break robs both students and staff of necessary recharging time. I also know a number of staff that rely on this time for professional development.

I am the mother of two elementary aged children, and I'm opposed to any revision to this rule that adds hour or day requirements to our current schedule.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Klagmann

**From:** [Reuben Weeks](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New proposed school schedule  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 5:34:41 AM

---

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

Dear sir or ma'am,

The new proposed 180 school day plan is a drastic step in the direction of further governmental control on children's educational flexibility. The Ask Academy has already proven their excellence in academics, along with other charter and private schools within the state of New Mexico, without the need of forcing children to remain in the classroom for longer periods. By forcing these children and teachers to add another day during the week, you will remove their morale and hinder their desire to work diligently the few days a week they are in school. I personally have children who look forward to their well-deserved break on Fridays and because of this, they work extremely hard Monday-Thursday to give themselves this needed break. Education is NOT about the quantity but about the quality, which is something New Mexico just doesn't understand. The lack of quality of leadership in this state has been laughable since the moment we got here and this proposal just continues to prove that. There seems to be zero common sense in the way things are done here, always moving for more control and less with concern about the well being of the children and parents.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Jamie Lynn Justice](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 5:43:22 AM

---

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

More contact hours does not = better outcomes. And in many cases is detrimental to mental health in our students. The data is clear that increasing contact hours to improve outcomes, without very clear goals, procedures, and an abundance of teachers, and support staff, is a flailing effort. NM PED has done nothing to set the stage for this type of implementation.

STOP what you are doing. This is NOT the right decision for New Mexico students. You will lose more teachers, you will see a higher dropout rate, you will see greater mental health concerns among staff and students.

You will NOT see higher test scores, happier students, more balanced students, or families that can maintain this ridiculous schedule. STOP and listen to families. Listen to teachers. Listen to students. Listen to teachers who are sad they had to leave, but for their own sake, and the sake of their families could not continue to be trudging upon by people who don't remember what it means to teach.

Jamie Justice  
(505)695-4594

**From:** [Tristen Hill](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 5:48:07 AM

---

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

More contact hours does not = better outcomes. And in many cases is detrimental to mental health in our students. The data is clear that increasing contact hours to improve outcomes, without very clear goals, procedures, and an abundance of teachers, and support staff, is a flailing effort. NM PED has done nothing to set the stage for this type of implementation.

STOP what you are doing. This is NOT the right decision for New Mexico students. You will lose more teachers, you will see a higher dropout rate, you will see greater mental health concerns among staff and students.

You will NOT see higher test scores, happier students, more balanced students, or families that can maintain this ridiculous schedule. STOP and listen to families. Listen to teachers. Listen to students. Listen to teachers who are sad they had to leave, but for their own sake, and the sake of their families could not continue to be trudging upon by people who don't remember what it means to teach.

**From:** [Teodoro Dominguez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 days a week  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 5:54:42 AM

---

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

I am a parent of two students that go to The Ask Academy in Rio Rancho. My children have Fridays off, but that time is sometimes used for extra help with teachers. It allows them to have scheduled one on one time with a teacher in a subject that they need extra help with. I heard that there is a chance they want to make the school week mandatory 5 day school week. But I do love having the Friday free with my girls. Please consider all students. Even the ones at The Ask Academy. Thank you



**From:** [Stacy Diller](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: Opposition to the Proposed NMPED Regulation 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 6:18:33 AM

---

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

Dear Secretary Romero and Public Education Department Rules Committee,

As a career educator, I am sending this email in opposition to the proposed NMPED Regulation 6.10.5 NMAC. Many of the top ranking states in K-12 education have fewer instructional hours than New Mexico. For instance, Colorado, ranking #4 in the nation, has a 1,080 hour requirement and many of their districts implement a 4 day school calendar. Increasing the number of days students are in a classroom is not a panacea that will correct the education issues in New Mexico.

As a former district and school leader I am curious about the root cause analysis that was conducted to support the determination of the rule. The state hasn't been able to provide consistent data due to COVID, as well as the ever changing measures utilized to determine proficiency. Schools haven't received consistent or timely data to support staffing decisions, and the data they have received has provided limited guidance for classroom teachers regarding the improvement of instruction. In addition, instructional hours were increased last year, but there is no data to determine if this was a positive move for our students. I agree that New Mexico must increase instructional outcomes, but removing the autonomy from higher performing districts to decide how best to take care of their students and communities is punitive.

Mandating that all districts move to a 180 day calendar is an inequitable burden on rural communities. Due to logistics a four day week makes sense in many districts, primarily in the area of transportation. *For instance, we have very young students that get on the bus at 6:30am and get home after 5pm.* By the fourth day our younger students are exhausted.

Furthermore, it is difficult to staff rural districts and upsetting work schedules will likely create staffing shortfalls. It will increase travel costs for many employees and will likely be viewed as a pay cut. In order to access medical care, staff in rural communities must take an entire day of leave. Staff try to make all medical appointments on Fridays in order to avoid missing work, but with a five day week they will have to miss more instructional days.

Also, the language of the Proposed NMPED Regulation 6.10.5 NMAC contradicts the Public School Code (22-2-8.1), which only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, not a minimum number of instructional days. Furthermore, the proposed language does not align with Section 22-2-8.1 of state law that clearly indicates that a portion of the instructional hours may be "professional work hours," but the proposed regulations require

that the new minimum number of days be “exclusive of teacher professional work hours,” meaning that staff training would have to be IN ADDITION TO the 180 school days. Finally, 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.

I respectfully oppose this rulemaking change.

Stacy Diller  
(575)447-2743

--

*Stacy Diller*  
(575)447-2743

**From:** [Jennie Thornton](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposed- 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 6:22:03 AM

---

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

Hello,

I am in strong opposition to the proposed 6.10.5 NMAC calendar adjustment.

I have two IEP Special Needs \*AND\* Gifted students that attend ASK academy STEM charter school in Rio Rancho. The school's unique project based curriculum is a perfect fit for my differential learning kids.

ASK's schedule is an extended-hours, Monday through Thursday in school and Fridays out-of-classroom schedule.

On Fridays my children meet with their project teams to complete advanced projects. My high school daughter works in a prestigious internship at a local IT company.

Please do not interfere with this amazing system allowing New Mexico's smartest students to learn in a way that suits their unique learning style.

Sincerely  
Jennie Thornton  
12 August Mader Road, Corrales NM 87048

**From:** [yael\\_hershcopf](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] ASK academy  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 6:26:05 AM

---

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 Nicole Sevy. I have two daughters in ASK academy. One has an IEP due to PTSD, and one has ADHD. Due to the fact that ASK academy is a place that creates A students, they are both excelling in school. Part of this is their Friday program, where the children get individualized attention and help with their work. My daughter with PTSD finds the schedule doable as well because she doesn't have school on Friday.

Having a five day school week would definitely affect their grades negatively. They do so much learning during the four day a week schedule. Additionally, ASK academy doesn't need a five day school week due to the quality of their curriculum. They work harder, faster.

If you have any questions please feel free to reach out

Have a great day,

Nicole

**From:** [Ross Davidson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for:  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 6:30:02 AM

---

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

Hello,

I am writing in support of the new 180 instructional day rule proposed by PED. Drastic changes need to occur in NM to improve our children's education and this is one of them. This should directly coincide with more support for teachers in terms of smaller class sizes, teacher aids and programs for struggling students in reading and math. Local school boards should consider modifying traditional academic calendars to spread out the instructional days and shorten the long summer break during which learning loss occurs. I appreciate PED's effort in moving the state in the direction of states with successful public schools.

Thank you,

Ross Davidson

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.

**From:** [Reuben Weeks](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB130 public comment  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 6:31:44 AM

---

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

To whom in may concern,

In reference to the controversial proposal for a mandatory 180 days in class room, I appose. With respect to the US Constitution, this is a clear overreach of governmental power. It is the parent's duty to educate their children, not the imposition of government authority. Truancy laws are already in place, however, the lack of school resource officers and public safety is the real root cause of the lack of education in the state of NM. The lack of true understanding of the matter shows a significant lack of knowledge at the elitist and leftist polices of the NM government. There is an internal structural rot within this state government that I am concerned with and every policy proposed does not address the true concern at heart. Adding more school hours is not the solution. We need to return to traditional conservative values rooted in our constitution while eliminating woke ideologies and simply teaching the fundamental truths and foundations our children need to succeed. Eliminating the no child left behind policy and equipping parents to understand the value and need for education. The poverty levels, rampant crime, and homelessness is the issue, not the amount of time in the classroom. Our teachers are not social workers, rather educators who need a healthy balance of professional development and recuperation. I humbly request you eliminate this from consideration and allow the districts to engaged with their populace and allow them meet the needs of their unique demographics without government overreach.

Respectfully,  
Reuben Weeks

**From:** [Michael Dolejsi](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposed to proposed 6.10.5 updates  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 6:37:45 AM

---

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

Greetings and thank you for inviting feedback,

I am opposed to the proposed rule changes to 6.10.5. The primary aspects I dislike are the mandatory 5-day school week and lack of clear definitions on class periods. I do not believe blindly throwing students into more hours and more school time is the solution. I am greatly concerned that this will reduce the facilitators/teachers who are the most important resource to the students' success.

Thank you,  
Michael Dolejsi  
Los Alamos, NM

**From:** [Melissa Pyle](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Change Request  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 6:38:41 AM

---

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

*To Whom It May Concern:*

*My child attends Alice King Community School, a charter school where students attend 4 days a week. The proposed rule change to the instructional time requirements (NMAC 6.10.5) would have negative implications for our child and family. The 4-day school week provides our family the opportunity to support our child's learning at home. Moving to a 180 day calendar and 5-day school week would cause a major transformation of how Alice King Community School is structured and to its Charter and Mission. This would include possibly removing 20 professional development days for teachers that are used for curriculum development which would change the focus of the school's Charter related to multi-age and inclusion philosophies and teaching methods.*

*We respectfully request that the New Mexico Public Education Department decline to proceed with the proposed rule change.*

*Sincerely,  
Melissa Pyle*



**From:** [MariaElena Cordova](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Possible 5 day a week?  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 6:44:52 AM

---

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

To Whom It May Concern:

Here at ASK Academy in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, we like the schedule it has worked out well for are 15 yr. old & we have a 12 yr. old here & are 10 yr. old will be attending next year. I feel it encourages the student to stay on top of their work & helps them communicate more with each individual instructor and if when necessary they make an appointment for Friday support, which I appreciate that they tutor the kids on Friday.

Every child learns differently and we as a family enjoy how the OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS here @ ASK have chosen to educate the STEM network. I ask the PED to reconsider thoughtfully about a five day school week.

Sincerely,  
The Donato Family

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

**From:** [Leslie Esquibel](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 6:50:00 AM

---

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

Please don't implement the proposed changes.

The proposed rule will be very disruptive and costly to the Los Alamos schools, and likely other schools in the state. It will require our high schoolers to take 32 credits, rather than the current 24. They will not be able to take positions at the laboratory in the afternoons, positions that play a significant role in helping them decide their futures.

Los Alamos as a community is still adjusting to the calendar change implemented late last year. If these changes must be made, please provide the justification and enough time to implement them.

Leslie Esquibel

Parent of one high school freshman

Grandparent of another freshman, a junior, and a 6th grader

Los Alamos, NM

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

**From:** [Katie Cardon](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 6:50:11 AM

---

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

I am writing as a mother of 2 and a multi sport high school coach with a degree to teach high school history.

I am a graduate of the disastrous decision of no child left behind in a poor school district where valuing test scores for funding has eroded teachers ability to do what they are capable of. I watched an enormous number of fellow classmates fall behind, not get the true needs addressed because the room had to keep moving forward, and drop out.

I am completely against NMAC proposed rule changes to 6.10.5. and watching yet another generation of students continue to just be drowned in education while never addressing the true needs of any of the students.

More forced time and more forced core curriculum is not and has never been the answer. Students need a balance to their lives to grow as complete, healthy, capable people.

Teachers are already drowning and leaving the profession at an alarming rate for a plethora of reasons. Taking more time away from their families and forcing them to pay higher cost on child care along with the inevitable minimal increase, if any, to their salaries to work harder longer days with even less time to prepare is beyond absurd. How much more are we to ask of them when we cease to listen to or provide them with what they are begging us for in order to be able to do what they love for our children and our future?

We have aging family members in different states that we would love for our children to get to know and learn from. The current overwhelming number of days is intrusive enough at preventing us from putting this as a priority and forcing us to connect over digital platforms that can never replace human contact.

We talk all the time about not passing down the old ways or really getting to know the ones who came before us but how are we supposed to be able to do that when we move away from families in order to support and help drive what's best for country while then placing our children in schools to drown them in education of common core that we have to HEAVILY subsidize in our homes after long hard days when we should be connecting on a human level. Sharing what makes life truly enjoyable like cooking favorite food from when we were children that our grandparents used to make, dancing to the songs of our parents wedding anniversaries, playing games and learning strategies and critical thinking, emotional control and perseverance through athletics, the learning of necessities to explore the great outdoors.

Ultimately kids need time to just fail at things outside of classroom pursuits where they are constantly studying and learning so they can be good enough, smart enough, and prepared enough to pass the next test. They need the emotional space to be good at something that doesn't force them to "be smart".

My children want to see their extended families, they want to go camping, they want to go

hiking, they want to go to our basketball and softball games, they want to see the zoo, go to Portland, watch the ocean, hear different languages, try different foods, ride trains, ride their bicycles, and they just simply cannot do that when they are trapped inside of school walls as much as possible. Please do not make these outrages, detrimental, immediate changes.

Thank you,  
Katie Cardon  
Mother of 2 and multi sport high school coach

**From:** [April Wilkinson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] HB 130  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 6:52:53 AM

---

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

This rule must not be implemented. It does not take into account rural districts, long student (bus rides) and teacher commutes, teacher shortages, bus driver shortages, and just about every other academic intervention plan schools statewide have tailored to their specific community needs. This is a broad stroke rule designed so that PED will look like it is trying to do something to increase student- teacher time. However, it does not first address teacher shortage issues, reasons for chronic absenteeism and actual academic intervention needs. This is simply a flat “you better be there” rule- which we already have and which is already ineffective.  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [kristy stover](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 Day School Week  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 6:55:46 AM

---

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

Good morning

I am writing this to state my disagreement pertaining to the 5 Day School Week.

We chose our sons school because of the programs it offers and due to the 4 day week with Fridays being used for extra support. That way our son is able to get the additional help with more one on one support. He has learning disabilities and would not be able to get the help he does if it is changed to a 5 day week.

We are a military family who has lived in several states and have been through a large amount of school systems between both of our children and this is has been the best school we have ever dealt with. This is also the first time our son has thrived in school and has made major progress and over come some major hurdles. He has also been through 5 different school systems.

Please do not change to a 5 day schedule.

Thank you

**From:** [Wendy Linebrink-Allison](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose 5 Day School Week  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:01:08 AM

---

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

Good morning. I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to ask that PED please oppose the rule that will require public schools to have students to spend at least 5 days a week in school.

Some schools have created 4 day weeks (and longer hours in each day) to allow students flexibility to have time for internships, dual enrollment course studies, tutoring opportunities, club activities that enrich the youth in another format, and volunteering for community service hours.

Other schools have created 4 day weeks to reduce the costs of transportation services and utilities.

And some schools created 4 day weeks to allow the teachers a day to do the prep and grading work, parent meetings, IEP planning, and the required continuing education that needs done outside of the classroom.

I believe if a school is able to create solutions that allow the students to attend school 4 days a week and still successfully learn the material, then we should allow the schools the flexibility to create schedules that work best for their students, teachers, and that community.

I ask you to please oppose a rule that will require public schools to have students spend at least 5 days a week in school.

Best, Wendy

**From:** [Christina Blea](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 day school year  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:03:35 AM

---

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

My child is a student at ASK academy. Their schedule and curriculum has allowed my child to flourish not only with a social domain but academic and within family time.

My student went from public school schedules feeling overwhelmed and like he didn't get enough help to catching up and not being afraid to ask for help. Students are encouraged to use Fridays as a make up day where they offer tutoring and internships. My son gets to have these days to catch up or ask for help if he didn't understand something in the week. It also allows us to have more family time together which is so important in America and in building healthy attachment styles.

Please consider keeping number of days and 5 day school week away from our schools that have changed children's lifetimes in a positive manner. For this schedule and curriculum are the main drive of children thriving at ASK academy.

-Christina Blea, LMSW



**From:** [Alicia Meraz](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment on rule 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:04:17 AM

---

**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 Alicia Meraz and I have been a school counselor for over 13 years. I would like to share with you that my personal and educational opinion about increasing the amount of hours in school is not the answer to help our students make academic, social and personal gains. We as a state need to educate parents better on the importance of prenatal care, holding your baby skin to skin, read to them, talk to them, experience nature daily, exercise with them, nourish them, feed them nutritious meals, talk to your child's pediatrician about any concerns, and make sure your child is sleeping appropriate hours. In order to do all of this we need the following:

- Prevent incarceration of parents or support them in jail
- Help reduce or eradicate the intake of drugs in our society
- Help reduce or eradicate poverty
- Help reduce or eradicate violence
- Help reduce or eradicate domestic violence
- Help reduce or eradicate homelessness
- Help reduce or eradicate the access to guns for children
- Help reduce mental illness
- Help to have better educators-students ratios!

AND

Increase mental and emotional support resources, affordable housing, legal resources, access to affordable nutritious food, free childcare, free before and after school quality programs for all of our students, and increase the access to all of those people that want to become teachers, educators, nurses, social workers, SLP's, occupational therapists. Furthermore, we need to provide safety for all of our children/teens in their own neighborhood where they can experience social interactions, exercise, and enjoy nature which should be a RIGHT to everyone and not just a few.

I love what I do, but increasing the hours of our students at school will not help with everything that needs to be reduced, eradicated or increased in my opinion. In fact, if we do not act on what our children and future children need RIGHT NOW, the gap will continue to increase and will get even wider! Our kindergarten children already come behind and that gap needs to be closed before the age of 5 if we really want to help our children to be successful. We need to work toward equity as soon as a woman in NM becomes pregnant!

Thank you for reading this,

Alicia

**From:** [Jimmy Glascock](#)  
**To:** [Jimmy Glascock](#); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Against NMAC 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:13:05 AM

---

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

Governor Grishom & Secretary Romero,

I am against the changes proposed in NMAC 6.10.5. I have parental experience with Rio Rancho, Clovis, Albuquerque & Melrose schools. The Melrose school District is the safest and most educationally efficient and effective school for my family, and it will be the most negatively impacted. I am against this Rule for the following few, but not conclusive reasons:

1.  
This rule will not address areas needing improvement in New Mexico.
2.  
The legality of this change in the Administrative Code is questionable at a minimum, but certainly unwarranted, unfair, and will have negative consequences on children & families.
3.  
In my conversations, NMPED did not confer with schools small schools who are successfully implementing 4 Day Weeks.
4.  
Safety concerns, truancy, and mental health problems are increasingly problematic in our schools and I'm concerned this rule will NOT address those issues, and potentially exasperates those issues. It removes my child and family's right to a balanced school and family life.
5.  
This will negatively impact the small school's staff, staffing and faculty who are making education successful in these schools.
6.  
It sweeps those who are succeeding under the same consequences of those who are failing.

Perhaps if it applied only to specific lacking areas for schools or students who need the increased educational opportunity I could consider it more. I support legal challenges to the constitutional fairness of this overreaching proposal. You can not promulgate rules of success, parental participation and life balance that make childrens' education successful. Even if I wasn't in a school that is so drastically and negatively impacted by this proposed change, I would still be against it because it removes small school's successful efforts.

Jimmy Glascock,  
[jkglascock@gmail.com](mailto:jkglascock@gmail.com)

**From:** [Bethany Pendergrass](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments on Proposed Rule: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:22:02 AM

---

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

Please see the following comments on behalf of Dr. Sue Cleveland, Rio Rancho Public School District Superintendent

December 18, 2023

Policy and Legislative Affairs Division  
New Mexico Public Education Department  
300 Don Gaspar Ave., Room 121  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Subject: Comments on Proposed Rule: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements

Dear NMPED Policy and Legislative Affairs Division,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements. As the Superintendent of Rio Rancho Public Schools, I believe it is crucial to provide feedback to ensure that the rule adequately addresses the needs and concerns of the education community.

There are a few concerns that I would like to specifically address as I believe they will have a significant impact on our district.

1.

**Instructional Day Definition:** Changing the definition of "Instructional Day" to exclude professional development time will impact school district budgets, extending teacher contracts beyond student instructional time, including parent/teacher conferences.

*Will the 60/30 professional development hours for elementary/secondary be funded according to each teacher's daily rate?*

2.

**School Day Definition:** A calendar day should be designated by the local board, including instructional hours with students, professional work hours, or a combination of both. Local school boards should have the authority to approve a calendar with community input, meeting the community's needs. However, this rule would limit local districts from doing what is best for their communities.

3.

**Lunch, Recess and Passing Periods:** Lunch, recess and passing periods will not qualify as instructional hours. The rule doesn't recognize learning opportunities during lunch and recess particularly for SEL students and behavior support. These minutes should not be excluded from instructional time.

4.

**Exclusion of PD Time:** The proposed change will extend teacher contracts and require additional hours and pay, impacting district budgets. This rule imposes 180 days and 1,140 hours, limiting flexibility for professional development which is crucial to developing teachers and staff and ensuring quality instruction.

5.

**Instructional Day Length:** The length of instructional days must 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.

We request the ability to submit a calendar to our local school board with the 1,140-hour requirement in HB130 without being tied to a specific number of instructional days. We also ask that professional learning and parent/teacher conferences remain legislated in HB 130 with included hours for both elementary and secondary schools for professional development. We also ask that secondary schools be given the same allotted time as elementary at 60 hours.

We request that the proposed change in the definition of "instructional day" includes recess and lunch for elementary as they are related to students' social-emotional skills. Passing periods in secondary should be excluded as this varies between districts, presenting micromanagement concerns.

We are not in favor of this proposed rule as it bypasses the legislative process and ignores decisions made by elected officials. Communities are unique and deserve the flexibility to respond to their families and school board members.

It is my hope that the New Mexico Public Education Department will carefully consider our feedback and work to develop a rule that best meets the educational needs of our students, families and staff.

Thank you for considering our comments and for your dedication to receiving and reviewing public input. Please feel free to reach out with any questions. My email is [sue.cleveland@rrps.net](mailto:sue.cleveland@rrps.net).

Thank you,

*V. Sue Cleveland, Ed.D.*

Superintendent of Schools

Rio Rancho Public Schools

Rio Rancho, NM 87124

**Disclaimer**

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

This email has been scanned for viruses and malware, and may have been automatically archived by Mimecast, a leader in email security and cyber resilience. Mimecast integrates email defenses with brand protection, security awareness training, web security, compliance and other essential capabilities. Mimecast helps protect large and small organizations from malicious activity, human error and technology failure; and to lead the movement toward building a more resilient world. To find out more, visit our website.

**From:** [Simon Hathaway](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Change to 4-Day School Weeks  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:27:02 AM

---

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

### To Whom It May Concern:

My child attends Alice King Community School, a charter school where students attend 4 days a week. The proposed rule change to the instructional time requirements (NMAC 6.10.5) would have negative implications for our child and family. The 4-day school week provides our family the opportunity to support our child's learning at home. Moving to a 180 day calendar and 5-day school week would cause a major transformation of how Alice King Community School is structured and to its Charter and Mission. This would include possibly removing 20 professional development days for teachers that are used for curriculum development which would change the focus of the school's Charter related to multi-age and inclusion philosophies and teaching methods.

We respectfully request that the New Mexico Public Education Department decline to proceed with the proposed rule change.

Sincerely,  
Simon Hathaway

**From:** [Natalie Smith](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:32:13 AM

---

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

Good morning, I currently have a senior at The ASK Academy in Rio Rancho. I was just made aware of this new calendar requirement possibly having an effect on the school schedule that would change ASK from a four-day school week with Friday as an intervention day, to a five-day week schedule.

My son and I have enjoyed and appreciated the current four-day week schedule at ASK. The Friday intervention gives the students a chance to meet with their teachers if they are struggling with any coursework or make up tests. I wish when I was younger this was an option, I know this helped with the transition from elementary school to middle school and the huge influx of class work he had. He was able to feel confident that if he had a question or he needed to re-take a quiz it was available to truly learn the material, instead of just "getting by" because as we know all of this material builds on one another from week to week. And, if he didn't have any struggles, the additional full day to have the time to finish his assignments or to study has been amazing. He has the best time management skills I've ever seen at such a young age because of this routine.

I do believe taking away that additional day majority of students need to have Friday intervention at ASK or just a full additional day during the week to get the school work/studying done would be a mistake for the future students of ASK. We want to raise well-rounded kids, who will have the time to do good in school, letting that information really sink in, have time for extra-curricular activities, family time, friend time and their own personal time so that they can achieve that success. This four-day schedule has been a great option for our family. I know I would have appreciated something like this when I was younger in middle and high school. When I went to college, I liked the additional time I had to let all that new information sink in, I do believe this schedule sets them up for success.

Thank you for taking the time to read about our experience and how much we've enjoyed The ASK Academy experience.

I want to add one more thing, this additional time allowed my son time to also participate in the dual credit program at CNM. One more amazing example of this current schedule opening up that time to create more opportunities for our New Mexico youth.

Natalie A. Smith

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



**From:** [Jane Baechle](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:33:27 AM

---

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

As a resident of Albuquerque and citizen of New Mexico, I am strongly opposed to the rule change that would measure student instructional time in days rather than *instructional hours*.

The legislation which passed in last year's legislative session to increase instructional time was the product of hours of engagement and work to craft a proposal which would meet the needs of NM children and youth and respect the unique conditions of the people and areas of this huge and diverse state. Multiple local leaders, parents, teachers and school administrators and other stakeholders worked tirelessly and successfully.

The PED is apparently willing to throw out the expertise and work of the NM legislators and stakeholders who crafted this legislation and with no evidence that it was unworkable or ineffective.

If the PED believes their stated Vision and Mission statements, they will shelve this proposed rule change and adhere to the legislation passed by our elected leaders and informed by the work of so many.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Baechle  
7021 Lamar Ave. NW  
ABQ, NM 87120  
505-400-6516

**From:** [Stacy Fusilier](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:40:42 AM

---

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

We **VOTE NO**

As parents of a child that attends a 4 day school week, we highly disapprove of mandates for a 5 day school week!!

Our child was currently in a 5 day school week and since being at this school (4day) his academics and overall outlook and attitude has improved beyond what we could have imagined!

The extra day off really gives him decompression time from all the stimulation and allows for much needed family time.

We absolutely **VOTE NO** to 5 day schools weeks.

*Stacy Fusilier, Realtor ®*

**Military Relocation Professional (MRP)**

**Accredited Buyer Representative (ABR)**

**Mobile: (337) 244-1831 the best way**

Email: [sfusilier@flavinrealty.com](mailto:sfusilier@flavinrealty.com)

**Flavin Realty, Inc.**

3221 Ryan Street, Suite A

Lake Charles, LA 70601

Office: (337) 478-8530

**Search homes directly from MLS go to: [www.flavinrealty.com](http://www.flavinrealty.com)**

*Licensed by the Louisiana Real Estate Commission (LREC)*

**R1 Realty One of New Mexico**

9674-3 Eagle Ranch Rd. NW

Albuquerque, NM 87114

Email: [stacyfusiler@gmail.com](mailto:stacyfusiler@gmail.com)

*Licensed by the New Mexico Real Estate Commission (NMREC)*



**From:** [Stephanie Yeamans](#)  
**To:** [Feedback, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:49:40 AM

---

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

Dear NM PED,

This new proposal for following requirements for instructional days and hours will be a huge detriment to children. This will increase hours in school, increase the number of classes, cut into teachers' ability to prepare, and be a negative impact to the mental health of children who need time to just be children.

I do not support this new proposal.

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Yeamans

**From:** [stephanie.cole](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments - NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:52:26 AM

---

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

To Whom It May Concern,

As an elementary teacher in a consistently high achieving district, I am concerned about the added value regarding NMAC Rule 6.10.5. Dr. Arsenio Romero's comment "far too many schools are underperforming and it is unacceptable", saddens me. Teachers within my school district work extremely hard for their students and our children continue to thrive. Additional hours of school time each year does not solve the root problem with our educational system in NM and does not add value to an already highly performing district. The NM education system is broken and PED continues to undermine the professionals and allowing us to do our jobs. PED continually adds more requirements, change requirements, making us feel like we are not performing or not doing our jobs. Highly qualified and seasoned teachers in my community continue to leave the schools because they can work somewhere where they will be compensated more and treated with more respect. The message PED sends to educators is that teachers are not doing enough and we are not providing the best education to our students. Teachers feel unappreciated, not respected, beat down, and continue to be underpaid. Have you noticed the number of teachers leaving the profession? Do you notice the staff shortages, and lack of substitutes? How about how many teachers are now having to be on anxiety medication? So, ask yourselves again, is extending the school year and the time students are in school going to benefit our students? My concern is student dropout rate increases for HS who will now have 32 credit hours to complete when they only need 24 and the continuation of student and teacher burnout. When teachers are tired, do not feel respected and are continually taking on more roles, the quality of instruction and learning goes down.

In theory, additional hours of school each year could be designed to improve learning outcomes and provide students with more supplemental learning experiences. However, research indicates that longer school days does not necessarily result in better academic performances or higher achievement rates. Teaching is mentally taxing for both students and teachers and adding extra time to the day only adds to the attention struggles already occurring at the end of the school day. Other countries may outperform the U.S. in education but that is not because they are in school more hours, the hours they are in session are productive and filled with meaningful instruction. For example, the recent adoption of free breakfast has proven to be an extreme waste of time. Children are now arriving at school to eat breakfast before instruction can occur. How is this value added? Time at school is not being used wisely and adding more will not solve our problems.

More time at school, more credit hours for high schools, means more preparation for teachers. Teachers are already stretched so thin because of lack of staff and are filling extra duties and have less planning time. When are you expecting teachers to fulfill the extra planning they will have now? They already come to work early, stay late, and work at home in the evenings and weekends. Spending more time at school limits the amount of time teachers can spend with their families. Children will have less time for extracurricular activities, or to have a job if they need to raise money for college. We haven't even seen the outcome of the additional hours for this school year. We've added STEM and reading specialists to each district but have not seen the impact on these programs yet.

NMAC Rule 6.10.5 should does not fit the needs of all NM school districts. Maybe it does not need to apply to all districts within our state. As an educator, I am disappointed. NM PED can do better, should do better and knows better than to add unnecessary hours to our

schools. This is not how we solve the issue of helping our students thrive.

Stephanie

**From:** [Reid Priedhorsky](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] oppose NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:52:47 AM

---

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

Hello,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements". This would be bad for (1) me, (2) my spouse, (3) my school-age children, (4) my teachers, (5) the rest of my schools' staff, (6) my wallet due to my tax dollars being wasted defending the inevitable lawsuits (plural), and (7) basically anyone I can think of. Please don't do it.

I'll also add that a short comment period right before the winter break is ridiculous. It's certainly consistent with a PED that isn't actually interested in a meaningful conversation with stakeholders.

Thank you,  
Reid Priedhorsky  
Los Alamos

**From:** [Dawn Thomas](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] More Days=Less Instruction Regulation 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:53:36 AM

---

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

To Whom it may Concern:

You have probably heard many reasons to keep a 4-day week, but one reason you may not have yet heard is that a 4-day week will lessen instruction time. I am an elementary classroom teacher who teaches 3 grade levels. It is hard to find time during the day to teach 3 math lessons, 3 reading lessons, 3 writing lessons, while still including adequate time for intervention, science, social studies, and recess. If my days are shortened, which would happen if we went to mandatory 5-day weeks, I will need to cut things out of my schedule, or not teach each grade every day. Furthermore, all of this upheaval is unnecessary, my students are growing on their progress monitoring tests as much, if not more, than their peers who attend 5-day a week schools.

As a single mother I rely on the 4-day week schedule to have a good work-life balance. I am able to take care of many of my domestic needs and healthcare appointments on Friday. If I am forced to work five days a week I will need to take a lot of time off to care for myself and my child. The same will be true for my students who travel often over 2 hours each way for doctor and dentist appointments.

Overall, a 4 day week is perfect for our rural community for many reasons. I fear doing away with it will end with less student achievement, higher rates of absenteeism, and student/staff burn-out. Please DO NOT do away with our precious 4 day weeks!

Sincerely,  
Dawn ML Thomas  
4-6 Grade Teacher Mosquero Elementary  
Mom of a 6th Grader



**From:** [shannon wirsching](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:54:19 AM

---

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 reaching out to add my comments to the upcoming possible changes to school calendars. My child goes to Ask Academy in Rio Rancho. She has been more engaged with her teachers, classmates, and actual school work than ever before and I have to say that their schedule is part of it. Going 4 days a week has made her more engaged to get everything out of the time they are together than when she was going 5 days a week. Their teachers get better results in my opinion because of the 4 days. When she's needed extra help she's been able to have more one on one time with the Fridays open for just that. She's has become a better a student and happier at school. I fear that your changes to force all schools to 5 days a week will be detrimental to the students that have been thriving and implore you to consider the benefits that students have had which far outweigh the cost of 5 days a week.

Thank you,

Shannon Wirsching  
A concerned parent

**From:** [CECILIA PRATT](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Change to the School Calendar Requirments  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:57:26 AM

---

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

Hello, and thank you for taking the time to read this email.

First and foremost I would like to make it abundantly clear that I as well as many other students at Los Alamos High School do not support or want this rule change. When you first get into high school there is that sense of excitement you could say about many things being older, being able to drive, having more freedom, etc. One of the most exciting aspects is being able to have a free period.

I personally think that part of this has to do with the fact that one you don't have to be doing anything in particular, but also that you are having a school day, but don't have to be in school or do school work. This has a lot to do with the fact that as highschool students you are consistently doing work and have been doing work since you were five years old. If you just take a junior who is someone that qualifies for a free period that is about 11/12 years that they have been going to school for as you can imagine this is something that people really do look forward to because of that. Not to mention the fact that a lot of people in the school use that tiem to do work for other classes and to set things up for clubs or activities that they do.

Moving on from that point I understand that the 32 credit implementation would be gradually added for existing high school students, but either way making a student do that much in such little time if you think about it is just unfair. As well as the fact that you would have to increase the number of classes available to students which in turn increases teacher hours or number of teachers which increases teacher burnout as well as student burn out. I as a student feel burnt out with the amount of work we are expected to do even now and it is to my understanding that with the new schedule we would be expected to go to almost year round school. This will likely lead to more burnout among not only students, but also staff at all schools, not just the high school. This could also lead to a higher suicide rate among students and a higher poverty rate beucuse some families rely on the income of there children to be able to have the basic things needed in a household. Not to mention there are really no true or reoccurring facts or statistics that show a betterment in learning or growth in learning among students. As well as the fact that for example doing something or eating something all day everyday you get tired of it and dont want to continue eating or doing it. This is very similar to what will happen if students are forced to go to school for more hours a day and for more days a year students are not going to want to go to college because they have been going to school so much and are just tired.

Now I can only really talk about how this is going to affect high school, but I know this will have great effects on elementary and middle schools as well.

I sincerely hope that you take my email into consideration when making your decision.

Thank you!  
She/Her  
Los Alamos High School

"You can't change what happened. But you can still change what will happen." Sebastian Vettel



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [Carlos Chiquete](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule changes  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:57:27 AM

---

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

Hello,

I am writing to you to express my dissatisfaction with these proposed new rule changes to the school time length and other requirements being considered in NM. I believe it is important for kids to be kids and that we prevent burnout on what is already a demanding daily schedule and homework schedule. It is likely that districts will have to do less with more with existing funding, it is also likely this will induce teacher burnout and less qualified candidates teaching the kids. Aren't we necessarily conflating time in school with learning? I am not sure those are truly connected, especially with limited resources.

I hope that you can come to a more consensual solution with the districts that is realistic and work for other solutions to NM's problems in education, thank you,

Carlos Chiquete  
Los Alamos, NM

**From:** [Kasi Ryan](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMPED Feedback 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:57:45 AM

---

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

Dear Legislatures,

I have been an educator for 19 years. I taught 18 of these years for the Carlsbad School District and moved myself and my children to Loving School District this year seeking a better education for my children. The Loving School District hold high standards and teach integrity and perseverance. I can attest that every minute in the school day is used wisely and productively to teach these students and the ruling to change from hours to 180 days will hinder this community. Education is not a one size fits all. What works for some districts will not work for all districts. We have a heavy population of students that travel to Mexico often, rodeo families, and farming families who work extremely hard in school 4 days a week and are also able to meet their family needs due to having Friday's open. Myself and my children have thrived in this school district. What they are doing here works and is successful. This is proven when you look at data as well. Why are we focusing on this detail when there are so many other factors that need to be addressed such as class sizes and programs to draw in good, professional teachers. One of the biggest reasons Carlsbad struggles is due to not being able to find enough teachers who have the credentials to be successful. Please take into consideration that what you are trying to pass today will hurt some districts tremendously. It is our jobs as educators to do everything possible to meet the needs of our students and families and what that looks like is not the same in each district.

Sincerely,  
Kasi Ryan

**From:** [Katie Gattiker](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Instructional Time Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 7:58:22 AM

---

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

I do not support this rule change. I am a Los Alamos Public School parent and I think it will negatively impact my kids, the teachers and myself.

Katherine Gattiker

**From:** [Lillie O'Quinn](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:00:19 AM

---

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

Good morning,

My name is Lillie O'Quinn and I am a student with the Advocacy program at The ASK Academy.

As a charter, we function on a four day work week, leaving Fridays for professional development and training, along with tutoring for students that may need extra assistance. This has always worked perfectly for us, and contributes to the high test scores at our charter. Changing to a 5 day work week would completely alter our schedule, and leave us with no time to give students additional hours of support.

As a student myself, I am highly opposing this alteration of our calendar, as it would be greatly impacting our student body, staff, and parents.

Please take this into consideration, we would all greatly appreciate it.

Thank you for your time.

**From:** [Janean Garney](#)  
**To:** [luis.terrazas@nmlegis.gov](mailto:luis.terrazas@nmlegis.gov); [Romero, Andres G.](#); [Soules, William P.](#); [Tanya.MirabalMoya@nmlegis.gov](mailto:Tanya.MirabalMoya@nmlegis.gov); [joy.garratt](#); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [Janean Garney](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:00:56 AM

---

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

Janean Garney  
PO Box 307  
Cliff, NM 88028  
[janean.garney74@gmail.com](mailto:janean.garney74@gmail.com)  
[jgarney@silverschools.org](mailto:jgarney@silverschools.org)  
575-494-6161  
December 17, 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 to express my concerns regarding the proposed changes to instructional days and the school week model, as outlined in the recent proposals by the New Mexico Public Education Department. I believe that these changes, if implemented, could have significant negative impacts on the well-being and academic progress of our students, particularly in rural schools like ours that have successfully embraced the four-day school week model for years. Our community has thrived under this model, and the requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has been successful and favored by our community. This change appears to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly at Cliff Schools.

I am a proud graduate of Cliff High School, and I have returned as the principal of Cliff Schools for the last five years. As we all know, "it is about the people, not the programs." - Todd Whittaker. As the principal, I leverage the appeal of the 4-day work week as a compelling incentive to attract quality employees to join our school community. We have successfully recruited several individuals who willingly commute 30 miles from Silver City, NM, to work in Cliff due to the current 4-day workweek structure. However, with the proposed change, I have heard concerns from employees questioning whether the additional expenditure on gas will still make it worthwhile for them to work at our school.

I would also like to draw your attention to the challenges secondary teachers at all single or double-A schools will face if an additional day is added to the instructional week. As you may be aware, these teachers typically have to prepare for six separate classes, and adding an extra day would mean an additional full day of preparation for all six classes. This could potentially overwhelm our educators and hinder the quality of instruction they provide. We have several educators who could retire but choose to continue teaching because of their love for their students and the desire to make a positive difference in their lives. However, with the addition of an extra day, we are concerned that these individuals might decide to proceed with retirement.

I would also like to highlight the achievements of Cliff Elementary and Cliff Secondary based on the NMVistas data. Cliff Elementary has been acknowledged as a school of Excellence, and Cliff Secondary has been acknowledged as a Spotlight school. These achievements underscore the effectiveness of our current educational approach and school week model. I would like to suggest a collaborative approach for addressing the performance of four-day week schools that may not be performing well on the NMVistas. Rather than implementing blanket changes, consider working



closely with these schools to identify specific challenges and tailor solutions that meet their unique needs. Collaborative efforts and targeted support can contribute to the success of all schools, ensuring that no student is left behind.

Moreover, increasing the number of instructional days for students does not address one of the root causes of educational challenges across the state – student attendance or absences. Most schools, including ours, face attendance issues, and adding more days to the school year may not necessarily improve student attendance. Instead, we need to address this root cause by implementing consistent and effective state-level policies that encourage and enforce regular student attendance.

In addition to these concerns, there is a growing apprehension about the counterintuitive culture that may be created between administrators and students by adding day of school. Already, we have students and parents expressing concerns such as, "What is going to happen to students if I don't attend on Friday?" This sentiment reflects a potential strain on the relationship between students and administrators, introducing an unintended consequence of increased anxiety and disengagement among students.

In conclusion, I urge you to carefully reconsider the proposed changes in light of the potential negative impacts on our students, educators, and community. It is crucial to maintain flexibility in instructional days and school week models to accommodate the unique needs of districts like ours. I appreciate your attention to these concerns and trust that you will make decisions that prioritize the well-being and success of our students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Janean Garney*

Janean Garney  
Principal  
Cliff Schools



**Janean Garney**  
**Principal**  
**Cliff Schools**

**Personal Cell: 575-494-6161**  
[jgarney@silverschools.org](mailto:jgarney@silverschools.org)

**From:** [Christiano Esquibel](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PED 180 School Day Rule  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:01:30 AM

---

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

Hello,

I am a scholar of The ASK Academy, this email is in regard to the PED 180 school day rule. The ASK Academy uses Fridays as a 2 hour intervention day, allowing us to receive help in the subjects we are struggling with a one on one session with their teacher. This day also allows for other academic adventures such as internships.

The 180 day rule would be harmful to the ASK Academy scholars, as we will lose great benefits of our charter which allows us to have Fridays dedicated to intervention instead of full length education days.

Sincerely  
Christiano Esquibel  
Biomedical scholar at The ASK Academy  
Graduation 2025

**From:** [Janean Garney](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [luis.terrazas@nmlegis.gov](mailto:luis.terrazas@nmlegis.gov); [Romero, Andres G.](#); [Soules, William P.](#); [Tanya.MirabalMoya@nmlegis.gov](mailto:Tanya.MirabalMoya@nmlegis.gov); [joy.garratt](#)  
**Cc:** [Janean Garney](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:02:01 AM  
**Attachments:** [Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department.pdf](#)

---

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

Good morning,

Attached are letters from our community members in Cliff, NM. We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,  
Janean Garney



**Janean Garney**  
**Principal**  
**Cliff Schools**

**Personal Cell: 575-494-6161**  
[jgarney@silverschools.org](mailto:jgarney@silverschools.org)

Tommye Allsup  
PO Box 2  
Cliff, NM 88028  
tommyeallsup@gmail.com  
575-313-5654  
December 12, 2023

**Subject: Strong Opposition to Proposed Changes to School Calendar under 6.10.5 NMAC**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to our school calendar under Rule 6.10.5 NMAC - School Calendar Requirements. I believe that these changes, particularly the move towards universally mandating a 5-day school week, would have detrimental effects on both the quality of education and the well-being of educators and students in our state. I am writing this letter as both a concerned parent of three students attending Cliff Schools in the rural southwestern Silver Consolidated School District, and as the school counselor of this campus.

Firstly, it is crucial to note that New Mexico recently increased instructional hours from 1080 to 1140, making it the second-highest in the nation, only behind Texas with 1260 hours, according to "Instructional Time Policies 2023," (Education Commission, January 2023). New Mexico's requirement for the minimum number of hours in a school year is already among the highest in the country and given that this change is in its inaugural year, it is essential that we allow time to assess its impact on our students' learning before implementing further modifications. The proposal to increase days and restrict occurrence of 4-day weeks requires students to attend school more days (an additional 28 days for our 4-day week campus) but the required instructional time would remain the same. What is the reasoning and data to support that the 1140 instructional hours would be more impactful if stretched out over 180 days rather than the 152 days on our current 4-day week calendar? Should not decisions on education policy be data-driven, as we expect educational instruction to be? There is a lack of evidence supporting the idea that increasing the number of school days will lead to better educational outcomes. A focus on quality instruction, rather than simply quantity, is key to academic success. Instead of focusing on the number of days, we should be investing in professional development and resources to enhance teaching methodologies and student attendance and engagement.

Another element that is recognized as instrumental to improving student achievement and decreasing teacher turnover in K-12 schools has been found to be collaborative school leadership, or when teachers, administrators, and school boards work together on all things rather than the traditional top-down decision-making process. Through a Cornell University study, "Supporting K-12 Student Success" (Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations, 2021) found that this initiative, "positively impacts student achievement, and it positively impacts teacher retention and commitment to the profession." (paragraph 7). Data from this study shows that by removing decision making power from local educators

and districts and mandating changes from the top-down, we will indisputably *not* be moving education in New Mexico in a positive direction.

Additionally, our educational community has recently weathered the significant challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Teachers, students, and staff have demonstrated resilience in adapting to changes in education that were imposed because of the pandemic and resulting New Mexico emergency health orders. Enforcing additional changes, especially when there is no apparent benefit and against the expressed wishes of those most affected, could have detrimental effects on the mental health and well-being of our education professionals and students. Is it not reasonable to suggest that we've experienced our fair share? Have we not had enough change forced upon us with no voice?

I would also like to draw attention to the unique challenges faced by small rural schools, particularly those with singleton teachers at the secondary level. These educators are already stretched thin, covering multiple subjects for students in 7th-12th grade. Adding another day to the school week would only magnify the workload, requiring preparation for six additional classes each week. This could compromise the quality of instruction and place undue stress on already limited resources. New Mexico already has a significant teacher shortage with over 1,400 current educator vacancies (2023 New Mexico Educator Vacancy Report); forcing this change will certainly add to those numbers.

Most students on our Cliff Schools campus, which comprises students in Pre-K -12<sup>th</sup> grade, have never attended school in a 5-day week format. Imposing this change will undoubtedly negatively impact the school climate and student morale. We are primarily a rural agriculture and ranching community and most of our able-bodied students of age count on the long weekend to work for their families or community members. Our community and families have molded their schedules around our 4-day week. Local dentists and doctors' offices have adapted to our calendar to better serve our population by taking Wednesday off and staying open on Fridays. Appointments that must be scheduled way out in advance are made for Fridays when students are free; also, our athletic and activity schedules are crafted in ways to take advantage of our calendar.

In conclusion, I urge the New Mexico Public Education Department to reconsider the proposed changes to the school calendar under 6.10.5 NMAC. It is crucial that any modifications to educational policies are based on solid evidence, prioritize the well-being of students and educators, and take into account the unique challenges faced by schools, especially those in rural areas.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these concerns. I trust that you will give due consideration the feedback from those directly impacted by these proposed changes and make decisions that prioritize the best interests of our students and the educational community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tommye Allsup". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Tommye Allsup, MS. Ed, LPSC

To whom this may concern,

I am a grandmother of two Cliff school students. They are thriving in the school at Cliff.

The four day week was instituted after my daughter, their mother, graduated in 1998. She had five day weeks all 13 years of attending Cliff school. When they were contemplating going to the four day week, I had some opposition to it, but over the years I have seen that it's been nothing but good.

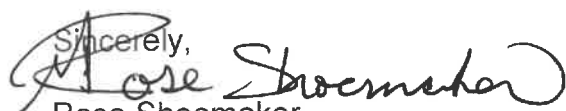
Even though the days are longer, I see great positive things coming from the four day week. My grandchildren are focused and eager to learn. Much of a child's school day is consumed by preparing for and getting to and from school. Putting this into four days is a better use of their time. Also a huge saving to our budget.

Because we are rural community, most of our students live quite a way away from school so the time consumed by getting to and from school is better used with the four day school week.

I don't understand why anyone would want to change this. We do not have any negative effects because of it. Our school is thriving and producing very well rounded and well educated young people. Why change something that is working so well?

As a taxpayer, I appreciate the savings to the school budget by not lighting, heating, and cooling the buildings. I also appreciate the savings to transporting the students to and from school.

Thank you for your attention to this concern.

Sincerely,  


Rose Shoemaker  
Grandparent  
347 Turkey Creek Rd  
Gila 88038  
[rmshoemaker@outlook.com](mailto:rmshoemaker@outlook.com)  
575-538-1957



Grace Runyan  
Parent and Staff  
347 Turkey Creek Rd  
Gila, NM 88038  
12/11/2023

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 due to my deep concerns surrounding the significant changes to the public school calendar and the instructional hours proposed by the Public Education Department (PED). The increase of hours will directly threaten our four-day school week model. The four-day school week sounded foreign and limited when I first learned of it but after living with it I discovered how beneficial this schedule is for the students, families and the teachers. The four-day week allows staff and students a life work balance that supports academics, mental health and extracurricular activities. I strongly appose changing this element of our small school and community when it is so obviously effective.

Living in a rural environment means we have to travel greater distances to access or participate in educational, athletic and social happenings. The kids involved in any activity will suffer greatly by the amount of school they will be missing if we have a five-day school week. That produces higher stressors and more reasons to not participate in activities that provides character building, networking and confidence in these young adults. Regardless of the appointment, rural families must travel! The four-day school week allows us the opportunity to schedule appointments for the students and the staff on a day that won't result in missed school hours. The four-day week allows the kids and the staff the balance that prevents burnout and stress based mental health concerns.

The majority of the schools on the four-day schedule are thriving and meeting all criterion. In fact, most of the school are highlighted for our academic progress. I have not been presented with any evidence that indicates a five-day week will enhance the education of our students. Changing a system that isn't broken seems foolish and unnecessary.

In conclusion, I want to urge the PED to stay away from instituting these changes and disrupting our learning environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grace Runyan', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Grace Runyan  
Parent





Krystal Perea  
P.O. Box 152  
Tyrone, NM 88065  
[kperea@silverschools.org](mailto:kperea@silverschools.org)  
575-313-5518

Date: December 12, 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 of 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krystal M. Perea". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krystal M. Perea LBSW



Erik Chavez  
P.O. Box 152  
Tyrone, NM 88065  
sildemc@nmcourts.gov  
575-654-0266

Date: December 12, 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 citizen of 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Chavez", with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Erik M. Chavez





Senovio Perea  
P.O. Box 379  
Tyrone, NM 88065  
senovioperea@hotmail.com  
575-538-1529

Date: December 12, 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 citizen of 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Senovio Perea". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Senovio Perea



Steven Perea  
28 Western Drive  
Silver City, NM 88061  
575-538-1529

Date: December 12, 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 citizen of 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven Perea". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Steven Perea





Becky Estrada  
775 Cielo Azul  
Silver City, NM 88061  
575-654-7125

Date: December 12, 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 citizen of 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.



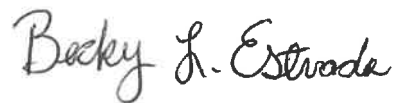
5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky L. Estrada". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Becky Estrada



Ray Muniz  
1351 North Loop  
Silver City, NM 88061  
575-313-6288

Date: December 12, 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 citizen of 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ray Muniz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Ray Muniz





Jessica Morales  
28 Western Drive  
Silver City, NM 88061  
505-659-9557

Date: December 12, 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 citizen of 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jessica Morales', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jessica Morales



Michelle Perea  
P.O. Box 441  
Tyrone, NM 88065  
575-313-7553

Date: December 12, 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 citizen of 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle Perea", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Michelle Perea





Consuelo Munoz  
711 S Texas St.  
Silver City, NM 88061  
575-538-9018

Date: December 12, 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 citizen of 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Consuelo Munoz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a long, thin horizontal line that extends to the right.

Consuelo Munoz



Cliff Schools  
Cliff, New Mexico

Name: KENDALL BROWN  
Mailing Address: PO Box 401  
City: Cliff State: NM ZIP Code: 88028  
Email Address: dkbrown7@hotmail.com  
Phone Number: 575-654-4241  
Date: 12-10-2023

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,

In addition: for the above stated reasons, I oppose these PED proposed changes to our successful, thriving school community here in Cliff, NM. These changes will negatively affect our community and school and I find them to be arbitrary and capricious.

K Brown



Cliff Schools  
Cliff, New Mexico

Name: Ellen Brown  
Mailing Address: PO Box 401  
City: Cliff State: NM ZIP Code: 88028  
Email Address: eadobe@gmail.com  
Phone Number: 575-654-4205  
Date: 12-10-2023

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,







Cliff Schools  
Cliff, New Mexico

Name: Clay Means  
Mailing Address: PO Box 145  
City: Buckhorn State: NM ZIP Code: 88025  
Email Address: cjmeans@yahoo.com  
Phone Number: 575.534.7907  
Date: 12/7/2023

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,





Cliff Schools  
Cliff, New Mexico

Name: Julie Means  
Mailing Address: PO Box 145  
City: Buckhorn State: NM ZIP Code: 88025  
Email Address: julie.c.means@gmail.com  
Phone Number: 575-534-7905  
Date: 12/7/2023

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,





Cliff Schools  
Cliff, New Mexico

Name: Clayton Ellwanger  
Mailing Address: 148  
City: RALEIGH RD State: NM ZIP Code: 88022  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: 12/7/2023

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,





Cliff Schools  
Cliff, New Mexico

Name: Thomas Houghton  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 132  
City: Cliff State: NM ZIP Code: 88028  
Email Address: thoughton72@gmail.com  
Phone Number: 575-435-2321  
Date: 12-7-23

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,

*Thomas Houghton*





**From:** [lanessa amburgey](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC rule 6.105  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:03:44 AM

---

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 Mom and someone who works with middle school and high school students I am asking that you do not pass this rule. This ruling will further damage the mental and emotional state of our students and teachers. We will lose good teachers and our test scores will continue to go down. The reaction one of my daughter's friend had to this was, "the suicide rate will go up if this goes into place." He is 16 years old. This is where our students are at and if you care about them at all you will reevaluate this ruling and see that it is not in their best interest. School is incredibly stressful for the majority of students so more time in school is not the answer.

I am strongly against this rule.  
Lanessa Amburgey

**From:** [Spencer Sutton](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback on the new mandatory 5 day week  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:05:29 AM

---

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

My name is Spencer Sutton and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Spencer Sutton

**From:** [Agnes Gibson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Cc:** [Aguilar, Shannon](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Oppose 5-day school mandate  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:08:46 AM

---

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

12/18/2023

To: NM Public Education Dept  
Rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov

cc: Sharon Aguilar, Superintendent  
Cimarron Municipal School District  
saguilar@cimarronschools.org

Fm: Scott and Agnes Gibson  
HC 71 Box 21, Eagle Nest, NM 87718  
575-377-6128  
AgnesGibson1998@yahoo.com

Re: NM HB130 - 5-day school mandate  
Oppose for Cimarron Municipal School District

Scott and Agnes Gibson oppose NM HB130 that would mandate that all schools must maintain a 5-day school week.

Cimarron Municipal School District has successfully maintained a 4-day school week since 1972 -- over 50 years.

There are numerous reasons why the Cimarron Municipal School District should be allowed to continue the 4-day school week, but it seems the bottom line comes to budget and teacher retention, i.e.:

1. Who/what will fund the additional \$1.6 million to fund 5-day week at Cimarron Municipal School District? The Cimarron District covers a large rural area that requires transporting some students long distances -- up to 30 miles (or more) one-way in multiple directions, i.e. there are several bus routes transporting children twice a day, resulting in large busing cost.
2. Some teachers who qualify for retirement enjoy teaching, and teaching Cimarron's 4-day week entices them to continue teaching. Needless to say, teachers are in sort supply throughout NM (and our nation).

We encourage the NM Legislature to allow each school district to determine the best school day/week, etc. for its circumstances.

**From:** [Ty Goar](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New school calendar  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:10:14 AM

---

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

I do not agree with or stand by the new rule change for the school schedule/calendar. Please do not pass this. It is so wrong and unhealthy for the children and parents within the state.

**From:** [Giavanna Almanzar](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] My Opposing View on 5-day of school Mandation  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:12:11 AM

---

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

My name is Giavanna Almanzar, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,

Giavanna Almanzar

**From:** [Jonah Hatch](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] The 180 School Plan  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:12:48 AM

---

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

Dear Public Education Department,

My name is Jonah Hatch, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Jonah Hatch

**From:** [CHRISTINA MAESE](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reference: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:13:14 AM

---

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

Good morning

I'm opposing this change. My son school uses the 5th day for tutoring and also gives the teachers a break to attend appointments. The teacher don't have to locate a substitute for the class and keeps the children in a set schedule and behavior schedule.

Thank you  
Christina Evaro-Maese



**From:** [Lex Hepker](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5-Day School Opposition  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:14:59 AM

---

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

My name is Lex Hepker, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Lex Hepker

**From:** [Isabella Holmberg](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Five Day Opposition  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:15:24 AM

---

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

My name is Isabella Holmberg and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Isabella Holmberg

**From:** [Kristina Sampsel](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:15:44 AM

---

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

To Whom it may concern,

HB130 was passed and enacted expanding our school year just recently. I am appalled that the PED is proposing a rule change and circumventing the legislature. With all the time, money and people at the table to enact HB 130 and make it happen, why on earth would you make changes at this time? Where is the data to suggest this change is needed? Have you considered the impact of such a large schedule change on family work schedules, employee work schedules and much needed time off for student and employee happiness and wellness?

Respectfully, Kristina Sampsel,

--

Kris Sampsel, MOTR/L  
District Occupational Therapy Evaluator  
Northwest Diagnostic Center  
(505) 352-1513 ext. 38990  
[Kristina.sampsel@aps.edu](mailto:Kristina.sampsel@aps.edu)

*CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This email and attached documents may contain confidential information. All information is intended only for the use of the named recipient. If you are not the named recipient, you are not authorized to read, disclose, copy, distribute or take any action in reliance on the information and any action other than immediate delivery to the named recipient is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, do not read the information and please immediately notify sender by telephone to arrange for a return of the original documents. If you are the named recipient you are not authorized to reveal any of this information to any other unauthorized person. If you did not receive all pages listed or if pages are not legible, please immediately notify sender by phone.*

**From:** [Emmalee Poole](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:16:31 AM

---

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

My name is Emmalee Poole , and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Emmalee Poole

**From:** [Joni Watson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 4 Day School week is positive for rural schools  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:16:53 AM

---

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

To whom it may concern:

As we navigate the challenges and opportunities in the realm of education, I am writing to shed light on the benefits of a four-day school week in our rural school district. This practice not only holds proof for cost savings but also significantly impacts student and teacher morale, improves family dynamics, and addresses the unique challenges faced by our rural community.

One of the primary advantages of a four-day school week is the economic aspect. A condensed schedule has been shown to result in substantial savings for schools, particularly in terms of operational costs. This financial relief could be channeled into improving existing facilities, investing in educational resources, or addressing other pressing needs within the district. The 4 day school week has proven for decades to be a more efficient model, we can maximize the impact of available resources and ensure a sustainable future for our educational system.

Equally important is the potential positive impact on the morale of both students and teachers. A four-day school week allows for longer weekends, providing students with additional time for extracurricular activities, family and community engagement, and personal development. Many of our high school students are able to be involved in extracurricular activities and hold jobs due to the "extra" day. This falls directly in line with the CTE initiative and pursuit of graduating students with work skills, soft skills, and knowledge to transition into adult life as a successful member of the workforce.

Similarly, teachers may experience reduced stress and burnout, fostering a healthier work-life balance. This improved morale can contribute to a more positive and engaging learning environment, enhancing the overall educational experience for students.

In the context of our rural community, the benefits of a four-day school week become even more pronounced. Many of our students travel great distances to attend school, and a condensed schedule would not only reduce transportation costs but also minimize the time and resources spent on daily commutes. A change to the 4 day week does not align with the needs of our community, making education more difficult and less feasible for families who face geographical challenges.

Moreover, a four-day school week has been shown to lead to fewer absences, both among students and teachers. With an extra day for rest and personal responsibilities, students are proven to attend classes regularly. Similarly, teachers experience fewer sick days and a decrease in overall absenteeism. This continuity in education is vital for maintaining a consistent and effective learning environment.

Contrary to concerns about a potential drop in testing scores, numerous studies have demonstrated that a four-day school week does not necessarily lead to academic decline. In fact, schools that have made this transition have often reported sustained or improved academic performance. This dispels the notion that a reduction in the number of instructional days inevitably results in a negative impact on student achievement.

Considering the shortage of qualified teachers, particularly in rural areas, a four-day school week could serve as a strategic measure to retain experienced educators. Offering a more attractive work schedule may encourage key teachers to stay within the district, preventing the loss of valuable expertise and reducing the need for constant recruitment efforts. This, in turn, contributes to the overall stability of our educational system.

While some may be concerned about the potential for a shift towards homeschooling, it is crucial to emphasize that a well-implemented four-day school week can actually enhance the appeal of our educational institution. By prioritizing the well-being of students and educators, we demonstrate our commitment to fostering a positive and supportive learning environment.

In conclusion, I believe that a four-day school week holds significant promise for our rural school district. The financial savings, improved morale, and alignment with the needs of our community make keeping the 4 day school week imperative. I am certain that this shift will not only harm our students and teachers but also contribute to the long-term instability and detriment of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I sincerely hope that you take the time to listen to the concerns that have been voiced across the state. We as educators are with students day to day and understand the educational and social emotional needs. Please allow us to continue doing what is best for our students and communities.

Sincerely,

**Joni Watson**  
**Agriculture/Culinary Arts teacher**  
**Cloudcroft Schools**

--

**Joni Watson**  
**Cloudcroft Schools**

**From:** [Ryan Dendy](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback regarding the 5 day school week mandate  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:17:01 AM

---

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

My name is Ryan Dendy, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Ryan

**From:** [Kori Perez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Concerns  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:17:02 AM

---

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

My name is Kori Perez, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Kori Perez



**From:** [Amelia Mcgaughey](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Concerns  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:17:04 AM

---

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

My name is Amelia McGaughey and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Amelia McGaughey

**From:** [Ellen Girouard](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: 6.10.5 School Calendar Change  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:17:11 AM

---

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

Feedback for Calendar change rule

## **NM 6.10.5 NMAC (School Calendar Requirements)**

I was unable to attend the hearing in Santa Fe today, regarding this rule, as I'm home with a sick daughter. But I do want to submit my speech to you, just the same.

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, my name is Ellen Girouard. I'm a resident of Maxwell, the wife of a 4th generation cattle rancher, mother of a second grader, and a full-time Education Assistant in the Maxwell District, for middle and high school math. I do not come to speak to you today as an education career professional, with decades of experience in the field. But I do believe I have a unique perspective to offer that warrants consideration.

I have been an EA and substitute teacher since 2021, and I have been hired this year as a full-time EA for Maxwell's middle and high school students. This year, we were unable to hire a math teacher, due to the teacher shortage. Our students are currently attending virtual math classes through Pecos Academy. I serve as the proctor; Education Assistant; technology support; and frankly, unofficial "co-teacher" for middle and high school students. I say this because the majority of our students come to me for help, as opposed to contacting their instructors by email.

I see firsthand, every day, how lack of in-person instruction significantly impacts students. Particularly in a subject, like math, that is both challenging for students to master, and difficult for schools to staff. With the proposed rule, the state will certainly see an even greater shortage of teachers. If this rule is enacted, we will see more schools forced to outsource instruction to cyber academies. I think it is very unlikely we will see the overall raise in scores that has been touted as the main justification behind this. To me, this is simply swinging the hammer of Quantity, hoping it will hit the mark of Quality.

Another perspective I would like to offer is that of a rancher's wife. Maxwell is a rural, ranching community. As I said, my husband is a 4th generation cattle rancher. The 4-day week, for this walk of life, is absolutely indispensable. A ranch can not be run by a single person; it takes a family. It is not simply pitching hay to livestock. Ranchers must learn - and have the time to teach the next generation - the rudimentaries of veterinary medicine; irrigation; mechanicing; electrical and plumbing; welding; heavy equipment and farming equipment operation; fence construction; and on-the-spot fabrication of all sorts, in addition to the day-to-day chores of caring for hundreds of cattle, and all the other animals. To do this properly, a 4-day week is a necessity, not a luxury.

The skills needed to properly run a ranch can not be taught on such a tight schedule as the 5-day week would afford us. To be a rancher requires a level of fortitude and commitment that can not be learned through lectures and diagrams, only through first-hand experience. Unless you've had to personally work for the food that you put on your dinner table, I say with all due

respect, you can not possibly imagine what it takes, and you can not possibly have an objective opinion as to what is sufficient time in which to teach it.

I do thank you for your time and attention, and I hope you will take my experiences into consideration as you deliberate how to move forward with the proposed rule.

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.

**From:** [Liliana Arvizu](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; act@atfunion.org](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:17:19 AM

---

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

To Whom It May Concern:

This rule change is irresponsible and inappropriate. I am an educator in a Title 1 school and my students need more than additional instructional days. We have students with many obstacles to learning, not just attendance at school. Please listen to teachers and parents as you consider the calendar. Many of my colleagues do not feel heard when they fill out APS surveys.

Thank you,

--

Liliana Arvizu

The information contained in this email is intended only for the individual or entity to whom it is addressed. Its contents (including any attachments) may contain confidential and/or privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you may not use, disclose, disseminate, copy or print its contents. If you received this email in error, please notify the sender by reply email at [liliana.arvizu@aps.edu](mailto:liliana.arvizu@aps.edu) and delete and destroy the message.

La información contenida en este correo electrónico está diseñada solamente para el individuo o entidad a quien va dirigido. Su contenido (incluso cualquier archivo adjunto) puede contener información confidencial o privilegiada. Si usted no es un destinatario de este mensaje por error, por favor notifique al remitente por correo electrónico de respuesta [liliana.arvizu@aps.edu](mailto:liliana.arvizu@aps.edu) y elimine y destruya el mensaje.

**Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail**

**From:** [Steve Larese](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reference: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:17:26 AM

---

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

Hi, I'm writing to express my wish to see ASK Academy's four-day schedule to continue. As parents we have found this schedule to be very beneficial to our child, a straight-A student who uses Fridays to work on projects, finish any homework, and accomplish other productive tasks.

Thank you for your consideration,

Steve Larese

Steve Larese  
[Linkedin](#) [Instagram](#)

**From:** [Wesley Cox](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Public Comment: Proposed Revision to Regulation 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:17:46 AM

---

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

Good morning, and thank you for considering the below points and our objection to the proposal of requiring all NM schools to operate on a 5-day instructional 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.

We left Albuquerque and moved to Logan, NM two years ago. One of the primary considerations of moving to Logan was the excellent school as compared to the charter school our 5<sup>th</sup> grade daughter was attending at the time. Once she was enrolled in Logan, we knew that we made the right decision, providing her with a much better public education and overall atmosphere to grow. I don't know how long the school has been running a 4-day instructional week but obviously it is working. Consider these statistics:

- Logan High School's most recent 4-Year Graduation Rate is 97.3%, significantly higher than the state average of 76%.
- Logan Elementary School boasts a 79% reading proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 38%.
- Logan Elementary School boasts a 61% math proficiency rate, more than double the state average of 24%.

As a substitute teacher at the school, I have seen the majority of graduates immediately enroll in college (most have academic scholarships), or go into the professional workforce with excitement and confidence. The current senior class is similar; the kids talk about the future and have the drive to be high achievers.

As parents who have seen the differences in various public schools, we feel that there cannot be a "one size fits all" proposal for the PED, because each school district is unique. We object to the PED forcing a 5-day instructional week. The local school board, superintendent, and residents should have the discretion to determine what works best for our community and our kids.

Thank you again,

Wesley Cox and Kelly Nunez

**From:** [Amber McIntosh](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Preserve the 4-day school week !!!  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:19:33 AM

---

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

Good morning,

I'm writing to voice our households' opinion on preserving the 4-day week.

We are "homesteading" in Datil, NM, meaning we live off-grid on 75 acres. We've been raising our son here, and he attended the Datil elementary school for K-6, and has just transitioned into the Quemado school an hour away for junior / senior high.

The 4-day week is all Riley knows. He currently leaves the house at 6:23 am and doesn't get dropped off by the bus until 5:15pm. 4 days a week is tough to make it through on this schedule, and I fear that if we switched to a 5-day week, the kids would be late or missing school.

Rural schools already have staffing issues, and adding more hours for required staff would become an issue, as would the money to pay for everyone to be in attendance that extra day.

If you have any further questions for our household, please feel free to contact me at this email address. As we are off-grid, the phone reception is spotty.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amber McIntosh & Rob Sanders  
Riley Sanders

\*\*\*\*\*

Amber McIntosh  
[www.frolickingdeer.com](http://www.frolickingdeer.com)

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. Box 646  
Datil, NM 87821

PHYSICAL ADDRESS:  
#20 Lookout Loop  
Wildwood Highlands  
Datil, NM 87821

Amber's cell (575) 518-8639  
Rob's cell (575) 418-7777

\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [Ethan Abbate](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reference: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:19:45 AM

---

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

My name is Ethan Abbate, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Ethan Abbate



**From:** [Art Orthman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Four day school week.  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:19:52 AM

---

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

To Whom it May Concern,

Why would you change something that works great for rural NM? It works so well that other states are incorporating it. I could go on and on with all of the pros vs. cons. Bottom line is, if it's not broken don't fix it.

Thanks, Art Orthman

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [DripChicken](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I say no to the "180 Day School rule",  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:22:01 AM

---

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

My name is Rudolph Barkoczi, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Rudolph Barkoczi

**From:** [Mariah Gonzalez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:22:30 AM

---

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

My name is Mariah, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Mariah

**From:** [Jamie Anderson](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback: 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:23:11 AM

---

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

Hello,

My name is Jamie Anderson. My daughter has attended Loving elementary for most of her school career. Since the beginning there has been a four day school week.

I would like to share my displeasure with this proposal to extend the school week to five days for more time in the classroom. I do not believe that more time in the classroom necessarily means more learning. My daughter has a high energy and curiosity that can be dulled by too much time in the classroom. So far, my daughter has excelled in the four day school week.

I believe the three day weekend gives her time to refresh and come back eager to learn. When they were doing the five day school week in August, I noticed she was tired more and there was an unwillingness to get motivated for school.

As soon as we went back to Monday to Thursday, her attitude immediately improved and her willingness to get motivated for school returned.

I implore you to please let Loving schools stay on a four day school week.

Thank you,

Jamie Anderson

**From:** [Keivan Wright](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 School Day Rule  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:23:32 AM

---

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

Hello,

My name is Keivan Wright, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Keivan Wright

**From:** [Catherine Hendricks](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I oppose this rule change  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:23:34 AM

---

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

My name is Catherine Hendricks, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Catherine Hendricks

**From:** [Joy lewis](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 Day School Rule Objection  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:23:42 AM

---

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

My name is Joy Lewis, and I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I strongly oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Joy Lewis

**From:** [Kane Alyssyn](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:24:04 AM

---

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

My name is Alyssyn Kane, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Alyssyn Kane



**From:** [Lauren Kerns](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Concerns about 180 days of school  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:24:19 AM

---

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

Dear PED,

Hello! My name is Lauren Kerns and I am a junior at the ASK Academy. My school is a STEM charter school, the one thing I love about our school is that we don't have mandatory school on Fridays. Instead we have Scholar intervention, a time for when students who are struggling go into school for two hours and get extra help from the teachers.

By moving forward with the plan for 180 days of school, my school would have to switch back to a more traditional schedule and remove scholar intervention. By removing scholar intervention at my school, that valuable one-on-one time will be removed and struggling scholars will continue to struggle because they have no time to talk to their teachers. Also, by removing this precious time, scholars who work on projects wouldn't have a dedicated 2 extra hours to work on projects, make up tests and quizzes and get extra help on assignments. In addition, to losing this time, the ASK Academy test scores would drop due to the lack of one-on-one time.

I understand the want for more instructional time to gain greater learning in a school year. But by increasing an already extensive schedule, there can be unintended consequences.

Sincerely,

Lauren Kerns

**From:** [C.C](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 Day school schedule  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:24:43 AM

---

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

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this letter on behalf of my 3 children who attend The ASK Academy in Rio Rancho. We are absolutely not in favor of a mandatory 5 day school week. With 4 days and a 5th for extra help students can get 1 on 1 tutoring from teachers and teachers can have more time to prepare and create a better environment for learning. Teachers are already working well beyond 40 hours a week and with the 5th day at ASK being added for in school, I'm afraid we would loose even more teachers! I also enjoy the freedom of having an extra day for family things and to enjoy our beautiful outdoors in New Mexico. If we are forced to do a 5 day week I will strongly consider homeschooling my children as we live in Placitas and are already driving 2 hours a day. We love our school the way it is! Please do not enforce something that won't help teachers, this would only cause them to have less time to give students who really need help. Thank you,

Chloe Crawford

**From:** [Gail Owen](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements NMAC Rule 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:24:56 AM

---

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

As a parent of two high school students in New Mexico public schools and 1 recent graduate, I stand in strong opposition to NMAC Rule 6.10.5.

I am in support of high academic standards but more time in the classroom alone will not result in better outcomes. Our current classroom hours need to be optimized by supporting teachers so they can teach and not discipline.

NMAC Rule 6.10.5 will cause NM schools to lose the best educational professionals as they leave for other fields and we will lose the best students who will flee to private and online schools.

Thank you for considering what parents, teachers and students are saying!

Gail Owen

**From:** [Rivka Hershcopf](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:25:04 AM

---

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

My name is Rivka Hershcopf, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Rivka Hershcopf

**From:** [Annie C](#)  
**To:** [Feedback, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:25:33 AM

---

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

Hi,

I have two elementary aged kids in school at Los Alamos Public Schools (Barranca Mesa Elementary). I was informed by our superintendent, Jennifer Guy, that there is a proposed state-level change to school calendar requirements. I can't speak to the impacts to teachers and other school staff, but I can comment on the current and proposed calendar's impacts to myself and my family.

- The current calendar has an early release every Wednesday, which is very difficult to accommodate as a family with two working parents. We are fortunate to work for employers who allow my husband and myself to work from home on Wednesday afternoons to accommodate the early dismissal, otherwise we'd have to pay upwards of \$800 per month for childcare for two children, if we're lucky enough to find a program that is accepting new students (very difficult in Los Alamos). Additionally, I know of families in the area who are not so fortunate to be able to work from home on Wednesday afternoons, causing mothers in particular to give up their careers to care for their children. I believe LAPS' early dismissal on Wednesdays is disproportionately impacting women and keeping them out of the work force (as well as the many week-long breaks that I'll address next).
- The current LAPS calendar, by my count, has 177 days of instruction for elementary aged children – 3 days shy of the proposed requirement. However, of the roughly 10 months that children are in school, there are 5 months which have a week or longer break (October, November, December, January, and March). These week+ long breaks are very difficult to accommodate as well, particularly because we have two working parents. This means we must either take time off work or pay for childcare during the breaks (for example, spring break camp for 2 kids last year was greater than \$1,500). I believe that the 3 additional days of instruction would be easy to incorporate back into the calendar if LAPS decreased the amount and/or length of the breaks.

The proposed calendar requirements of 5 days a week in school for at least 5.5 hours may decrease the burden on working parents, particularly mothers. I'm certain there are other impacts that need to be considered carefully (teacher unions and teacher retention being top concerns for me), but in general I'm supportive of the proposed changes. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Annie Cardon



**From:** [Katie Belobrajdic](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:26:00 AM

---

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

Hello,

I am the parent of two children in the Los Alamos Public School system and I am strongly opposed to the proposed changes in NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements." At this time, there appear to be over 900 public comments on this issue so I will keep my comments brief.

Increasing the quantity of low or even mediocre quality instruction will not produce positive outcomes and is actually far more likely to produce negative outcomes by driving teacher burn-out and student disengagement. This is especially true for vulnerable students who have strengths that do not align well with the relatively narrow subset of human ability assessed by public education systems. These students often desperately need the flexibility of weekends, school breaks, and even free or non-credit-bearing periods to explore and develop personal interests that are critical for positive self-perceptions and attitudes towards the process of learning. In addition, the proposed rule seems likely to further reduce instructional quality by limiting teacher professional work hours.

This rule would also impose a variety of new constraints requiring school districts to drastically change their operations in a very short time frame. In many cases, districts will likely have to make hard decisions to ensure compliance which may ultimately harm students, employees, and communities.

I encourage NM PED to take a more intentional and deliberate approach to ensuring that every NM student has access to effective instruction. Investments in teachers (training, retention, and mentorship), differentiated instruction delivery, and special education (identification, goal-setting and progress monitoring) would be far more transformative. In the meanwhile, the report below describes ten classroom strategies found in high-growth schools.

Nordengren, Chase. "The Transformative Ten: Instructional Strategies Learned from High-Growth Schools." NWEA. 2023.  
<https://www.nwea.org/resource-center/resource/the-transformative-ten-instructional-strategies-learned-from-high-growth-schools/>

Thank you for your time.

Katie Belobrajdic

**From:** [Jaclyn Staton](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] ASK Academy hours  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:26:05 AM

---

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

I am a parent of a 6th grade student at the Ask academy. I do not agree with nor think that a 5 day schedule is necessary. These kids work very hard the 4 days they are in school from 8-4PM. 4 long days that allow them Fridays to work with professors, catch up on work and do homework as well as rest. Many of these students play sports at different schools and having the Friday off gives them freedom to have jobs, work internships in high schools etc. Please do not create a situation that will force good schools and good administrations to completely redo something that is working so well, in a way to blanket administer rules to public schools in Rio Rancho.

Thank you,  
Jackie Staton



WIRE FRAUD! During your representation by Keller Williams Realty you will NEVER be asked, via email, to wire or send funds to ANYONE, not even a title company. DO NOT COMPLY WITH EMAIL INSTRUCTIONS TO WIRE FUNDS!

ATTENTION! The information contained in this email may be CONFIDENTIAL and PRIVILEGED. It is intended for the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient, please be notified that any use, review, distribution or copying of this email is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email by error, please delete it and notify the sender immediately. Thank you.



**From:** [Heatherly Smith](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] opposition of HB130  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:26:35 AM  
**Attachments:** [NM HB130 Feedback Opposition Letter 11.27.2023.docx](#)

---

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

Please accept the attached letter in opposition of HB130. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Mrs. Heatherly Smith  
Reading & Math Intervention Specialist  
Magdalena Middle School

***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.***

## **TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,**

I am writing on behalf of the Magdalena Municipal School District in Magdalena, New Mexico where I serve as the Middle School Reading and Math Intervention Specialist assisting students identified as needing extra assistance.

I am in direct opposition of HB 130 and give consent for my email/letter to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18, 2023 so should it be chosen.

I moved from Texas to New Mexico to make a difference in the lives of students who are struggling and need assistance. It is a culture where getting the students to attend school at all is a full time effort, much less to an educational level where they can succeed in life. Coming from Texas where the 5 day school week is standard, I have seen where the 4 day school week is beneficial for students in rural areas of New Mexico due to the various living situations but also gives enough time to assist them with the school curriculum so they can succeed. Also, as a now local Ranch Wife, staff and students that live on the local ranches are utilized for the extra day during crucial cattle work times.

### **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.
- 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.

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<sup>th</sup>, 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 students in New Mexico 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

**From:** [Kerns, Todd](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback on proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:26:58 AM

---

**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 **opposed** to the proposed rule: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements, requiring students spend at least 180 days in school, and that the school calendar must be at least 5 days per week. My daughter's school, The ASK Academy in Rio Rancho, NM has done very well on a 4 day calendar. Fridays are off, which necessitates the school starting in the first week of August, but allows the students time to get help independently, and to work on longer projects. The school has been very successful, and I don't want a change to the calendar requirements.

Thanks,

-Todd Kerns.

(505) 475-2368

---

**From:** Parent Committee <parentsupportcommittee@theaskacademy.org>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:32 PM  
**To:** Parent Committee <parentsupportcommittee@theaskacademy.org>  
**Subject:** Monday Deadline

PED is considering a rule to require public schools to spend at least 180 days in school (outside of teachers' professional development or other work time), AND it must be 5 days a week. This would force ASK to move to a five day a week schedule, and we would lose flexibility for Fridays to be for intervention, makeup work, internships, etc.

You are encouraged to submit a public comment. It is due by Monday, December 18, 5pm. However, hearings begin on Monday at 1:30pm, so sooner is better.

You can express your concerns by emailing:

Email: [rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov)

Reference: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements

More details: [https://www.abqjournal.com/news/youre-making-a-mistake-lawmakers-take-education-secretary-to-task-over-proposed-180-day-rule/article\\_b26cc90a-9bc2-11ee-af2c-1b8c3fc42063.html#tncms-source=home-featured-7-block](https://www.abqjournal.com/news/youre-making-a-mistake-lawmakers-take-education-secretary-to-task-over-proposed-180-day-rule/article_b26cc90a-9bc2-11ee-af2c-1b8c3fc42063.html#tncms-source=home-featured-7-block)

--

Cheryl Kemnitz  
PSC Facilitator  
(505) 688-2455

\*CONFIDENTIALITY WARNING: This email may contain confidential or proprietary business information and is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). Any unauthorized use or disclosure of this communication, including attachments, is strictly prohibited. If you believe that you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete it from your system.\*

**From:** [Debra Hope](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule Change for Instructional Days and PD Hours  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:27:25 AM

---

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

To Whom It May Concern:

Educators in New Mexico have already made it clear that we do not want a longer school year. So this proposed rule just feels like a poorly-disguised attempt to get the governor's goal of a longer school year accomplished without having the people it affects be able to vote on it.

Furthermore, I have been unable to find research supporting the theory that a longer school year will benefit at-risk students. Students who struggle with things like not reading at grade level, overcoming language barriers, little to no support for academics at home, mental health issues, and learning disabilities tend to already miss too much school. Adding more days would just result in them missing more days. If all of our vulnerable and at-risk students took full advantage of what is already offered; showing up every day, free after school tutoring, teachers willing and able to meet them before school or on lunch break, district chat board where teachers and students can collaborate, advisory time during the school day; and still needed more instructional time, that might be a viable option. But these students already don't take advantage of what is available, so we have no reason to believe making more available to them would make a difference.

One of the things New Mexico prides itself on is its diversity of culture and people. It seems a little silly to think one blanket solution would be the answer for all of our diverse districts and students. Allowing local districts to decide what is best for themselves seems like a more common-sense approach. Communities elect school boards that reflect and represent the collective values and priorities of parents and educators. We trust this board to make decisions that are best for our students, based on our specific needs and strengths as a district. We **do not** need the PED micro-managing us.

As for doubling the professional development hours requirement: really? I'm not opposed to professional development requirements. Professional development should be a fluid, ongoing, continual process made up of formal workshops, clinics, classes and guest speakers, as well as what goes on in PLC meetings, impromptu discussions between teachers, links shared in emails, videos forwarded from administration and all the little ways teachers and administrators strive to make our impact more beneficial and meaningful. But doubling the requirement in one year is ridiculous. Sometimes it's hard to believe college educated adults who have spent any time at all in the classroom are making these proposals.

Sincerely,

*Debra Hope*  
*Artesia Junior High School*  
*Business Office Technology*  
*(575) 746-9892 ext. 2524*



**From:** [C.C](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:27:41 AM

---

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

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing this letter on behalf of my 3 children who attend The ASK Academy in Rio Rancho. We are absolutely not in favor of a mandatory 5 day school week. With 4 days and a 5th for extra help students can get 1 on 1 tutoring from teachers and teachers can have more time to prepare and create a better environment for learning. Teachers are already working well beyond 40 hours a week and with the 5th day at ASK being added for in school, I'm afraid we would loose even more teachers! I also enjoy the freedom of having an extra day for family things and to enjoy our beautiful outdoors in New Mexico. If we are forced to do a 5 day week I will strongly consider homeschooling my children as we live in Placitas and are already driving 2 hours a day. We love our school the way it is! Please do not enforce something that won't help teachers, this would only cause them to have less time to give students who really need help. Thank you,

Chloe Crawford



**From:** [Cyndi Brault](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] House Bill 130  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:29:25 AM

---

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

Good Morning,

You are undoubtedly receiving many comments voicing concerns regarding a proposed rule which, if enacted, would make changes to House Bill 130 without going through the legislative process. I will keep my comments short in hopes that this email will be read.

- Twenty years ago I made the decision to leave employment in the private sector and take a cut in pay to work in a public school. For the first several years I was very proud and honored to be a part of the public educational system. I truly believed that I couldn't change the world but I could change my little part of the world by working at my neighborhood school. For the past several years I feel like we are on a sinking boat. We are plugging holes as fast as we can only to have rule makers poke more holes and then blame us for the sinking boat.
- I feel most of us would work every day of the year if it would help the students at our school succeed but adding more days and/or hours to the school year will not make a difference unless we get back to the basics.
- Students cannot be educated if they are not in class. There are attendance laws/requirements but there are not meaningful consequences and/or help to address chronic absenteeism. Public entities claim to lack funding for staff to enforce attendance laws and work to provide help to families when needed.
- Students cannot learn if the educators are dealing with the behaviors of one or more students in the classroom. Students who consistently display elevated negative behavior impact the teachers ability to provide instruction to the other students and/or impact the ability for the other students to concentrate on the instruction. The rights of students who disrupt the educational process seem to trump the rights of the other students to access their education. Schools should have the right and resources to remove the students who are disruptive so educators can teach the students who are ready to learn.
- The student's personal electronic devices (cell phones, smart watches, etc) should be banned during the school day. Employees should not be able to use their personal electronic devices during instructional hours except to handle a time sensitive matter. In my experience, student's use of personal electronic devices during school hours has been the downfall of our educational system.

Please spend your time, energy and funding to actively tackle chronic absenteeism, disruptive student behaviors and use of personal electronic devices during the school day. Provide an environment for staff to work and students to learn. Simply spending more money to fund additional school days for staff to deal with continued chronic absenteeism, disruptive student behavior and competing with electronic devices for the student's attention is the definition of insanity.

Kind regards,

Cyndi Braut

**From:** [Luke Rich](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comment Against the PED 180 School Day Rule  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:30:44 AM

---

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

My name is Luke Rich, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely, Luke Rich

**From:** [Mel Stahl](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:30:57 AM

---

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 AGAINST THESE PROPOSED CHANGES!

The proposed changes are absolutely and completely contrary to the health of teachers, families, staff and students.

The proposed changes put additional burdens on our teachers, who are already unconscionably underpaid and over worked. This proposal will render our teachers ineffective, as they will have little to no time for continuing education and preparation time. Los Alamos Public School district has seen many teachers, substitute teachers, IAs and staff resign because of inadequate pay and work load. I am one of them. How many more do we need to lose to get your attention?!

I firmly believe this change will negatively affect the health of our students, who are already managing a large work load. The demands put on students and teachers increases every year. What is the end goal? It certainly cannot be their health and wellness. The days are long enough! The school year is already too long! Asking students to absorb yet another schedule change, have less of a summer break and longer schools days is the opposite of promoting health and wellness. My child's school year is already too long. My child participates in non-school extracurricular activities. I worry this change will negatively affect my child's ability to continue with activities she loves.

It is apparent that those proposing this change are far removed from the situation and do not have the health and wellness of our communities in mind.

I AM AGAINST THESE PROPOSED CHANGES!

God Bless You,  
Mel Stahl  
Market Partner, MONAT

**From:** [Journey Allison](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Days of School  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:31:50 AM

---

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

My name is Journey Allison, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Journey

**From:** [Lisa Ebell](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NO to 5 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:32:04 AM

---

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

Good Morning,

I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As an educator who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Lisa Ebell  
Rio Rancho, NM

**From:** [Rachel Lopez](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] OPPOSING RULE CHANGE 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:32:05 AM

---

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

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

- Dora Consolidated Schools has successfully operated as a 4-day week school since 1980.
- Allows families to work on farms and ranches together, schedule doctor's appointments, and strengthen family ties.
- A district's calendar design should be a local decision, as each community's needs differ.
- Less family time for our families, who have specifically chosen to attend a 4-day week school.
- Increased absence rates due to inability to schedule doctor's appointments on the 5<sup>th</sup> day.
- Many students ride our rural route buses for over 1 ½ hours each morning and evening. These young students would needlessly be on a bus an additional day each week without increasing instructional time.
- This will accelerate the retirement of our veteran staff, causing hardship in hiring new personnel to a rural school district without the 4-day week incentive.
- Continued loss of local control for our school boards and communities.
- No comprehensive or overwhelming data to support that receiving 1,140 instructional hours over five days a week is more effective than receiving 1,140 instructional hours over four days a week.
- Over the last ten years, Dora has received a National Blue Ribbon, multiple "A" report card grades, "Spotlight" school status, and an NM Best Award from the PED.
- Our longer instructional days allow our secondary students time to work on their independent assignments at the end of class, allowing teachers to assess their understanding before students take it home as homework. Shorter class periods will allow for this to occur less effectively.
- Stretching your hours over five days decreases your "actual" instructional hours. Every teacher knows that you lose instructional time between the transition of classes due to getting supplies, beginning class routines, and reviewing the prior day's lesson. Having worked for nine years in a 5-day week school, I can attest to the lack of productivity of staff and students on Fridays compared to the rest of the week.
- Dora has created a culture where we efficiently use our longer blocks of instructional time, even with our elementary students, to minimize wasted time and allow daily

mastery of topics.

- The HS Graduation Rate for Dora Consolidated Schools is 88%, considerably higher than the state average of 76%.
- The Math Proficiency Rate for Dora Consolidated Schools is 47%, almost double the state average of 25%.
- The Reading Proficiency Rate for Dora Consolidated Schools is 46%, noticeably higher than the state average of 34%.
- According to PED standards, 85% of 4-day week schools meet academic standards compared to 75% of 5-day week schools.
- According to PED standards, 32% of 4-day week schools are designated as “Spotlight” or “Excellence” compared to 23% of 5-day week schools.
- The NM Public School Code (22-2-8.1) only specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, NOT instructional days. Any rule that attempts to require “days” will be outside the statutory authority of the PED.
- The NM 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 otherwise authorized by statute.

I respectfully ask that the PED abandon the attempt to supersede state statute and properly align NMAC 6.10.5 to HB 130, passed in the last legislative session, thereby not causing educational harm to the students of Dora Consolidated Schools.

*Rachel Lopez*

Teacher-NBCT



**DORA CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS**  
P.O. Box 327 | Dora, NM 88115  
Phone: 575.477.2211 | Fax: 575.477.2464  
[www.doraschools.com](http://www.doraschools.com)



**From:** [Logan Bango](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 180 Days of School  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:33:12 AM

---

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

My name is Logan Bango, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

It would be very tough since I have sport and I may not be able to go competitions. I also would not be able to handle that. I have speech therapy on Fridays upon other thing. It would also take a toll on my mental health.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Logan Bango

**From:** [Britani Litchfield](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC SCHOOL CALENDAR REQUIREMENTS  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:34:22 AM

---

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

To whom it may concern;

I would like to voice a major concern regarding the subject of school calendar requirement 6.10.5. The changes presented would be a huge mistake, in my opinion. A lot of families have intentionally enrolled our children at specific schools with the intention of them having a 4 day school week, having the fifth day to work more one on one with teachers and get any additional assistance that is needed. This change will greatly affect many, many children who are more successful having that specific learning experience. I can not stress enough that there are many different learning styles and strategies/schedules that work for certain students. If this is taken away from our children, it could be detrimental to the outcome of their success at school. I believe the schools need flexibility in order to best serve their group of students. Please take into consideration the students that would be negatively impacted by these changes.

Best regards,  
Britani Litchfield

**From:** [Stauffer, Philip H](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED; aftnmaction@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:38:19 AM

---

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

Dear Dr. Arsenio Romero and the NM Public Education Department,

I am writing to you to express my strong objection to the new NMAC Rule 6.10.5 that NMPED is proposing for the 2024-2025 school year.

For context, my wife is an occupational therapist at Pinon Elementary School. She is currently contracted for 195 days, with 188 of those days being instructional days with our students. She teaches students from 8:30 to 3:30 on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. In our school district, Wednesdays are half days, starting at 8:30 and ending at 12:00. Due to this abbreviated Wednesday schedule, our students are able to attend clubs, get homework help, spend time with peers and their families, participate with extracurricular activities such as skiing, music, martial arts, dance. On these Wednesday afternoons, teachers are given time for professional responsibilities like grading, planning, meeting, and collaborating. This average of 300 minutes of preparation time weekly is guaranteed to our teachers through a collectively bargained agreement and ensures that our educators can provide students with a high quality education. WITHOUT this time to plan the quality of the education that is currently provided will greatly suffer.

Implementing new rules for the High School will also not be helpful, as our Los Alamos students work quite hard with the current load of classes, as I can attest having seen one student through the HS into Marine Intelligence School with another currently in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

By making more work for everyone, I believe everyone will lose valuable downtime to rest and spend time with family and friends. This work/life/school balance is necessary for well rounded citizens. Also, the ability to hire and retain staff will be negatively impacted as folks will not want to work in an environment that is any more high stress than it already is.

I ask NM PED to reconsider by voting no on NMAC Rule 6.10.5.  
Thank you for your consideration,

Philip H. Stauffer  
EES Division Student Liaison  
Energy and Natural Resources Security EES-16  
Earth and Environmental Sciences Division  
Los Alamos National Laboratory  
[LANL Profile](#)  
Office Phone 505 665 4638

As a teacher for Logan Municipal Schools, I strongly oppose the adoption of the proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.5 in the NM Administrative Code.

State law grants local school districts to be flexible in their calendars based on the needs of their community. The proposed adoption is not a good fit for our district and community. Our students deserve a schedule that best fits their needs.

As teachers we are always training, how do we meet the needs of our students. The new proposal contradicts everything we are taught.

For the reason stated above we urge the department to abandon these proposed revisions and give our local district the authority to establish its own calendar based on the needs of our students and community.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Teaschner

**From:** [Jessica Hendricks](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 day school week  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:38:42 AM

---

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

I feel that requiring 5 days a week for the school week strips local school districts of the power they have to best serve their specific population. My daughter goes to a charter school that is 4 days a week. The 5th day is used for intervention, make-up work, and internships. It is a huge incentive for the middle and high schoolers to keep their grades up in order to have the 5th day to complete work from home. I believe she is receiving a good education using this model and would like the district to have the choice to keep it a 4 day week.

Thank you for considering my feedback.  
Jessica Hendricks

**From:** [Joshua McCormick](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Hours Increase  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:38:47 AM

---

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

Hello,

I recently read an article published in the Current Argus that was written by Dr. Arsenio Romero that discusses the opinion that New Mexico students need to spend more time in the classroom to help increase academic achievement. While I agree that we need to do something to help improve our dismal academic performance in New Mexico. I think that adding school days, and taking away the amount of non-school days in the year, is the wrong approach. My wife spent 3 years as an elementary teacher, not including the time spent student teaching as part of her degree. The main complaint among educators seemed to be unanimous. Teachers were continually frustrated at having to "teach to the test." This seemed to be a result of having their evaluations, and their income potential, tied to student performance on standardized tests. This lack of freedom to be able to use the skills they have developed to help the kids learn and make school enjoyable turns teaching into a system of checking off boxes to best meet testing standards set by the state government. While I understand there must be some sort of testing to measure success by, I think there needs to be a detailed look at how to best approach testing. This was accompanied by time required by teachers to undergo "professional development" that was determined by "specialists" who held jobs in the district that were designed to review teachers and give tips/guidance on how to improve their teaching methods. There was an incredible amount of time that was seemingly wasted going over metrics that took away from valuable planning time for teachers. Many educators found little to no value in these extra hours spent. I see a glaring opportunity to claw back some time without adding extra time to the school year. I think the time spent outside of the classroom can be equally as important as the time in. We have continually decreased the amount of "off time" since I attended school in the 1990s and 2000s. Kindergarten has since moved to full time instead of 1/2 day and we seem to be getting less and less summer vacation. I want to spend more of this valuable time with my kids. While I understand not all parents have this goal, it is one of my strongest desires. I appreciate the work that is being done to help improve New Mexico public schools. I'm very invested in this as the first of my four children is set to start kindergarten next year. I'm determined to help give them all the best opportunity to succeed in public school.

Sincerely,

Josh McCormick

**From:** [Jacob Fay](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:39:03 AM

---

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

My name is Jacob Fay, and I am writing to express my concerns and strong opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students and require public schools to spend at least 180 days in school.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Jacob Fay

**From:** [CADEN FICHTL](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC school calendar rules  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:41:08 AM

---

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

As an AP student at Los Alamos High School, I'm begging you not to do this. Increasing the time spent in school and number of classes is just worse for mental health and funding. The school week is already hell for many students with only seven classes, and adding extra time to each school day just decreases our motivation to care or even to show up to our less important classes. Disallowing free periods for upperclassmen would also decrease the amount of time available for them to do college and career planning. Maybe if you guys gave more money to schools specifically to pay teachers better, more people would want to teach, which would decrease class sizes in a couple years, which is actually going to help with learning. Let us have time off school please. We're people too who need to sleep and socialize (no, homework is probably not going to decrease because most homework is not to learn extra stuff outside of school. In my and the people I know's lives it is primarily used to verify that you know what's going on), not guinea pigs whose only point in life is to make you look good in front of other PEDs. Please, for everyone's sake take the slow path that will actually yield good results. If more of my generation can financially afford to teach and still eat without having a higher paid spouse, perhaps the next generation will not have the same test score issues. Thanks for reading!



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.



**From:** [Roy Garcia](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PED 180 School Day Rule  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:41:42 AM

---

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

My name is Roy Garcia, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Roy Garcia

**From:** [Tristan McKee](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Concerning .10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:44:41 AM

---

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

My name is Tristan Michelle McKee, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Tristan McKee

**From:** [ASK Nurse](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5 Day school week for Students  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:45:40 AM

---

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

My name is Katrina Shetron, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Katrina Shetron

The Ask Academy

Health Assistant

Phone: 505-891-0757 ext 305

Fax 505-891-2115

Email: [nurse@theaskacademy.org](mailto:nurse@theaskacademy.org)

*CONFIDENTIALITY WARNING: This email may contain confidential or proprietary business information and is for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). Any unauthorized use or disclosure of this communication, including attachments, is strictly prohibited. If you believe that you have received this email in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete it from your system.*

**From:** [Joyce Romero](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Re: AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:47:35 AM

---

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

On Dec 18, 2023 at 8:45 AM, <[Joyce Romero](#)> wrote:

Stop doing this to the kids of New Mexico! Raise the standards in other ways! Also, Testing and more testing doesn't prove someone's worth or abilities! You guys have to think of something new!!!!

Joyce

**From:** [Kristin moore](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] New calendar changes.  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:47:48 AM

---

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

This is absolutely absurd for our small district. What works for other cities will not work for us. Our kids struggle enough as it is with school, extending their school years will only make it harder on them, they need time away from the setting. Now I feel there are many more areas you could step in and find solutions to actual problems and issues. New Mexico is still last in education nationwide maybe put in programs that will actually lead to jobs for our young adults. The teachers don't care about the students as they are even more burnt out than the kids, and the obsessive bullying that goes on at all grade levels is astronomical. Before you try to force our children to stay in situations and settings that can be detrimental to the mental health, why don't you worry about the real issues and fix those.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [Lily Brown](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] School Days  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:48:33 AM

---

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

My name is Lily Brown, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Lily Brown

**From:** [Deanne Miller](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:50:16 AM

---

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

Hello-

I am emailing to oppose the new rule for 5 days a week and 180 hour school year that does not include teacher professional development. As a teacher, I work so hard to give my students a good education. I think the proposal will lend to student and teacher burn out. I already feel it and this will make it worse. Thank you for your time.

Deanne Miller  
6th Grade Computers and Technology

**From:** [Henry Edwards](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] friday school  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:52:54 AM

---

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

keep fridays free!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



**From:** [clare2488@aol.com](mailto:clare2488@aol.com)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reference: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:53:04 AM

---

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

Please do not change the requirement for public schools to force them into 5-day weeks. My child goes to the Ask Academy which goes 4 days and has a 2-hour slot on the 5th day where they can go in for extra help(sort of like tutoring.) They also use this time to make up assignments that they are behind on, go to internships(if they have one), and intervention. Not only is Ask providing a better education, but the kids get more family time on Fridays as well. Maybe instead of pushing the 5-day week, it would be better to set mile stones in elementary schools like that kids need to know how to read by the time they are out of 2 grade, or times tables by 5th grade, or better yet go back to the old curriculums used in the 70's and 80's, because kids today are not learning 1/2 of what we did back then.

Thank you for your time and consideration,  
Clare Hughes

**From:** [Laura Leitner](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Do not implement these new changes  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:53:15 AM

---

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 a parent of four kids, three of whom are still under 18 and attending the Los Alamos Public Schools.

I intensely dislike the new proposed changes to the NM schools. If there is a concern with how well students in New Mexico are faring, doing more of what doesn't work is not going to fix anything. Giving students more class time, more classes, burdening teachers more, etc., will not help.

Poverty and parental support is the number one reason kids do poorly in schools. These rule changes will not address that.

Our NM legislators should look at the school districts that are doing well and see what the differences are in not just the schools but also the communities and see if something that will actually help can be done.

I know a teacher (who I will not name to keep her privacy) who worked in a struggling school district in New Mexico. She told me that the difference between the kids who did well and those who didn't was whether there was an adult (parent, uncle, grandparent etc) who cared and had the time to care about that child's school work at home. Nothing else made a difference.

We need to fix poverty and support families so they can focus on their children's learning and care about them. Stop these useless rules that will do nothing.

Laura Leitner

**From:** [Rudd Kylee](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Never  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:53:43 AM

---

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

Dear people

Do not do school on Fridays. We already have extra school time!!  
This will ruin my whole scedule

**From:** [Apodaca Samuel](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] friday school  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:53:56 AM

---

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

keep fridays off

**From:** [Joshua Castellano](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] In Reference to Changes to House Bill 130  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:54:00 AM

---

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

My name is Joshua Castellano, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who deeply values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have personally experienced the positive impact of our current 4-day school week. The success we've achieved in terms of academic performance, meaningful teacher-student interactions, and the overall positive school environment has been remarkable. This model not only facilitates effective learning but also allows our dedicated teachers the flexibility to provide individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

In light of the national trend where an increasing number of schools are embracing a 4-day school week, it appears counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The recognized benefits of a shorter school week contribute to improved student outcomes and foster a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school possesses its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I firmly oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. Maintaining flexibility in scheduling is crucial to ensuring the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Joshua Castellano

**From:** [Esquibel Leonidas](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] fridays free  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:54:25 AM

---

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

i want fridays to not be a school day because its a nice break and ask is already hard enough and i just need a break and so do other kids like it

**From:** [Jennifer Honig](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] OPPOSED to proposed change  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:54:53 AM

---

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

Hello,

I am a related service provider and this change would force me and my family into strongly considering me quitting my working for the school district and homeschooling our children. I not only work with students with special needs, but have a student with special needs. The answer to progressing typical students academically, but particularly special needs ones, is NOT more time in school. PED will also force other teachers out of the school system, which is the opposite direction of progress. If progress is desired, other options should be considered such as more publicly funded tutoring and advisement for parents in the schools.

Other people have written very eloquent letters, so I will not waste my words, but I am HIGHLY opposed to this proposed change.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Honig, Occupational Therapist  
Los Alamos Public Schools



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://laschools.net) user.

**From:** [Dollens Taylor](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:55:57 AM

---

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

My name is Taylor Dollens, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Taylor Dollens



**From:** [Beatrice Schneeweiss-Myatt](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:57:58 AM

---

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

Please do not put that rule in place, it is not beneficial to our children.  
Beatrice Schneeweiss-Myatt

**From:** [Zarikta Brighton](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] We need fridays off  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:58:07 AM

---

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

this is dumb such as you sending this useless email keep fridays off or i'll go insane this is stupid stop with these emails

**From:** [Martin Mila](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Feedback for friday  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 8:59:02 AM

---

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

My name is Mila Martin, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Mila Martin

**From:** [KAMRAN AKHADOV](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements" Student Feedback  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:00:06 AM

---

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

Hello,

My name is Kam Akhadov, I am a Junior at Los Alamos High School, and a student in the Los Alamos Early college program. After reading the proposed contents of this bill, I strongly disagree with the proposed actions. I also work at a local machine shop as an intern, and I greatly value my work time because I learn so much about a field I am extremely interested in as a career. The parts of this bill that prohibit high school students from having free periods will greatly cut down, if not completely diminish my work hours in the week. Another issue I have with the proposed bill is the 32 credit hour requirement. It will be nearly impossible for this year's juniors to accrue these credit hours before they have to graduate. These are my two biggest concerns with the proposed bill, and the two which I am fit to give feedback on.



This email has been sent from a verified [laschools.net](https://www.laschools.net) user.

**From:** [Garduno Aidan](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:00:17 AM

---

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

Keep Fridays Off

**From:** [Lillian Adams](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Comments regarding new rules  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:00:42 AM

---

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

As a scholar attending a charter school, making us go 5 days a week instead of 4 is unreasonable. We use our Friday's as intervention time for tutoring. I believe that this day of tutoring is what allows our school to do so well on state tests. If you force us into a 5 day school week, our test scores could be negatively impacted. Please take this into consideration when making your decision about this 5 day school week.

**From:** [Sasha Rojo](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:00:53 AM

---

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

My name is Sasha Rojo, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As someone who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

**I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community.** I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Sasha Rojo

**From:** [Kaelun Boliver](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Reference: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:00:57 AM

---

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

My name is Kaelun Boliver, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a person who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience. The data is there and shows the benefits of this educational model.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,  
Kaelun Boliver



**From:** [CRYSTAL BENFIELD](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Concerns Regarding Calendar Rule Change  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:01:51 AM

---

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

I hope this email finds you well. Firstly, I'd like to express my gratitude for considering my input on the proposed school calendar changes. I appreciate your willingness to listen to the people of New Mexico, especially those with the most intimate knowledge of how schools should run, teachers.

I have some concerns regarding these proposed changes that I wanted to share with you. Firstly, research shows that more time does not necessarily equate to better education. Quality of instruction, highly qualified teachers, and student engagement are vital factors to consider.

Additionally, attendance is a pressing issue. Without holding parents accountable for their child's attendance, simply adding more days to the calendar won't solve the problem. We need to focus on providing stronger social supports and implementing parental consequences. I cannot teach a child who is not in my classroom, and by far, the students who are failing or performing poorly in my classes, are also the ones with chronic attendance issues. Adding additional days to the calendar will not encourage these students to come to class. Quite the opposite, it will give them more reason to skip. Find ways to hold kids and parents accountable for attending the days that are already on our calendar.

Teacher burnout and mental health are also significant concerns. Teachers across the nation are exhausted and struggling. They are facing a mental health crisis that isn't being talked about. I know of multiple teachers at my campus alone this year who have required counseling intervention during the school day. A large part of this is due to more and more being placed on us, with less and less time outside of school to decompress. Instead of going home to enjoy time with our families or engage in hobbies, we go home exhausted and overwhelmed.

Lastly, New Mexico already faces a teacher shortage, and filling core positions with long-term substitutes impacts student success. Again, more time in the classroom is not beneficial if they are being taught by substitutes. Adding unnecessary days to the calendar will exacerbate this issue, as current teachers will look at positions across state lines, and people considering going in to education will see New Mexico as a less desirable option.

Thank you again for considering my perspective on these matters.

Regards,

Crystal Benfield  
Clovis High School

--

Disclaimer: Privileged/confidential information may be contained in this message and may be subject to legal privilege. Access to this email by anyone other than the intended recipient is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient (or responsible for delivery of this message to such person), you may not use, copy, distribute, or deliver this message to anyone (or any part of its contents) or take any action in reliance on it. In such a case, you should destroy this message immediately.

**From:** [Betz John](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:02:11 AM

---

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

Keep Friday off

**From:** [Amber Lial](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:02:27 AM

---

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

I am writing to express my support for the implementation of a 4-day school week within our educational system. I believe that a shorter school week brings about numerous benefits, not only for students but also for educators and the overall educational environment.

One key advantage of a 4-day school week is the potential for enhanced professional development (PD) opportunities. By allocating the fifth day to focused and comprehensive professional development sessions, educators can stay abreast of the latest teaching methodologies, technology integration, and educational research. This investment in professional growth can significantly contribute to the overall quality of instruction in our schools.

Additionally, the fifth day can be utilized for scholar tutoring, providing targeted support for students who may need extra assistance. This dedicated time for one-on-one or small-group tutoring sessions can contribute to improved academic performance, fostering a more supportive and inclusive learning environment.

I understand the importance of ensuring that students receive ample instructional time, but I believe that the condensed schedule can be offset by the enrichment gained through targeted professional development and scholar tutoring. This approach not only addresses academic needs but also promotes a more sustainable and balanced work-life environment for both educators and students.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
A.Lial

**From:** [Jessica Goldman](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC RULE 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:02:40 AM

---

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

OUR KIDS DON'T NEED MORE SCHOOL!!!!

**Jessica Goldman**, NMLS #222955

**Premier Mortgage Advisors, LLC DBA New Mexico Mortgage Advisors**

4811B Hardware Drive NE Ste 1, Albuquerque, NM 87109

**Office** (505) 898-4800 | **Fax** (505) 898-4801



**From:** [Christine McDermott](#)  
**To:** [Feedback, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC RULE 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:03:19 AM

---

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

Hello,

I am a mother of two children in APS schools and I am against NMAC Rule 6.10.5.

Kids need school and I understand that but too much time at school and not enough time at home is not good for our children.

Thank you!  
Christine McDermott  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Lacey Bidegain](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] regulation 10.6.5  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:03:33 AM

---

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

**To Whom It May Concern:**

Despite state law in 22-2-8.1 NMSA 1978 granting local school districts the flexibility to design their own calendars (so long as they meet the minimum requirement of 1140 instructional hours), this draft regulation is now proposing rule changes that would disregard the local authority granted by statute and would require all schools in the state to schedule a minimum of 180 instructional days per year. This proposal also clearly contradicts Public School Finance Act provisions in 22-8-23.14 NMSA 1978, which specifically authorizes schools to operate on either 4-day or 5-day school weeks, rendering this proposed regulation illegal and out of alignment with state statutes.

Even if the proposal were legal, the policy must be better informed. Requiring all schools to comply with a uniform calendar rule suggests a "one size fits all" approach. It fails to account for the diversity of the various school districts in our state, both demographically and academically.

Specifically, such a requirement intentionally ignores the exemplary performance of many schools traditionally operating on a 4-day week. Our school, Logan Municipal Schools, is exemplary and a spotlight school in our state. The Secretary of Education visited and toured our campus this fall, praising us for our achievements. What a slap in the face to punish us and other schools doing extraordinary things in the current model! While I wholeheartedly believe in having remediation and guidelines for schools and districts that are not performing to state standards, it makes zero sense to place more restrictions and burden on schools and districts performing ABOVE the state standards! Wake up, New Mexico! Adding more days and hours DOES NOT produce better quality! Quality has always outweighed quantity! If we, as a state, want to improve our standards in education, then we need to closely observe and model states that have high success in schooling and model them! No one is following NM, and there's a reason why! WAKE UP!!!!

As a rural community, we have designated Fridays as the day of travel for Drs appointments and various sporting events. Unlike the metro area, rural districts take longer to go to Drs. We have to factor in drive time, along with the appointment. If we move to a 5-day model, we will have more absences and staffing issues.

For all of the reasons stated above, we urge the department to abandon these proposed revisions and reaffirm each district's authority to establish its own instructional calendar in alignment with the law and with its own community priorities.

**Sincerely,**  
**Lacey Bidegain**

**MS Teacher/Coach**  
**Logan Middle School**

**From:** [Doviemcc](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Rule 6.10.5 NMAC  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:03:59 AM

---

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

I am writing to convey my disagreement with some of the changes in Rule 6.10.5. Specifically, I am requesting that PED NOT change the number of instructional hours required to number of days required. Also, I am requesting that schools continue to be allowed to run schools on four day schedules.

As a teacher, I can tell you that adding another 10 days to the school calendar will do nothing but exhaust our students and add more dollars to the amount required to fund the schools with little to no positive results. As is, when we get to the end of the current school calendar in May, our students begin to show extreme mental fatigue. They STOP learning about May 5. Making them continue going to school for another month won't fix anything. Also, adding 10 days to a school's calendar should mean that teachers and EAs will receive 10 more days of pay.

As far as the schools that currently use a four-day week schedule, I don't think making them go to five-day weeks will improve anything. Most of the small schools in my county can show that their system works because their test scores are higher than larger, five-day districts. Going four days a week was an innovation that came about back in the late 70s due to the energy crisis. It helped small districts save money and it still does.

Finally, moving from an hours requirement to a days requirement and removing the four-day week option seriously decreases local control. The local school board and administrators know their districts much better than anyone in PED in Santa Fe. They should be given the respect and freedom to create a school calendar that fits local needs which they know better than you do.

Sincerely,  
Vicky Stratton



**From:** [Poling Quinn](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:04:18 AM

---

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

My name is Quinn Poling, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day. This extra day also gives us time to work on work we need to catch up on.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,

Quinn Poling

**From:** [BRENDA BRADY](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] My Voice Matters! Proposed Rule Change - School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:05:17 AM

---

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

I stand with my local school district and House Bill 130.

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.

### **Consequences of the change –**

The proposed changes would remove the ability for our neighboring small schools to continue with a full-time four-day 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 the 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 does this matter to me?**

This is 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 Clovis Municipal Schools (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.

Best Regards,

**Brenda Brady**

Special Education Bookkeeper  
CMS - Student Support Services  
575.769.4490 - ext 3508  
[brenda.brady@clovis-schools.org](mailto:brenda.brady@clovis-schools.org)

Disclaimer: Privileged/confidential information may be contained in this message and may be subject to legal privilege. Access to this email by anyone other than the intended recipient is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient (or responsible for delivery of this message to such person), you may not use, copy, distribute, or deliver this message to anyone (or any part of its contents) or take any action in reliance on it. In such a case, you should destroy this message immediately.

**From:** [Aspyn Bobonea](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 5-Day Work Week Concerns  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:05:19 AM

---

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

Hello, my name is Aspyn Bobonea and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a student who values the importance of a well-rounded education, I have observed the success of our current educational model, which operates on a 4-day schedule. The positive outcomes in our academic achievements, teacher-student interactions, and overall school environment have been noteworthy. This model not only allows for effective learning but also provides teachers with the flexibility to offer individualized tutoring and engage in vital professional development on the fifth day.

Considering the national trend where an increasing number of schools are adopting a 4-day school week, it seems counterintuitive for New Mexico to move in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized, contributing to improved student outcomes and fostering a more balanced and engaging learning experience.

I respectfully urge you to carefully consider the potential implications of enforcing a 5-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be suitable for all educational institutions.

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success and well-being of our educational system.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this matter and any actions you may take to represent the diverse needs of our students and educators.

Sincerely,

Aspyn Bobonea

**From:** [Linda Brown](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:05:43 AM

---

**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 teacher in the state of New Mexico, I am strongly opposed to the revisions being proposed to the Instructional Time Requirements. This ignores and breaks trust with last year's legislated bill HB 130. More time in the classroom is not the solution that is needed to meet our state's educational needs. What is needed is smaller class sizes, reduced workload for overstressed teachers, early intervention for students who are behind, and support for parents in helping them understand the value of school. Parent buy-in is important, because kids can't learn if they are not in the classroom and don't believe in the value of education.

We have a desperate need to recruit and retain teachers. However, as a long time teacher, if this proposed change goes through, it will lead me to seek early retirement. It will also drive other good teachers out of the classroom.

Linda Brown

**From:** [Barraza Aziel](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL]  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:06:06 AM

---

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

We need fridays off

**From:** [Zachary Bomke](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Please reconsider 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:06:19 AM

---

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

Hello,

My name is Zachary Bomke and I am a student at The ASK Academy, a school that currently implements a 4 day school week. This is beneficial due to a variety of reasons such as allowing more time for internships and offering a day to step back and work on correcting previous exams and making up assignments in order to keep moving forward. ASK has some of the highest average exam scores in the state and we are clearly not affected or are even benefited by our Friday intervention policy. The loss of Friday intervention at my school due to this revision would be a huge mistake.

--

Thank you for your consideration,  
Zachary Bomke

**From:** [Taler Hill](#)  
**To:** [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5  
**Date:** Monday, December 18, 2023 9:07:06 AM

---

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

More contact hours does not = better outcomes. And in many cases is detrimental to mental health in our students. The data is clear that increasing contact hours to improve outcomes, without very clear goals, procedures, and an abundance of teachers, and support staff, is a flailing effort. NM PED has done nothing to set the stage for this type of implementation. STOP what you are doing. This is NOT the right decision for New Mexico students. You will lose more teachers, you will see a higher dropout rate, you will see greater mental health concerns among staff and students.

You will NOT see higher test scores, happier students, more balanced students, or families that can maintain this ridiculous schedule. STOP and listen to families. Listen to teachers. Listen to students. Listen to teachers who are sad they had to leave, but for their own sake, and the sake of their families could not continue to be truded upon by people who don't remember what it means to teach.

Taler Hill