

From: [Audie Dickert](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Schedule change.
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:16:22 AM

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I know that education is important. And undoubtedly should come first. However I'm willing to bet the individuals suggesting that we add on more days to the current school schedule haven't even taken a second to think about how 25% of the students are raised in broken homes. Most of them living with their mothers, and only able to see their fathers during the breaks. Adding days to the schedule shortens that little amount of time there getting with the other parent. It's also shortening the little bit of a break that the main parent gets. It's hard enough raising kids. But to think 25% of people mostly women are having to do it alone it has to be rough on them. Also the kids not being able to have adequate time with their other parent. In most cases dads who must have to work at least 2 jobs some 3 just to cover their living expenses and child support. And Las Cruces public schools wants to take a bulk of their parenting time. I think the schedule change is a horrible idea. And will potentially lead to horrific and terrible situations in some cases. I can not foresee any good outcome coming to pass without unimaginable consequences for certain groups.

I think the school should look into after school programs and summer school programs for the kids that need it and/or want it. But don't pass the rule adding additional mandatory days for all students and TEACHERS. Teachers are already overworked enough. There's too many kids per class room causing Teachers to have a larger work load. If I'm not mistaken I think I heard on average there's 29 to 32 kids per class nowadays. That's more than the 15 to 17 when I was in school. Meaning Teachers now are doing almost double the amount of work. Even if that number is off or wrong it's undeniable that Teachers work one of the most stressful jobs society has. Don't add on to that.

From: [April Nolen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:18:14 AM

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While I understand that well-meaning people in the legislature and PED are trying to take action to remedy problems in NM schools, I think the proposed rule (6.10.5) will have effects that require more time to fully investigate. Rushing into something this far-reaching that will affect every family with school-aged children in NM is not wise. I implore those who have been entrusted by the public to make these decisions to take the appropriate time and care to evaluate this proposal and its implications for all involved - students, teachers, parents, guardians, administrators, support staff, and communities.

A decision this large needs more time for careful and wise consideration.

Sincerely
April Nolen
White Rock

From: dcs505@comcast.net
To: [Rehm, William R.](#)
Cc: [HelpDesk, PED, PED](#); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); paulgessing@riograndefoundation.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Public Education Department Rules Changes
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:22:41 AM
Attachments: [errorsofenchantment.com-Comment NOW on Proposed Public Education Department Rules Changes.pdf](#)

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Representative Rehm,

Attached is Paul Gessing's post from yesterday regarding two rule changes that the PED will be making at the governor's direction. The public has until **Monday**, December 18 at 5pm to make written comment. The two major areas: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements and 6.81.2 NMAC, Requirements for Nonpublic Schools and for Public Education Department Accreditation.

Why is PED and not the state legislature considering these proposals? We share Gessing's concerns as stated in the last two paragraphs of his post. Given New Mexico's standing of last place in public education, why would the governor try to hamstring non-public schools? We agree with Milton Friedman's comment in *Free To Choose*, "The strong American tradition of voluntary action has provided many excellent examples that demonstrate what can be done when parents have greater choice." (p. 159).

Respectfully,

Duane and Cathy Sorenson

Comment NOW on Proposed Public Education Department Rules Changes

 errorsofenchancement.com/comment-now-on-proposed-public-education-department-rules-changes/

Paul Gessing

December 15, 2023

In what seems to be yet another power grab by the Lujan Grisham Administration (this time through the Public Education Department), regulations have been quietly put forth (with a public hearing scheduled for Monday, December 18 and a written comment deadline of 5pm that day).

RGF has two major concerns with the proposal that we addressed in our comments below: 1) a requirement of 180 days of school (as opposed to setting the number of hours in the classroom as is done now). This appears to be a direct attack on rural districts with four day school weeks.

The other is a seizure of power by the PED over accreditation of non-public schools in New Mexico. Information on the public hearing can be found at the link above (as well as the regulations themselves). You can submit comments by Monday at 5pm here:

Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov

Our comments are below (please note the relevant code in your comments as per PED's instructions).

I write today on behalf of the Rio Grande Foundation, New Mexico's free market think tank, to express opposition to proposed rule changes being considered by the Public Education Department in two major areas: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements and 6.81.2 NMAC, Requirements for Nonpublic Schools and for Public Education Department Accreditation.

On the issues of School calendar requirements, PED has proposed a requirement of 180 days of school. Simply put, there is no research supporting the idea that increasing the number of school days improves student outcomes. According to a 2018 report both Missouri and Kansas have had 4-day work weeks in place for dozens of rural communities.

A move (to four-day weeks) that originally began as a cost-saving measure has resulted in students having have 25 more instructional hours than before, and that's brought a couple added bonuses.

"Our ACT scores have really shown some improvement. If there was anything, that's one area we're up. The first four years, up every year, and five out of the last seven, they've been increased," said Lathrop School District superintendent Chris Fine.

Attendance has also improved for students and staff. According to one parent, “Mondays, we get all our doctor appointments in, orthodontist, so we don’t have to miss school ever. That’s my favorite thing.”

I shouldn’t have to remind you that New Mexico struggles badly with student absenteeism. The four-day week may not work for all districts, but it may work for some. There is no reason to eliminate it.

Secondly, I write in opposition to changes proposed for 6.81.2 NMAC, Requirements for Nonpublic Schools and for Public Education Department Accreditation

Requirements for Nonpublic Schools and for Public Education Department Accreditation. I am concerned about the dramatic changes to accreditation, annual reporting to PED, and to PED assuming authority to “observe the operations” of non-public schools. Considering the impact of these potential changes it is hard to understand why neither non-public schools, nor their accrediting bodies were notified about these changes. This alone raises serious questions about the fairness and transparency of the process.

Per 6.81.2.8 (D) NMAC, the only authority given to PED regarding nonpublic schools reads; “The Public Education Department maintains a list of all nonpublic schools in the state and the list must include the school’s name, mailing and email addresses, name of the Head Administrator, phone number, and accrediting entity. Nonpublic schools accredited by educational accrediting agencies identified in rule, or since approved by the Division, shall be deemed to be acknowledged by the Department unless the accrediting entity’s accreditation status is suspended, limited, or terminated by the Department or unless the schools’ accreditation status is suspended, limited, or terminated by its own accrediting entity.

Currently, nonpublic schools are not regulated by the PED, which makes it unfair to impose rules and regulations through a rule making process that has not been well-publicized and was not done at the behest of the Legislature itself. In attempting to acquire authority to “observe the operations of non-public schools,” PED is overstepping its boundaries without any statutory oversight.

If PED were to allow tax dollars to follow students to the school of their choice, PED’s case for this significant increase in its own power would be more justifiable.

Paul Gessing
President
Rio Grande Foundation



From: [Crystal Y. Tipton](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:41:44 AM

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I am a parent of two elementary aged students at Los Alamos public schools. I do not support this sudden change of rules regarding school calendar requirements.

It is at odds with teacher planning needs and collective bargaining agreement for teachers at our school. Given teacher planning needs and union agreements at our district, the 5 day a week 5.5 hour school day requirement for elementary kids would result in the kids having much shorter days to accommodate teacher planning. This places a significant burden on working parents to find additional after school care.

In addition, the rule changes it would make the school year much longer for kids and severely shorten summers available for older kids to pursue summer jobs.

High school credit hour requirements will disrupt our current block scheduling, which allows students to pursue courses more in-depth and allows for teaching innovation because of longer class periods available for non-lecture based instruction. This would require teachers to significantly alter curriculum for the entire school year.

And importantly, The timing does not give schools enough time to thoughtfully implement a calendar that works for kids and teachers in time for the 2024-24 school year. This can have severe consequences for all kids, create stress and curriculum disruption for teachers and unnecessary uncertainty for parents, students, and staff, as well as major disruptions to budget planning. If you really feel such rule changes are necessary, at least give schools at least a year to consider how to implement them.

Thanks for your attention to this important matter.

Crystal Y. Tipton
M.S. Ecology
970.231.5418
crystalyw@gmail.com

From: [BrieAnne Stout](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Stout Anthony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC comment
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 11:10:21 AM

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Hello,

My child has attended Desert Willow Family School for 5 years. I am very pleased with the educational outcomes at this school, and the growth in our child's performance. DWFS is a high-achieving school, with proven results shown in our very high state and national test schools. We are project-based, inquiry inspiring, and the impact of our at-home day is in our test scores - the top 5 in the state!

We have 4 in-person days, and **1 homeschool day**. The PED requires 1,140 hours of instruction per year. As a hybrid school, Desert Willow's hours are shared between homeschooling and in-class work at the rate of 50/50% or 80/20%. When we set our schedule, we account for homeschooling hours weekly, including a full instructional day on Mondays, with parents who have been trained as homeschool instructors. Because we assign the majority of the homeschooling and students keep homework logs and other records, we know those instructional hours are completed according to a rigorous curriculum.

While I see that the proposed amendment makes exceptions for "optional instructional programs, charter schools, and schools without attendance boundaries.", it is my sincere hope that Desert Willow, as a magnet school without attendance boundaries, be given a waiver to this proposed rule, and keep our unique schedule.

Respectfully,

BrieAnne Stout

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BrieAnne Stout

From: [Dorothy Craven](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC rule 6.10.5 school instructional time requirements
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 11:31:53 AM

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I strongly oppose proposed change for increasing instructional time. This will work against the strong educational instruction that already exists in Los Alamos county. Further there is too little time given to plan for and implement the changes. As a grandparent of students in the system I urge you to reject this proposa!.

Dorothy Craven
276 Aragon Avenue
Los Alamos NM 87547

From: [Stacy Martens](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to NMAC Rule 6.10.5
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 11:47:47 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, I teach 3rd grade 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 are half days, starting at 8:30 and ending at 12:00. Due to this abbreviated Wednesday schedule, our students are able to have meaningful experiences with various afternoon programs from art to nature, gymnastics, and more. 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.

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 and enrichment programs.

Another unintended but significant 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 and the schedules of parents who work outside of the home. This change would also be problematic for staff as Wednesday afternoons are currently designated as teacher prep time and the only time that our district can fit in the allotted average of 300 minutes of prep time that our collective bargaining agreement guarantees. If we lose our early release Wednesdays as a result of NMAC Rule 6.10.5 passing, on Wednesdays 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 voting no on NMAC Rule 6.10.5.

Thank you for your consideration,
Stacy Martens

3rd Grade Teacher
Aspen Elementary
Los Alamos Public Schools

From: [Stacy Martens](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to Arbitrary Rule Change: Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 11:50:19 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, I teach 3rd grade 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 are half days, starting at 8:30 and ending at 12:00. Due to this abbreviated Wednesday schedule, our students are able to have meaningful experiences with various afternoon programs from art to nature, gymnastics, and more. 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.

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 and enrichment programs.

Another unintended but significant 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 and the schedules of parents who work outside of the home. This change would also be problematic for staff as Wednesday afternoons are currently designated as teacher prep time and the only time that our district can fit in the allotted average of 300 minutes of prep time that our collective bargaining agreement guarantees. If we lose our early release Wednesdays as a result of NMAC Rule 6.10.5 passing, on Wednesdays 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 voting no on NMAC Rule 6.10.5.

Thank you for your consideration,
Stacy Martens

3rd Grade Teacher
Aspen Elementary
Los Alamos Public Schools

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Stacy Martens
Aspen Elementary
(505) 663-2282

[My Website](#)
[Aspen Website](#)



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This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.



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www.sslc-nm.com

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 our concerns regarding the proposed rule on instructional time requirements (6.10.5 NMAC) and respectfully request the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) revoke the aforementioned proposal. I am NOT in favor of extending the calendar. Our charter contract offers a flexible schedule for high school students, and the requirements to attend 4 sessions per day would end the flexibility so many of our students rely on and appreciate about our school.

Calendar reform was only recently debated by the legislature and has been implemented in schools for six months. There was great debate on the calendar reform legislation in the 2023 legislative session. That debate led to compromise on legislation that was signed by the Governor. We acknowledge the department's commitment to enhancing educational outcomes. However, given the recency of the new legislation and Department's lack of statutory authority to execute this rule as proposed, we request that PED revoke this proposed rule and go through the legislative process to meet these requirements.

Engaging students in school has been challenging following the pandemic, and chronic absenteeism is already high. Adding additional days will likely only increase absences. More impactful change may likely come through improving student attendance and partnering with schools to inform families of the need for their student to be in class.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the PED will carefully consider the implications of the proposed rule and work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop solutions that prioritize the best interests of our students and educators.

Yours sincerely,

Lisa Mora

Lisa Mora
Executive Director

From: [Drew Hildebrandt](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: act@atfunion.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 12:26:14 PM

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To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Drew Hildebrandt and I am an EA at Onate Elementary School. Although this is only my third year as an educational assistant, I have witnessed firsthand the lack of teacher and student support that has led to staff burnout, chronic absenteeism, and unprecedented student behavioral issues. Adding more instructional days to the APS calendar is not the answer. Adding more instructional days simply exacerbates our current issues. While well-intentioned, the APS school year speckled with haphazard PD days disrupts students' quality education by hampering teachers' instruction of curriculum built for five day weeks.

The solution to these problems is not to add more disorganized PD days or partial school weeks, but to increase support to struggling families and students. More reliable school bus drivers and schedules, more full-time teachers (as opposed to long term substitutes), and listening to teachers who are on the brink of burnout are the solutions to these issues. Children thrive with consistency, and, in my classroom, behavior issues always increase after students have had one or more days off. I have many months worth of behavior logs and behavior intervention plan data to prove this - students need reliable schedules to support their social-emotional wellbeing. Not more days, but better quality days with supported teachers who can deliver them the instruction that they deserve. Our students deserve teachers who are not burnt out.

On behalf of educational assistants and overworked APS staff members, I implore you to reconsider adding more instructional days to our workload. Nationwide, teachers are leaving their profession in droves. I hope you consider the lived experiences of APS staff members in your decisions, and not arbitrarily add more days to our school year.

Thank you for your consideration,
Drew Hildebrandt

Kindergarten EA, Onate Elementary School

From: [Deanna Teague](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 12:28:14 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 did not support your change made to the school calendar for the current school year calendar and now PED wants to make more changes.

Do not try to sugar coat this with a "pay raise." You are not giving teachers a pay raise, you are paying more because there will be more hours.

You can not make up for what happened here in New Mexico during COVID. DO NOT say this was a worldwide problem. This was a NEW MEXICO PROBLEM CREATED BY NEW MEXICO LEADERSHIP! You can not make up for the lack of education for 2 years straight. As a parent, with a college-aged student now, I had to tell my son, who felt behind in college (since he went to a different state for college, why would we put him through school in NM for more of the same), I had to tell him, "I am sorry you are technically 2 years behind everybody else." We can not fix that by adding more school.

If teachers would stick to the basics, take away technology, yes I said that. Students are fine with technology, it's everywhere. Put books, pens, and paper back in their hands. My own children hate to read due to programs used such as reading plus. My oldest hates math due to programs such as IXL. All we have to do is teach the students the subjects and then give them practice on paper.

I am a teacher. I have been thoroughly frustrated with the school system here in New Mexico. When teaching, I stick to my subject. I do teach to the whole child without adding extra stuff to my subject. If you teach math, you teach math and that's it. Leave politics, and other non subject related things out of the class.

While we try to fill in gaps, we, as teachers, can not be the students' parents. There are some things that flat out should be learned at home. It's our job to educate students in their core subjects and arts so that they are well rounded citizens.

Thank you for your consideration, please do not add these additional rules to the current calendar. Make it a district decision and do NOT tie money to it.

From: [Johnathan Nielsen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO to changes!!
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 12:43:57 PM

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STOP changing these things every YEAR!

“It’s a terrible change as was the one last year. Students don’t need more face time. Students need QUALITY and qualified teacher, smaller class sizes, and safe school buildings.

As a society we need to incentivize teaching as a profession. Not put anyone with a pulse in front of a class for “coverage”. This isn’t a job for just anyone. And we are losing these amazing professionals to other opportunities because of the difficulties those who have no idea what it’s like to teach keep inflicting on our teachers and students”.-Erin

-Taren Nielsen

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Christina Parlapiano](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: act@atfunion.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 12:52:25 PM

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To The New Mexico Public Education Department,

Your one-size-fits-all approach to education does not work. You continue to fail students with your knee-jerk decisions that have little to no impact on student achievement and only push the few teachers you have left out of the profession.

New Mexico is 50th in education because we are one of the poorest states in the nation. It has nothing to do with teacher competencies OR the number of hours spent in the classroom. It has everything to do with lack of resources and parenting. Schools have been stripped of resources to support students such as only receiving part-time social workers, counselors, nurses, and librarians. Students receive support in speech and language through a computer via a “specialist” who is located in another state. We know how well online learning works. Classrooms are also overcrowded and students are not able to receive the one-on-one instruction they so desperately need.

Attendance is a huge parenting issue that lacks any consequences. 40-45% of the students within APS are chronically absent without any repercussions whatsoever. The funny thing, teachers can’t teach students who are not in the classroom, yet you feel more hours will fix the learning loss problem.

Lastly, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham kept students out of the classroom for a full year which only exasperated the learning loss you are currently seeing, yet no one talks about that.

Your proposed rule change to HB130 is a half-baked, completely political decision that will only alienate more competent teachers and drive them away from the profession leading to additional educational issues. Instead of working against teachers, work with teachers to solve our broken educational system.

Completely Disappointed,

Christina Parlapiano
4th Grade Teacher
SY Jackson Elementary School
2020 Blue Ribbon School of Excellence

From: [Valerie Fox](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [O'Neill, Maire X.](#); caclark@ladailypost.com
Cc: [Antonio Jaurigue](#); e.specter@laschools.net; [Christine Bernstein](#); [Sondra Wyman](#); [Melanie Colgan](#); [Guy, Jennifer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter to the Editor and NM PED regarding Proposed amendments to 6.10.5 NMAC,
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 1:06:42 PM

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

I am a parent of an elementary-age student. I am objecting to the proposed amendments to 6.10.5 NMAC. As I understand it, our district is opposed to it as well. Our students, teachers and school board members are already reeling from a swath of changes last year that included extended calendars and have made no difference in testing in the state of New Mexico. In fact, there has been a decline in math test scores and barely any movement in reading. Math proficiency scores in this state dropped to 24% and we are last in the nation in education. Our PED needs to be honest with citizens and the legislature. More hours in class will not move the needle, as there are physical/emotional/intellectual limits to the amount of "catch-up" kids can do. Some kids will need to graduate late and need individualized remedial learning. We need to address the real problem as to why testing is so bad.

I don't believe teachers are to blame for the abysmal test results. We have excellent teachers here in our district in Los Alamos. Kudos to our amazing teachers and staff. The Common Core curriculum in this state and across the nation is a proven failure. Numbers don't lie. Traditional learning with reading and math needs to come back. I take my child out of math class in the public school to homeschool using traditional instruction. My child is a full grade ahead and tested in the 99th percentile last year in reading and math, both of which I am responsible for having taught. I would love to see our public school children benefit from traditional learning like so many of us succeeded with. They deserve to be successful. Give our teachers and students what is needed, a better curriculum, not more exhausting hours and disruptions to their schedules. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Valerie Fox
650 San Ildefonso Rd. Apt. #A6
Los Alamos, NM 97544
(360) 635-2789

Valerie Fox

From: [Cheryl Reich](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Cheryl Reich](#); [John Reich](#); [Andrea Scarberry](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Alice King Community School
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 1:10:07 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

My grandchildren attend 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 grandchildren and family. The 4-day school week provides our entire family the opportunity to support our grandchildren'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,
John & Cheryl Reich*

From: [Laurel Conner](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6. 10 .5 school calendar
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 1:16:43 PM

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

As a tax paying citizen of Los Alamos, who supports our school district, I object to these proposed changes to the school calendar. I cannot see how these changes will enhance the education of our students. I can see how it will burden all of us especially our already overworked teachers. Please reconsider these proposed changes.

Thank you,
LaurelConner
laurellux@hotmail.com

December 15, 2023

Claire Bergeron
310 Hwy 211
P.O. Box 14
Gila, NM 88038
575-519-2568

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a profoundly concerned New Mexico citizen, parent, and teacher who strongly opposes PED's new policy NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements" to add more school days to the year and eliminate the option of 4-day weeks. Last year, HB 130 increased the required school hours, which increased school days. The bill passed despite scores of educators and parents vehemently opposing the measure. We had to accept it. Now, not more than a year later, without any time to observe the results of the new change, you are proposing more change. This new proposal seeks to add days and micromanage how schools and districts distribute these hours. This proposal takes the decision-making power out of the hands of the parents, educators, and the communities we serve, with no regard for what is best for said families and students. This force-fed, mandated, from-the-top-down approach *greatly alarms me* as it is a trend I see commonly in our modern education system.

Pasi Sahlberg is one of the world's most respected authorities on educational improvement. In addition to being a teacher, teacher-educator, and professor of education policy, he was Director General at Finland's Ministry of Education.¹ Among other notable awards, he served as visiting professor at Harvard. He explains that he is frequently asked this question by national leaders: "How can we improve our schools?" He lists five suggestions, the first of which he suggests to "prepare and treat teachers like professionals, with advanced graduate-level, intensely clinical training in teaching theory and practice, childhood development, educational research, and leadership; put these teachers in charge of your schools; and respect them as elite professionals." (Sahlberg & Doyle, 2019, p. 31) Although most administrators and educators have the type of preparation he suggests and constantly undergo training, this proposal does not put them in charge. Instead, it undermines them. PED's proposal sends a clear message to educators and the community that we are incompetent and cannot be trusted to decide what is best for their students and their community. This measure proposed by PED directly opposes the advice given by this expert as it weakens, disrespects, and disempowers teachers and inhibits their ability to make decisions that are best for their students. Instead of putting teachers in charge, it deprives them of agency.

PED's proposal actually goes against all of Sahlberg's recommendations. To summarize further points, he encourages collaboration instead of competition, funding fairly, "an atmosphere of warmth, support, and well-being, instead of stress, overwork and fear," and "regular periods of playful learning and discovery." (Sahlberg & Doyle, 2019, pp. 31-32) In fact, none of his

¹ "Finland's schools have attracted a lot of attention in the last 15 years, because Finnish students have performed very well in the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) tests, an international benchmark standardized test supervised by AOECD." (Sahlberg & Doyle, 2019, p. 19)

suggestions recommend heavy-handed measures that take the decision-making power out of the hands of local teachers, nor do his recommendations involve imposing scheduling mandates that go against the will and well-being of communities.

As educators, we are life-long learners and researchers. Working in the classroom is an ongoing feedback loop. Teachers observe students and plan with the best knowledge and information based on what they know and what students know. Teachers can then implement the lessons, observe, reflect, assess, and adapt. This observation, reflection, and assessment communicates to the teacher what is happening with students and informs further planning. This efficient and beautiful cycle optimizes learning and time. It ensures that learning is appropriate for learners. The inability of a teacher to effectively connect with a student and to adapt appropriately creates a disconnect in which the teaching and learning process becomes compromised. Similarly, administrative bodies need to understand what is happening within individual schools. If not, they cannot provide effective support, and as it were, in this situation, they may attempt to “improve schools.” However, they may hinder their success and threaten their very existence. In this sense, PED’s proposal offers no “collaboration” as recommended by Sahlberg but instead creates conflict and an atmosphere of oppression.

In my classroom at the Cliff school, which operates on a 4-day week, I have observed that this model is very effective and optimizes learning time while also giving families and children much-needed family time and time for other meaningful pursuits.

One advantage to the 4-day model is a more extended school day. This longer school day means we have more time for class activities and can go more in-depth with learning. It means I have time to provide extensions for students to ask questions, have in-depth discussions, provide individualized support, and do activities that make learning more meaningful, such as experiments, outings, or cooking. We have time, for example, to stop and look at ants on the sidewalk or birds’ nests and ask questions and make observations that can lead us into in-depth cross-curricular investigations involving science, literacy, math, and art, which in September led to an award-winning fair project. For young children, this timeframe is essential, as children need their own time processes. A colleague who worked with me in a 4-day school week and then went to a 5-day week program commented that she felt like they were “constantly rushing the children around.” Our 4-day schedule supports me in creating a learning environment that builds foundational skills such as focus, interest, and curiosity. It better enables me to make the playful learning opportunities that Sahlberg recommends.

Four-day weeks have proven to be efficient. The longer school days in a 4-day week context reduce overall transition time, which involves not only school-home transitions but also within-school transitions. When my students come in from home, many of whom travel 30+ miles, they are tired. It can take them time to adjust to being at school again. The home-school transition takes much daily energy for the parents, teachers, and children. Five-day weeks would add undue stress to families and teachers regarding transportation time and cost. (This extra cost also applies to the state regarding funding). I have experienced lengthy drives of up to one hour, one way to transport myself and my children to school/work. The four-day week eases this burden and makes it much more feasible for the families and teachers living and serving in rural areas. Spreading out our schedule into a 5-day week would waste precious instruction time. First, this would shorten the instructional periods themselves. Second, for the same amount of required

instructional hours, a five-day week loses more time to transitions than a four-day week. For example, a school devotes 5 hours a week or 300 minutes to math instruction if we grant 5 minutes at each end for transitioning into and out of the activity. The 5-day week would have 50 minutes of wasted time, while the 4-day week would lose only 40. The four-day week means a more significant percentage of instructional time is devoted to instruction. Factoring in transition time, the four-day week could offer 65 minutes of focused class time, while the 5-day week could offer only 50 minutes. This compounds for each class and activity per day and has more of a substantial impact on instructional time per week. How much time would be lost in another full day of transitions each week, week after week? There are the transitions to and from lunch, recess, specials, etc. The five-day model ultimately means more time at school (including transitions), less time engaged in focused learning, and less depth of learning. The 4-day model can offer benefits in promoting more in-depth learning and represents a more efficient use of time and resources.

This proposal overlooks our rural culture, values, and traditions, supplanting them with an urban model that does not fit our community. This policy has a strong urban bias, which neglects our rural culture and needs. Many people in urban settings cannot imagine living an hour or more of travel time from a grocery store, and yet this is a reality in our rural communities. In my community, we learn to manage our travel time efficiently, not to exhaust ourselves and our resources. Travel time can easily be several hours for routine medical and dental appointments. Again, this is a concept many urban dwellers are unfamiliar with, representing a bias resulting in unfair funding, giving advantages to urban schools and other schools from which the 5-day week may benefit. This is another example of how PED's proposal conflicts with Salhberg's recommendations.

In July 2018, a district court ruled in *Yazzie vs. Martinez* that the PED was found to have neglected, ignored, and failed to provide for the specialized educational needs of many of its families and students, particularly indigenous and English language learners. (New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, n.d.) PED's new proposal creates doubts that the PED has learned its lesson about the necessity to support culturally diverse students and to differentiate its approach.

The extra day off has enabled me to be a single mother, teacher, and graduate student simultaneously. I have been working as a teacher pursuing alternative licensure. I don't think I would have been able to go this far without the 4-day week. As I conclude this program, I would love the opportunity to continue school to pursue a master's degree in education, but without the four-day week, I am not sure I will be able to accomplish this. News of these new mandates fills me with such deep discouragement and despair. Despite my profound love and enthusiasm for teaching, I seriously question my decision to invest the last several years of my life in pursuing a teaching license. These new forced policies discourage teachers. It pushes veteran teachers toward retirement while dispiriting newer teachers such as myself at a time when effective teachers are desperately needed.

A weekday off from school gives teachers essential downtime for planning, prepping, training, self-care, family obligations, and maintenance. I and other teachers spend many hours off, including the weekends, working to complete all the behind-the-scenes parts of education.

This preparation, planning, and training time results in more effective lessons. I have also observed that when I am not overworked and overwhelmed, I provide a higher-quality learning experience for students. It allows me and other families time to take their children to appointments or to include them in meaningful activities without missing school/work. The four-day week gives teachers and students family time and time to pursue other enriching activities. The 4-day week allows teachers to come in more prepared, enthusiastic, and able to provide “an atmosphere of warmth, support, and well-being, instead of stress, overwork and fear” for students, as it is more humane and supportive of teachers and students. (Sahlberg & Doyle, 2019, p. 32) This is yet another way PED’s proposal conflicts with Sahlberg. Also the new proposal excludes this essential planning and training time from instructional hours which adds more stress and burden to already overworked teachers.

The Cliff School, a 4-day school in the Silver Schools District, is well-known for its academic excellence, and many people who have other, much closer options in Silver City choose this school for their children because they want something better. Many staff members also travel 30+ miles from Silver City because they prefer this school as a work environment. The 4-day week supports staff, students, and families as it facilitates this. With a five-day week, many parents and staff might feel that choosing to travel to Cliff School is no longer viable. The 4-day week gives people more choices in schools for their children. It allows the Cliff School a more extensive base for staff. Conversely, if the Cliff School switched to a five-day week, it would represent an additional hardship for this vital part of our school. It would undoubtedly reduce enrollment and make hiring and maintaining staff harder. The result would be a reduction in the quality of education and opportunity.

There are a lot of different ideas and approaches to curriculums and scheduling. Although I appreciate the merits of the 4-day week and I think that other communities might also benefit from it, it may not work for everyone. In education, we differentiate learning: not all students are the same. Similarly, not all communities are the same. I do not propose that the 4-day week should be imposed on communities if it does not work for them, nor should a five-day week be imposed on others. Different models have advantages and disadvantages, but it is destructive to mandate approaches that contradict the evidence of what is successful. The Cliff School, a 4-day school in the Silver Schools District, is well-known for its academic excellence, and many people who have other, much closer options in Silver City choose this school for their children because they want something better. Many staff members also travel 30+ miles from Silver City because they prefer this school as a work environment.

The 4-day week supports staff, students, and families as it facilitates this. With a five-day week a lot of parents and staff might feel like the choice to travel to Cliff School is no longer a viable option. The 4-day week enables people more choices in schools for their children. It enables the Cliff school a larger base for staff. Conversely, if the Cliff School were to switch to a five-day week, it would represent an additional hardship for this important part of our school. It would undoubtedly reduce enrollment and make hiring and maintaining staff harder. The result would be a reduction in the quality of education and opportunity. This threatens the very existence of our school, as another rural school in this region, the Glenwood School, closed not long ago.

To summarize, the 4-day week provides many advantages for the Cliff school. These advantages include promoting in-depth learning, using time and resources more efficiently, and increasing instructional time and quality by delivering necessary planning, prep, training, and rest time for teachers. The 4-day week eases the burden of transportation on staff and families.

The 4-day week helps our school to be excellent and an accessible option sought out by families that want a better education for their children. In addition, the 4-day week is more humane, supporting children and teachers in being more well-rounded.

As a mother, I am outraged about the lengthening of the school year for my children and the extended transit time they experience getting to and from school. This mandate robs us of precious family time and at-home time. I have no concerns about my children's education. I have chosen an educational setting that works for them, and I trust their teachers. If this setting ceases to be effective, I will make appropriate changes and decisions. I assure you that I know my children, and you do not. I love my children and want what is truly best for them, and I guarantee that I am qualified above any others to decide what is best for them. I can see that they are thriving in this situation without additional days. While I have zero concerns that my children will be well-educated and able to accomplish what they set out to do in life, I have a great deal of anxiety about them not having enough time at home and spending so much time in transit. I have abundant worry about not spending enough time with them. I am disconcerted about not having time to take them on trips for enrichment and to connect with family, and I am distraught about them missing out on the simple joys and experiences of childhood because they spend too much time in school.

I realize that just because my children are thriving, it does not mean all children are. Targeted plans should be developed for those students for which interventions or additional supports are necessary. Adding school days is not a given that these students will receive the support they need. This is a case in which teachers, who know and understand their students, should be given agency and support to develop plans that will support these students. Additional targeted small group or one-on-one instruction for these students could be a much better use of time and resources than extending school for students already thriving. Family involvement, home environment, and other factors must be considered to improve education.

Factors such as economic hardship also play into this. Changes should be made with a lot of care and collaboration. Changes need to be sensitive to the specific needs of communities. Instead of imposing crippling mandates, PED should be asking schools and teachers: What do you need to be more successful, to enhance education, and to support students. Even 4-day schools that are struggling should not be punished but supported. Because there are complex factors at play, individualized plans should be developed for and by schools and districts **in collaboration with** PED, which would involve active input from community members, families, teachers, and local administrators to identify and implement strategies that would effectively produce the desired outcomes of higher-quality education. This type of planning would empower instead of cripple communities, teachers, families, and students.

People often look at countries like Finland and ask what makes their education system successful? Sahlberg does not recommend that other countries do exactly what Finland does as

they do it. He recognizes that there is a lot of cultural variation and what works well in one place may not work well in another. Instead, he condenses his recommendations into some generalized points that are applicable in various contexts and countries. As I have addressed all of Sahlberg's points, it is clear that PED's proposal is not going to enhance excellence but propel us dramatically in the wrong direction. I think that New Mexico should also be asking itself the question: "What will enhance education in our state," and they should devote themselves to this principle. This proposal indicates that PED is clinging instead to ideas that threaten to deteriorate and degrade the educational system. I wonder how many children will suffer at the hands of this proposal, and I am depressed when I contemplate the answer.

I sincerely implore you: do not make decisions to our detriment. I ask you to listen fully and deeply to our stories and seek to understand what it is like to walk miles in our shoes and drive so many miles on our beautiful rural roads and to arrive at our lovely schools where we devote our hearts and minds so fully.

I will not be able to attend the hearing on this matter on the 18th, but I am sending along with those that are able to attend, my hopes, my prayers, and my letter along with the letters of others in the community so that PED will see reason and abandon this destructive and reckless proposal.

Thank you for your consideration,



Claire Bergeron

New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty. (n.d.). *Yazzie Vs. Martinez*. Retrieved from New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty: <https://www.nmpovertylaw.org/subissues/yazzie-martinez-v-state-of-new-mexico/>

Sahlberg, P., & Doyle, W. (2019). *Let the Children Play*. NY: Oxford.



December 16, 2023

Mr. Secretary:

The NMCEL and NMSSA object to the rule 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements as currently proposed as follows:

6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements:

The proposed rule does not conform to the actions of the state legislature in recently signed and incorporated statute of HB 130 Laws of 2023. The intent of the 2023 HB 130 clearly set the calendaring of the school year to the local districts as long as the minimum instructional hours of 1140 were met. This clearly allowed variability of construction of school calendars to the local school board and allowed the necessary variability to assure that instructional time met with the conditions and abilities of each local district. The most egregious of the language is in **6.10.5.8.A** requiring high school students to attend at least 4 periods of a given day which eliminates a broadly used "Block scheduling" strategy to block certain classes for 2 hours for laboratory enhancements, CTE curriculum delivery or other extended academic classes including but not limited to concurrent enrollment with colleges and universities and community colleges as well as the practices engaged in through early college high schools throughout the state effectively producing a new policy that removes these excellent practices from the options offered by local districts; **6.10.5.8.B** which removes remote instruction except in the limited "not to exceed 4 days or 32 hours" effectively eliminating on line classes through external sources such as Grand Canyon University or other outside enhanced learning offerings often employed by rural and non-rural districts as a means to extend options for students as the need for qualified staffing increases; **6.10.5.8.C** which forces school years to succumb to a one size fits all, 20th Century construct of 180 days as the delivery platform for every student and therefore eliminating the practice of 39 school district (especially rural districts) prevailing since 1972 in New Mexico to utilize a four day week calendar, and instead use a 5 day calendar, that will assuredly create significant upheaval of practice, staffing, and communities far and wide in New Mexico in violation of other statutes that have allowed this practice for over 50 years; **6.10.5.8.D** defining the length of day to between 5.5 and 7.5 hours effectively eliminating 21st Century options of a varied instructional calendar for students that is only limited by the agreement between the district, student, and parents for "best fit" flexibility to a student's schedule. "One size does not fit all" is an increasingly necessary tenant that must be followed in public education as intensive supplemental instruction and tutoring and diversity of instructional time becomes relevant to planning for student well-being.

We urge that the rule NOT BE ADOPTED and that an engagement of school superintendents and school leaders occur to correct these deficiencies.

Sincerely:

/Stan Rounds/signature on file

Stan Rounds

New Mexico Coalition of Educational Leaders
Stan Rounds, Executive Director
6600 Palomas, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
Phone: (505) 217-2345 | Email: stan@nmcel.org

From: [Amy Morrison](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 1:43:10 PM

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Please note my opposition to this rule change. To best address individual needs of Local Education Agencies in New Mexico, we need to allow schools to design calendars based on number of hours, not number of days.

New Mexico is diverse in countless ways, including geology, climate, heritage, culture, and industry. Truly, our diversity is our strength. As a Junior High Science teacher, I teach important content to help students learn about the world around them. I hope they gain awareness and appreciation of the scientific phenomena surrounding them in everyday life. As critical as this knowledge is, nothing is more important to me than showing my 133 individual students that I care about them. I cannot expect to approach teaching or even simple interactions with students by treating them all exactly the same. Please consider that the diversity of our state requires that we allow individual school districts to design their school calendars as they currently do; by considering and addressing their community's unique needs.

Sincerely,
Amy Morrison
Parent, teacher, community member
Artesia Public Schools
Artesia, NM

From: [Tanya Trujillo](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 4 Day School Week
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 2:39:57 PM

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To whom it may concern:

My family is for the 4 day school week. It allows my children sufficient time each day to study subjects instead of being rushed through. Give them time to absorb what they are learning.

Living in a rural area/small community. The 4 day school week benefits our family by allowing us to travel on our day off during the week to attend appointments without having to take the kids out of school. Without childcare options in rural areas it also helps to align parents work day with the children's schedule.

The 4 day school week helps the school with staffing, which is hard to obtain in rural areas. Saving on utilities and keep up attendance numbers. As well as giving educational staff time to engage with the students with being rushed through the day.

I have raised two kids that attended the regular school and now two that have attended 4 day school week. My younger children don't get burned out and really enjoy their 4 day week. It works for our family and community. Grouping all schools together is not always with best for everyone.

Respectfully,

Tanya

From: [Susan Smith](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: act@atfunion.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback 180-day school year
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 3:10:15 PM

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Hello,

I'm writing in opposition to the proposed rule change that would create a 180-day school year.

Working with students every day, what I see is that students need the kind of support that extra days of school will not offer. Those include smaller class sizes, more individualized attention/intervention from specialized teachers, counselors, and social workers who can work to address the problems our students face outside the classroom, like poverty, housing & food insecurity, and cognitive disabilities.

Another common problem is student apathy. At the middle school level, we need interventions for failing students. Rather than adding more school days, we should be funding summer school programs and remediation for students who fail or fall behind in their classes. Sending students who fail multiple classes to high school is setting them up for further failure.

At the high school level, eliminate graduation rates at part of the funding criteria. This doesn't incentivize students to learn; it incentivizes high schools to bend over backwards to graduate unqualified students.

The onus for student success shouldn't just fall on teachers. It needs to be a shared responsibility among parents, teachers, the students themselves, and the community. Students don't often have the ability to foresee the effects of their bad decisions, and if parents or schools decline to enforce consequences for students who refuse to participate in their own education, then there is no incentive for students to succeed.

New Mexico students face many challenges, but more time in school isn't a panacea. While schools can't change what happens outside its walls, they can help alleviate some of the problems with proper staffing of teachers, social workers, and other resource staff, and ensuring students who are failing get needed interventions. Let's start there.

[Susie Smith](#)

Librarian

Truman Middle School

9400 Benavides Rd SW

Albuquerque, NM 87121

505-836-3030 ext. 58124

"Take chances, make mistakes, get messy!" -- Ms. Frizzle

From: [Laura Cartelli](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 4:01:04 PM

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to state my extreme opposition to the proposed changes in *NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"*. I am a parent to 2 high school students in Los Alamos Public Schools.

The changes set forth in this proposal will not serve out students in New Mexico well and will likely lead to a negative and not positive change.

Please do not implement this change in the requirements. New Mexico students deserve educational improvements, but punitive schedule changes will not give them that.

Thank you,
Laura Cartelli
505-412-2237

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From: [Myles Cartelli](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 4:07:12 PM

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to state my extreme opposition to the proposed changes in *NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements*. I am a parent to 2 high school students in Los Alamos Public Schools.

In particular, the requirement that free periods will no longer be allowed is of great concern. My son is a junior and has greatly benefitted from the ability to hold down a part time job. This sort of experience will be much more difficult to accomplish without a free period.

Please do not implement this change in the requirements. New Mexico students deserve educational improvements, but punitive schedule changes will not give them that.

Thank you,
Myles Cartelli
505-412-1645

From: [Anthony Stout](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC comment
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 4:32:09 PM

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Hello,

My child has attended Desert Willow Family School for 5 years. I am very pleased with the educational outcomes at this school, and the growth in our child's performance. DWFS is a high-achieving school, with proven results shown in our very high state and national test schools. We are project-based, inquiry inspiring, and the impact of our at-home day is in our test scores - the top 5 in the state!

We have 4 in-person days, and **1 homeschool day**. The PED requires 1,140 hours of instruction per year. As a hybrid school, Desert Willow's hours are shared between homeschooling and in-class work at the rate of 50/50% or 80/20%. When we set our schedule, we account for homeschooling hours weekly, including a full instructional day on Mondays, with parents who have been trained as homeschool instructors. Because we assign the majority of the homeschooling and students keep homework logs and other records, we know those instructional hours are completed according to a rigorous curriculum.

While I see that the proposed amendment makes exceptions for "optional instructional programs, charter schools, and schools without attendance boundaries.", it is my sincere hope that Desert Willow, as a magnet school without attendance boundaries, be given a waiver to this proposed rule, and keep our unique schedule.

Respectfully,

Anthony Stout

From: [Allison Washburn](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED; aftnmaction@gmail.com](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 6:06:08 PM

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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 Second Grade 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 are half days, starting at 8:30 and ending at 12:00. Due to this abbreviated Wednesday schedule, our students are able to catch up on school work, go to the doctor without missing school, still enjoy family time, join a club, and/or participate in various community activities. 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.

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 NMAC Rule 6.10.5 and vote no on Monday December 18th.

Thank you for your consideration,
Allison Washburn
Second Grade Teacher
Aspen Elementary School
Los Alamos Public Schools

--

Allison Washburn
[Aspen Elementary School](#)
2nd Grade Teacher
National Board Certified Teacher



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This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Nicholas Marshall](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 7:45:52 PM

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To Whom it may concern,

The proposed change to the school schedule I believe is a grave mistake. I have a child in middle school and a child in elementary school and both of them are going to school more hours than I ever did as a child and are having to do more work and under more pressure. While I appreciate the desire to ensure our children are getting the best educational outcomes possible, increasing the hours they are in school is not the correct solution. If you look at European schools, children are going to school less than children in America and have much better educational outcomes. Children need more time for free expression and discovering things for themselves and less directed study.

Adding school hours is not only bad for the children, it is also taking away prep time and continuing education time from the teachers. This is highly counterproductive as the best way to improve children's educational outcome is to ensure you have well trained, well paid teachers who are not so burnt out from having to do even more class prep on their own time then they already do.

In conclusion the plan to extend the hours kids are in school is a mistake and should not be implemented. It will not only add more of a burden on already overworked kids causing worse educational outcomes, it will also reduce the ability of teachers to prepare for classes and continue their training. The number of ways this will adversely impact children's educational outcomes far outweigh any possible benefit of having children in classes for longer.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Marshall

From: pnlgrano@aol.com
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 8:03:24 PM

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

To: NM PED,

I am writing to you in opposition to NMAC Rule 6.10.5. My reasons for opposing this rule are as follows:

1. The students are already in school for more hours per year. I understand that this was a state mandate that was implemented to make up for learning loss. Not enough time has passed since this went into effect to ascertain whether or not more hours is effective in catching NM students up.
2. The governor, and she alone, is the single most responsible person who caused most of this learning loss by shutting down in-person schooling for nearly 2 years due to politics. Nothing was implemented by the state to ensure this doesn't happen again, so our governor could shut everything down again resulting in more learning loss. Why should NM kids have to keep adding more school hours to make up for the governor's short-sightedness?
3. I am also concerned with this mandate being funded once the oil revenues begin to decline within the next decade. The governor is anti-fossil fuel and it is this energy source that provide most of the funding for the state, including the schools. What will happen once the revenues decline? Throwing money foolishly doesn't necessarily equate to good results. Holding students (and their parents) accountable for their behavior and academics will go much further than adding more days to the school year.

Paul Grano

This rule has several changes that will impact our schools.

1. The new rule would require districts to provide 1140 hours of instruction AND a minimum of 180 days each school year. This is a change from legislation that allowed districts to count hours NOT days.
2. The rule no longer allows the district 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.
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. This would eliminate the ability to have early release Wednesdays for elementary teacher planning and prep. We would have to consider releasing elementary students earlier each day to meet teacher planning requirements. We are still

learning how this would impact advisement and testing days at the secondary level.

4. The rule requires secondary students to take 4 credit bearing classes each day (8 classes each week). Currently, LAPS secondary schools use a block schedule that has 3.5 classes each day for a total of 7 classes a week. This means that we will have to change the master schedules at LAHS and LAMS.
5. High School students would not be allowed to take a free period. This means that we would need to add additional classes, teachers, or have larger class sizes to ensure all students are placed in 4 credit bearing courses each day.
6. LAHS students would complete a total of 32 credits. Graduation requirements are for students to complete 24 credits.
7. The rule change would go into effect for the 24/25 school year. The new calendar and class schedules would need to be finalized, approved, and submitted before the budget is submitted in April.

As a school district, we are concerned about the sudden change in requirements. We are also deeply concerned that the rule would be at odds with the law. We believe that this rule has unintended consequences that will limit critical staff planning time and be disruptive to our secondary schools. Although we are still working to understand the overall impact of this rule change, 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.

From: [Maria Acosta](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Alice king community school
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 8:24:50 PM

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

To Whom It May Concern:

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,
Maria Acosta*

From: [Barbara Kaldi](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Revised School Schedule
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 8:25:16 PM

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

The proposed change to the school schedule will adversely impact the well being of our children and the quality of work and work environment of our fantastic teachers. I have a child in middle school and a child in elementary school and both of them are going to school more hours than I ever did as a child and are having to do more work and under more pressure, all in order for them to score well in the standardized tests. While I appreciate the desire to ensure our children are getting the best educational outcomes possible, increasing the hours they are in school is not the correct solution. The children will lose whatever little joy they still find in learning.

If you look at European schools, children are going to school less than children in America and have much better educational outcomes. Children need more time for free expression, outdoor activities, and spending time with their families. Please don't forget that on top of being in school most of the day and subsequently most of the week, students more often than not also have homework. When are they supposed to just be kids?

I already know teachers (I was a sub at one point) that spend their own time at home as prep time, this new schedule will take away precious in-school prep time from the teachers causing them loss of wages, as they are working at home uncompensated. It will also reduce the quality of teaching since there will be less prep time available.

In conclusion the plan to extend the hours kids are in school is a mistake and should not be implemented. It will not only add more of a burden on already overworked kids causing worse educational outcomes, it will also reduce the ability of teachers to prepare for classes and continue their training. The number of ways this will adversely impact children's educational outcomes far outweigh any possible benefit of having children in classes for longer.

Sincerely,
Barbara Kaldi Marshall

From: [John and Kathy WAKEFIELD](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Against rule change
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 8:31:38 PM

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As a former teacher I must voice my dismay about the rule change proposed by NMPED. The new calendar with extended time for students and additional time for professional development has been in effect for 5 months. There are new start times for different age groups. This new schedule needs a few years to be able to study it and see if it is working before more changes are made! Having kids in school more days with exhausted teachers will not improve much and will encourage teachers to leave or retire. Teachers have had one mandate after another. Enough! Let them teach. Truancy is through the roof. Why not hire social workers and counselors to work with these families and their children. Teachers can't teach students who don't show up. NMPED needs to support teachers. By trying to sneak in this rule change, PED has lost their credibility along with the trust of educators and families. We want family time with our children and time for them to pursue other interests outside of school. Please look into what the state of Tennessee is doing to catch up students who are behind. They have initiated small group tutoring before or after school. Test scores in Tennessee are going up quickly. Be creative, think outside the box, ask teachers what they need to succeed. Are there even educators working at PED? Thank you! Katherine Wakefield

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [L.Francom](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:07:29 PM

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Dear NMPED,

Regardless of whether the changes are good or bad for our students, I believe that NMPED is failing to give districts adequate time to prepare for this unexpected change that dramatically impacts our students, teachers, and families.

I support AFT-Los Alamos, the LAPS School Board, and the LAPS administration and am in agreement that we do NOT support the adoption of the proposed rule change.

Thank you,

Lyndee Francom

Parent, Los Alamos Public Schools

From: [Valarie Bullington](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Changes to 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:08:00 PM

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

This email is to inform you of my dissatisfaction of the school year being longer. Maybe if you made a law punishing “bad parents” instead of punishing everyone one else, that would be appreciated. Please let me know if you are willing to make changes or kindly disregard this asinine request.

From: [Michela Ombelli](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Saturday, December 16, 2023 9:48:32 PM

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Dear Dr. 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 AP, Honors, On-Level, and Inclusion Chemistry 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 dual enrollment classes, 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 regarding the school calendar 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 re envision our schedule to have 4 completely different classes per day in our two day block rotation, totalling 8 classes per semester. This would be a problem for students because the two day block schedule reduces stress and the block 90 minute period allows for greater depth of learning, a critical component for college-bound learners.

This change would be problematic for staff because this mandate appears to be completely unfunded placing the burden of funding on our already understaffed and underfunded school districts. Our contracted bargaining agreement would need to be completely overhauled in the midst of an already short turnaround for turning in a district budget and calendar to PED.

Los Alamos High School is already understaffed with ballooning class sizes. This mandate would exacerbate the staffing shortage. The way this rule is written we would have to completely change our master schedule and hire more teachers to teach more classes. Our real need is to reduce the number of students in the classes we already teach to ensure

that students are receiving high quality instruction.

The proposed 6.10.5.6. A would also greatly impact the flexibility that our senior students have in their schedules because this rule essentially increases the number of classes required for graduation. New Mexico already has one of the highest graduation credit requirements in the United States. For some students, this rule change would have the unintended consequence of reducing their ability to participate in the work force and by taking dual credit and AP classes.

Additionally, the 6.10.5.6. proposed change would impact staff in that we would have to work more hours but the time we need for professional development and training in high quality instructional materials would be reduced. Student instruction will suffer under this new rule.

I ask NM PED to reconsider implementing NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements. There is no solid data from either the NM PED or from national studies that state that student achievement will increase with more seat time in the classroom. Students will benefit far more from clear attendance policies that address the root causes of chronic absenteeism, reducing class sizes and reducing the workload of Special Education teachers.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dr, Michela Ombelli, PhD
AP, Honors, On-Level, and Inclusion Chemistry teacher
Los Alamos High School



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Barbara Brandon](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [ACT ATF](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 7:41:49 AM

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Dear PED Staffer,

As a teacher at Grant Middle School in Albuquerque, I do not appreciate the outrageous circumvention of state law you are proposing with your 180 day Rule Change. House Bill 130, which just passed in the last legislative session has already mandated 1,140 instructional hours.

As an educator and employee, having my working conditions haphazardly altered makes my life and ability to teach more difficult. I ask you to rescind this proposal.

In the future, please consider giving educators consistency and support rather than capricious decisions.

Thank you,

--

Barbara Brandon, LCSW

Social Worker/Trabajadora Social

Grant Middle School SESS II Program

(505) 299-2113 ext. 30520

Google Voice Number: (505) 750-4308

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From: [Jeremy Monjure](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule Change
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 7:46:06 AM

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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,
Jeremy Monjure*

From: [THEODORE JAMES](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.25 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:09:46 AM

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

This rule should not go into effect. Students motivation to go to school will plummet, and more people will begin to fail classes that are needed to graduate.



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Maggie Moore](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:11:37 AM

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

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 parent at Mountain Elementary School. Our teachers are currently contracted for 195 days, with 188 of those days being instructional days with our students. They 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. 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.

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 unintended but significant 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 Wednesday afternoons are currently designated as teacher prep time and the only time that our district can fit in the allotted average of 300 minutes of prep time that our collective bargaining agreement guarantees. 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 voting **no** on NMAC Rule 6.10.5.

Thank you for your consideration,

Maggie Moore, Concerned Constituent

From: [Sam And Rich Baca](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC 6.10.5
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:54:29 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,
Samantha Baca*

From: [Linda Seto](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 8:58:55 AM

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Response to House Bill 130 and Increased Instructional Time

As a result of significant debate and discussion, House Bill 130 was adopted in 2023 which increased the minimum number of instructional hours to 1140 statewide and incentivized local school districts to add additional instructional hours, based on community and district needs. **The legislation also preserved the availability for local school districts to structure their school calendars to meet local community needs, i.e. a 4-day school week.**

House Bill 130 also acknowledged the well-researched importance of professional collaboration among educators and the longitudinal evidence that this use of time not only improves students outcomes but also improves teaching practice and growth. The legislation also acknowledged the benefits of professional development, parent teacher conferences, and other efforts to enrich instructional time in our schools.

House Bill 130 represented a compromise to achieve our common goal of improving student outcomes while preserving local control and decision-making for all New Mexico schools and districts.

The proposed amendments emphasize instructional days as opposed to instructional hours and take away from local flexibility and control. The proposal penalizes districts and communities who have opted to institute a four-day school week.

This change, if implemented, will disproportionately impact our rural schools and students, resulting in higher educator turnover, longer ride times for student transportation, and increased district costs, while overriding locally created calendars which are a product of parent surveys, deep calendar committee work, and the balancing of educational needs. It would also have serious financial implications if there were increases to teacher contract days, increased meal and transportation costs and other operational expenses not fully funded.

The proposed amendments work against local decision making and are counter to supporting professional collaboration which the data supports as a method to improve student outcomes and hone educator skills. Requiring opportunities for professional development and professional work hours to exist outside of the minimum instructional hour

requirements unnecessarily lengthens the school year for educators, strains already tight operational budgets, and does not acknowledge the value of continuing education and professional skill development for our educator workforce.

Here at the Taos Integrated School of the Arts (TISA), we are proud of the progress our school has made. We are a K-8th public charter school with a student population of 204 students, located in a rural area. TISA is an example of how a 4-day week school can work towards improving student outcomes.

TISA had 96% attendance 2022-2023, the highest in Taos County and is among the 10 highest in the state of New Mexico. We are a spotlight school with a NM Vista score of 64%.

Our school has staff on campus from 7:30-5:30pm. We offer early drop off and free after care until 5:30pm. Our parents have rearranged their work schedules so that their children can spend the optimal amount of time at school in a supportive learning environment. If we went to a 5 day work week, we would be unable to offer these hours for our parents and students. In addition, there would not be staff available to fill the positions. We are able to have a fully staffed school because of the 4- day week. Parents are able to spend time with their families and students are able to have down time at home.

Therefore, I urge the New Mexico Public Education Department to withdraw these proposed changes so that this proposal conforms to state law as established by House Bill 130. I believe this will support our students' needs, community values, and educators.

Thank you for your consideration,
Linda Seto, Vice Principal, TISA

From: [V.H](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: act@atfunion.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:14:48 AM

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

Sir,

Please do NOT extend the school year! The students need breaks, yes, to absorb their learning and practice their new skills. They require reinforcement of this learning, yes. BUT if you want qualified teaching and care for these children to turn into decision-making adults with the ability to reason, you must turn your attention to the staff of all your schools. The students and staff need their summer breaks! Two-week breaks in the school year are too long for retention of learning but a week here and there will give the students time to practice their learned skills while giving the overworked staff a break to regroup so they can get back to their kids with new energy and ideas. Most of the parents are put into impossible child care situations by 2-week breaks during the school year that cannot be filled by the same APS off-season staff, older siblings or relatives that would be caregivers during the summer break. This has proven to promote neglectful and physical and emotional danger to children!

I am a responsible adult who raised 4 kids who ended up well-adapted and successful, and helped with many others. I have experienced Year-Round schooling, which only served irresponsible parents and politically motivated self-interests. I have experienced longer school breaks. I have seen this year's school calendar and its shorter break. I found out that you and your colleagues have required repetitive learning (I mean. Seriously???) Teachers are the most likely of anyone to retain their learning!!) for accredited teachers! But on their own time and at their own expense - you know they have to pay for childcare, travel, and supplies for relearning what they already know, right? This is not a reliable way to have our children taught!! You know this! Even if you put kids in private schools or home school you already know this!!

The way to end up with successful students is to fund successful processes, not cutting corners. You can only squeeze gold out of moon rocks in cartoons and video games! And if the motivation for the calendar changes is for creating a steady environment for children, you can address that with funding for the needs of the students, not burning them and the staff out by dragging them into the current untenable conditions! You know the staffing is disgracefully underfunded. The teachers, for example, are expected with little to no help (you know this as well as I do!) to create lesson plans, gather/create supplies for those lessons, parent their students by setting expectations and enforcing them (a whole job in itself!), complete intervention/special needs/testing/? requirements, purchase their own supplies in all cases, keep student records updated and required documentation submitted and followed up with, attend to the emotional and special needs of the students (how to do that without the staff and specialist support is beyond anyone's ability and you know this!) and complete even more certification than they already keep up with. All with clarity and understanding toward the students and caregivers and respect for Board mandates, no matter how ineffective. And don't get me started on discipline; we're back to parenting issues and the fact that your schools' staff have families of their own to deal with. If you have children or are around children of any age, you know you need a break to unwind and

reconnoiter.

I don't know what else these folks do. I've only seen it from the standpoint of a long-time volunteer at various locations and levels over the last several decades. I volunteered because they needed help, whether in the workroom, offices, classrooms or online. I recently was blindsided by the realization that the APS Board has been colluding to injure the learning process of New Mexico's children, undermining the future ability of our kids to become responsible but caring adults. I am asking you to really consider the needs of your children, your schools, your staff, your own future in retirement. Please give the calendar the ability to help you help them by putting one-week breaks and a decent summer break back in the system. Support funding for the schools. Please!

Kind Regards,
Vikki Holman

From: [trina shrader](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Against
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:35:38 AM

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

I am strongly against the proposed changes for NM graduating students.

In our area, our students take many AP and dual enrollment classes through High School. Between this and their extra curriculars and work opportunities, I don't see many of them having much time for personal development and mental health as it is. If we were to push one more required class on them per semester, enforce more hours in school, and more days in school, I am greatly concerned for the emotional well-being of our students and their opportunities for learning outside of the classroom. Our teens are stressed as it is- and asking them to do more academically is not going to solve the problem.

Additionally, the idea that free periods will no longer be an option is taking away the growth our school system has seen in meeting students where they are at and helping them to thrive in ways that work for them.

My second child took 3 AP classes per semester. His free period was a way for him to work on that homework during school hours so that when he came home for the 5 short hours he had before a healthy bedtime, he didn't have to fill all 5 hours with homework. Instead, he was able to volunteer in the community, enjoy time with his family, learn how to maintenance vehicles and other tasks that will assist him in a more successful adulthood of self sustainment, and so much more. Had he been required to fill that free period with another class, he would have not been afforded the opportunity of taking the level of classes he did. Instead of learning a few subjects really well, and getting college credit to assist his transition to college, he would have take more mediocre classes and not only learned less, but would likely have not found his passion for what he wanted to study in college. He would have felt burned out and lost his passion for learning.

On the other hand, my oldest filled all of his credit hours and struggled to get through High School. It wasn't until college where he had more hands-on experiences with his trade that he showed more passion and enthusiasm for learning. Being pushed into academic classes in High School is not what allowed him to thrive and find his place in society.

If we want our students to be well rounded, emotionally stable adults we need to offer more opportunities for them to explore learning in ways that work best for them instead of less opportunities as we try to fit them all into the same box.

Our school has an almost 100% graduation rate. Many of our students graduate High School having worked jobs, volunteered in the community, and with several college credits under their belt. If we change things in the proposed way, and require our students to spend more time adhering to more credits, more hours, and more days within the school, we are diminishing the opportunities they have to really prepare for adulthood. We all know that preparing to be a successful member of society is more than academics; so why are we pushing more and more academics and taking from the other areas of their lives? There is only so many hours in a day.

Trina Shrader
Los Alamos Public School District parent and avid volunteer

From: [Rebecca Musialowski](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Changes to HB130 Rule
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 9:51:12 AM

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To whom it may concern,

I am emailing to voice my opposition to the proposed change to HB130 rule. I believe that mandating all schools to have a 5 day school week does not serve the needs of every community. This change would take away the ability of districts to decide what best serves their communities - students, parents and educators alike.

My student attends a four day week school which has been recognized as a Spotlight school performing in the top 15% of the state for the past three years.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and rejecting the proposed change to the HB130 rule.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Musialowski

From: [g strawn](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 10:01:59 AM

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

[NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"](#)

Rule Feedback

As a long-time public-school teacher in New Mexico , I respectfully submit my feedback on the above pending rule. The New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) and members of the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) have been focused on **extended learning time** as the primary means to "fix" many of our academic woes. This approach excludes many other necessary and vital ways to help our students progress in school. Some of these include reduced class sizes, smaller caseloads for special educators, decreased time and resources spent on standardized testing, increased planning time for educators to allow for quality preparation and delivery of instruction, understanding student disengagement, addressing chronic absenteeism, resourcing mental health issues, and paying more for continually rising educator health care costs, to stabilize the workforce-to name a few.

Read more from NEA NM regarding our stance:

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/public-education-department-tramples-on-legislation-and-ignores-real-issues/ar-AA1crvp?ocid=mailsignout&pc=U591&cvid=20fb04e1fef64e749e416b5c52daa16e&ei=42>

Read more from AFT NM stance:

https://www.abqjournal.com/news/educators-fight-ped-on-proposed-180-day-calendar-rule/article_9193b220-9564-11ee-ad82-d3b2737bd0fe.html

The New Mexico Public Education Department is initiating a process to significantly alter provisions adopted in the 2023 Legislative Session, which extended the school year to a minimum of 1140 instructional hours. Within this legislation, House Bill 130, there were some positives (on top of additional instruction for our students) like professional collaboration hours, local flexibility in determining a district's academic calendar, and the preservation of a 4-day school week, which is critical for many rural districts.

Despite the law only being in effect for just over four months, Secretary Arsenio Romero and the New Mexico Public Education Department are claiming these changes are necessary because, "[House Bill 130 ... had very little effect.](#)"As

As a K-12 educator in our schools about these changes would impact me (taking retirement earlier than I planned), my profession, my colleagues, and my community in a negative manner.

The proposed rule would mandate 180 school days (a change in focus from instructional hours) for students exclusive of professional development days. This means educators will likely end up working closer to 190 days, if not longer.

The proposed rule also disincentivizes districts from including professional collaboration hours as part of their academic calendars and makes having a 4-day school week nearly impossible without a waiver granted from the New Mexico Public Education Department.

New Mexicans are recognizing the shortcomings of the proposed rulemaking, please read these recent articles on the issue:

[**Albuquerque Journal: 'Teachers ... will leave': educators decry proposed academic calendar changes from state Public Education Department**](#)

[**Santa Fe New Mexican: New Mexico poised to kick off big fight over local control of schools**](#)

[**My View \(Santa Fe New Mexican\), by Donna Teuteberg: Address societal problems to improve education**](#)

[**Opinion \(Albuquerque Journal\), by Mary Parr-Sanchez: Public Education Department tramples on legislation and ignores real issues**](#)

[**House GOP highlights strength in NM education – 25 GOP House Representatives oppose threats to 4-day school weeks/ am**](#)

The public comments that have been submitted, are overwhelming majority in opposition I am sure, because we know the impact will have as we serve in the classroom daily.

Finally, the New Mexico Public Education Department has scheduled a public hearing on Monday, December 18th at 1:30 in Mabry Hall at the Jerry Apodaca Education Building in Santa Fe. This is during the school day for many educators and others will be on a planned holiday leave. **Our unions will also be in Santa Fe to deliver comments in opposition to the proposed rule change. I will also be there in attendance because this is so important to stop.**

Ultimately, our profession and our unions will always advocate for a public education system which supports our students' needs, community values, and our member educators. We believe these amendments are an end-run around the legislative process and would encourage the Department to seek these changes through a normal process, debated in open sessions, and evaluated by our elected lawmakers, many of whom are experts themselves in education.

Finally, as consistently noted during previous administrations, the scheduling of in-person rule-making hearings during the school day (or during the holidays) disenfranchises thousands of educators from having a say in the governance of their profession and their ability to best serve their students.

We encourage the Lujan Grisham Administration against reversing course and undercutting the many positive changes we have all made together in the last six years and keep our collective focus on best serving our students, families, and New Mexico communities by honoring the practitioners and experts in our educational system.

To say the least, we are all discouraged by these events and the proposed rule changes. If adopted, we will continue to work with our union's educational partners – AFT-NM, NEA-NM, the New Mexico School Boards Association, the New Mexico Council of Educational Leaders, and members of the New Mexico Legislature – to determine next steps in addressing these short-sighted and detrimental changes to our public education system.

Thank you for your time, support, and any help!

Respectfully,

G.K. Strawn, on behalf of friends, family, and colleagues who will be impacted.
1535 Candlelight Dr
Las Cruces, NM 88011

575.571.1794

From: [Nancy Lomax Brooks](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Four to five-day school week
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 10:32:44 AM

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

To Whom It May Concern:

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.

Alice King has successfully operated on a four day week and the children and staff thrive and succeed. We specifically chose this school because the curriculum and four-day week work well with our family's values and lives as entrepreneurs and professionals. The staff have high satisfaction and do their jobs well, and we believe the four day week is a large part of that. We enjoy having an active role in our daughter's education. Why should educational choice for our children be limited to those with the funds to afford private school or home school? If the children are learning and thriving, why does the PED need to step in and destroy a good thing?

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

*Sincerely,
Nancy Brooks
505-730-2436*

From: [Camelia Gallagher](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Revoke proposed rule
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 10:47:50 AM

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RWCS

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 our concerns regarding the proposed rule on instructional time requirements (6.10.5 NMAC) and respectfully request the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) revoke the proposal as mentioned above. The legislature recently debated calendar reform, which has been implemented in schools for six months. There was significant debate on the calendar reform legislation in the 2023 legislative session. That debate led to a compromise on legislation that the Governor signed. We acknowledge the department's commitment to enhancing educational outcomes. However, given the recency of the new legislation and the Department's lack of statutory authority to execute this rule as proposed, we request that PED revoke this proposed rule and go through the legislative process to meet these requirements.

Direct Impacts to Our School

Roots and Wing Community School (RWCS), a K-8th grade, state-authorized charter school, is considered a 4-day/week school for calendaring purposes. This year, with the mandated calendar change last year, we are currently operating with 54% of our weeks as 5-day weeks with 171 student contact days meeting the required 1140 contact hour mandate. The majority of our students use a rural transportation system bus for transportation, and parents drive the rest. Our school hours are dictated by the bus schedule, which provides us with a fixed 6.5-hour school day. In addition to all the concerns that this rule proposes for all schools, we will be additionally penalized by enacting this rule as it currently reads.

- a. We will lose over \$92,000 (approximately 9% of our operating budget) in K-12 Plus funding. We will have to add nine (9) days to our calendar just to make 180 days, eliminating us from participating in the K-12+ program again. This will take us to 1,199 hours! So we are adding nine (9) days and 58.5 instructional hours to our calendar AND having our budget REDUCED!
- b. Last year, we had to add a net of seven (7) work days to our teacher contracts, so we added a stipend contract to all teaching staff, paying them for the additional seven days

with money from the K-12+ funding. This was an added expense of \$22,750.

c.

With this proposal, unless we significantly cut the limited number of PD days the teachers have, we will again have to pay the teachers a stipend for extra days with little or no K-12 Plus funding. Cutting teacher PD days is not an answer to improving student achievement or training high-quality teachers. If we don't offer the stipend, teachers will likely leave as we would ask them to work more days with no salary increase from the previous year.

Remote Days Issue

Our school is located in the Foothills of the Sangre de Cristo mountains at 8,200 ft. in northern Taos county, where we get a lot of snow. Since most of our students use the RTD public transportation to come to school and parents drive the rest, we can not do delayed openings as no bus is scheduled at those times. Therefore, we must cancel school if the surrounding districts call for a delay, or we would have to require parents to drive all students to school during unsafe driving conditions. The pandemic taught us that we can effectively learn remotely on days otherwise lost. By restricting us from using remote learning days instead of canceling school and due to the increased number of school days required by this rule, we would have to add days at the end of the year instead of continuing our instruction. Students and parents will NOT send their students to school at the end of the year to do make-up days, causing them to be wasted and increasing our absenteeism rate. Please allow us to use this remote learning tool without restrictions for weather and unexpected shutdowns.

Loss of Local Control and Staffing Issues

We have been a 4-day school since the school's beginnings over 20 years ago. We participated in the ELTP program and used the extra funding to provide more student contact time, teacher PD time, and enrichment programs to benefit our students. We were a Spotlight school in 2022 and are currently ranked as Traditional, and we have not been on any corrective action plans. Additionally, we received a 5-year contract renewal and continue to score very high on our annual site reviews by CSD/PEC. But last year, due to the increased contact hours, we eliminated most of our teacher PD days, and because of state rules/mandates, we were forced to eliminate a robust after-school enrichment program for our students. We know what works for our students and want what is best for them, but the continued implementation of these one-size-fits-all regulations is detrimental to the students and staff you are trying to help. Allow us to be innovative and successful, and stop handcuffing us with rules and mandates that prevent us from best serving our students and staff. Increasing staff workloads and decreasing professional development time are not ways to retain staff. This is especially true in rural areas where staff must travel hours to receive medical or basic life needs services. Working them five days a week will require them to take more days off and out of their classrooms.

Impacts to All Schools

State law clearly states that rule cannot run further than statute: 14-4-5.7(A): "No rule is valid or enforceable if it conflicts with statute. A conflict between a rule and a statute is resolved in favor of the statute." Within the proposed rule, several new policies lack statutory authority for PED to provide the mandates in the proposed rule:

- a. Statute clearly allows for school districts to meet statutory hourly requirements without regard to school days. In fact, NMSA 22-2-8 only allows the Secretary to waive minimum requirements associated with school hours in certain circumstances. It's unclear where the authority for a maximum number of hours is allowed in law. The law does not allow the Secretary to make mandates in our analysis. The statute is silent on the length of the school week except for language surrounding K-12 Plus funding (NMSA 22-8-23.14), which states that schools operating on a 4-day school week must have more than 156 school days to qualify for K12 Plus programming. This clearly provides for 4-day school weeks in law without any explicit authority for the secretary to mandate a length of school week. The proposed rule oversteps New Mexico school law by prescribing more than 50% of weeks to be five-day weeks. Further, the proposed rule mandates that schools must have 180 days to qualify for K-12 Plus funding, which directly contradicts the statute. It is essential to align the rule with statutory provisions on flexible scheduling for districts and charter schools. Revisiting the law to provide authority for the Secretary is necessary to implement the policy.
- b. The proposed rule introduces maximum hours in a school day without explicit statutory authorization. Identifying the specific statutory provisions granting the Secretary the authority to establish such limits is imperative. Further, this section of the proposed rule would not apply to charter schools that exercise a nondiscretionary waiver associated with "Length of School Day" NMSA22-8B-5(c).
- c. The rule mandates a 30-minute lunch period, which directly contradicts the 20-minute lunch period stipulated in statute (NMSA 22-13c-10). It is crucial to adhere to statutory limitations and recognize the bounds of PED's authority in prescribing lunch periods.

Moreover, the mandated requirement that secondary students attend a minimum of four courses per day (6.10.5.8(A) in the proposed rule) poses considerable challenges for dual-credit high schools. The potential impact on charter schools, exempt from course requirements through nondiscretionary waivers, and raises concerns about equitable application across all educational institutions. Should the proposed rule go through, this would be an area in which the state's public charter schools are exempt through non-discretionary waivers NMSA 22-8B-5(c).

The proposed rule does not seem to recognize the diversity of school performance across the state regardless of the school calendar. Some of the state's highest-performing schools are on 4-day calendars <<INSERT DATA>>. Students will face unnecessary disruptions by modifying their calendars without a clear risk-based justification. Acknowledging the success of existing calendar structures and avoiding unnecessary changes that may adversely affect student outcomes is imperative.

Lastly, PCSNM has regularly called for collaboration on the issue of attendance/chronic absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism has hovered around 40%, and the average New Mexico student misses 10.5 days of school. Focusing on changing student attendance status, in conjunction with all education partners, would provide a more impactful change than further calendar change.

In light of these concerns, we urge the PED to reconsider the proposed rule, pursue calendar

reform through the legislative process, and focus on leading New Mexico's communities in regularly getting our kids to school. This approach would provide the necessary statutory clarity and allow for comprehensive stakeholder engagement to address the diverse needs of our educational community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the PED will carefully consider the implications of the proposed rule and work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop solutions that prioritize the best interests of our students and educators.

Yours sincerely,

Camelia Gallagher

From: [Cynthia Bernal Herrin](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Romero, Arsenio, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 11:07:55 AM

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Dear PED staff,

I am writing both as a mother to a school aged child, a friend of those with school aged children, and a school social worker. Please do not implement the rule change proposed under 6.10.5.

You are correct, our public education system is in need of change. However, these mandates are not the answer.

-One of the easiest things NM PED can do to help with mental health support in the schools is to abide by its own NMAC 6.63.7 code that allows School Social Workers to advance based on 875 hours of experience and their professional licensure. (Current PED licensing staff are *not* abiding by this and it is affecting school social workers' morale.)

Of course, we also need more teachers. The move away from the Dossier is a great step.

-Another would be to have PED teaching licenses be based on education:

Level 1: Bachelor's

Level 2: Master's

Level 3: Master's+ 3 Years, Board Certification, and/or the required micro credentials. This would encourage more people to join the profession, facilitate retention, and encourage continuing education/professional growth.

-Additional suggestions include: collaborative teaching (ELA/SS & Math/Science blocks).

This would protect student access to learning since a teacher taking days off would not automatically mean having lost time as their peer(s) could provide a different lesson.

-Less computer/book work and more experiential learning.

-More discussions around ethics, social media, and assessing sources of information.

-For middle and high schools: Half day for core classes and half day for art, sports, work study, social skills, etc.

Work/life balance is imperative not just for educational staff, but also for our communities.

Playing sports, being in plays, talent shows, etc. All of these activities help build up our communities, improve mental health, and reduce the social thinning that COVID-19 exacerbated.

Please look for better ways to help our students and communities to regain faith in our public education by implementing changes that will result in more work/life balance.

Thank you,

Cynthia Bernal Herrin, LCSW

SUPERINTENDENT
Marvin MacAuley

MESA VISTA CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

District No. 6
P.O. Box 309
Ojo Caliente, NM 87549

Telephone: (505) 583-2645
Fax No.: (505) 583-2815



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Subject: Urgent: Unite for Local Control of Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools Calendar

Dear Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools Community,

I trust this message finds you well. We find ourselves at a critical juncture, confronted with a proposed rule changes by the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) that could significantly impact the structure of our academic calendar at Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools (MVCS).

The core of the matter revolves around NMPED's proposal to mandate a minimum of 180 student days per academic year, departing from our successful 155-student-day calendar over the past several years. From which we have had significant academic improvements. In addition, the accreditation rule change would substantially restrict local control and provide a mechanism for NMPED to remove local school governance leaving governance solely to NMPED. It is important to note that this shift lacks substantial research backing and may not necessarily lead to improved student outcomes. More alarming is the potential infringement on our local autonomy. The proposed amendments question the effectiveness of our current school calendar and jeopardizes our community's ability to make decisions that align with our unique needs and values. Local control has been a key factor in our success, and it is imperative that we protect it.

Now is the time for us to come together—school staff, parents, and community members—to voice our concerns and preserve our local decision-making authority. The final version of HB 130, detailing current instructional time requirements, can be found in Section 1 on page one of the bill.

Your input is pivotal in shaping the future of our school calendar. I urge you to review the proposed changes in the 6.10.5 NMAC (School Calendar Requirements) as well as the 6.19.4.1 (Accreditation Procedures) and share your perspectives by submitting written feedback via email to Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov. When providing feedback, please specify the rule(s) you are addressing.

Let us unite our voices and stand firm for what's best for our students, schools, and community. Together, we have the power to make a meaningful impact.

Thank you for your support and commitment to the success of Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools.

Yours in Leadership and Learning,

Sincerely,

Marvin MacAuley
Superintendent, Mesa Vista Consolidated Schools

MOSQUERO MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS

"Students are our Number 1 Priority!"

P.O. Box 258 • 43 McNeil Ave.

Mosquero, New Mexico 87733

Telephone: (575) 673-2271 Fax: (575) 673-2305

Johnna Bruhn, Superintendent

Pat Copeland, Business Manager

Margaret Green, Secretary

12/17/23

The Mosquero Municipal Schools Board of Education vehemently opposes proposed rule 6.10.5, a sentiment shared by myself as the Superintendent. We respectfully request that the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) transparently share the research underpinning their decision-making process. While numerous research studies present varied findings on student performance in math and reading, one resounding conclusion persists: exceptional teachers play a pivotal role in shaping outstanding learners.

Over the past three years, NMPED has commendably accelerated efforts to enhance teacher recruitment by augmenting salaries and benefits for all school personnel. However, the time-intensive process of staff turnover and the cultivation of outstanding educators takes time. Esteemed educational researchers like John Hattie and Linda Darling-Hammond emphasize that improved instruction significantly impacts student achievement and school culture. Shifting the focus to a 4-day school week, instead of prioritizing elevating teacher instruction, diverts attention from the critical factor influencing student achievement: excellent teachers.

Mandating 5-day weeks for schools currently operating on a 4-day schedule is counterproductive. It jeopardizes our most effective recruiting tool, undermines equity in customs and culture, and forces teachers and students to take entire days off to navigate the hundreds of miles required to access healthcare and specialists. This change threatens to push students toward home school or remote learning alternatives. Parents consider the 4-day school week crucial for developing agricultural career readiness and instilling work ethic aligned with rural communities, providing valuable time for alternative learning opportunities. Further, the cost association with a 25% increase in facilities, maintenance, district operations, bus and feeder routes will be overly burdensome to rural micro-districts that already struggle with budget constraints.

Mosquero has made strides in enhancing instruction through measures like instructional coaching and participation in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). These local initiatives require commitment and additional time from our teachers, yet the NMPED seems oblivious to these efforts. If the goal is to improve school culture and boost student achievement, let's invest in programs with proven research-backed results. HB 130 provides latitude for administrators to pursue transformational change through improved instruction.

Research consistently highlights that increasing time with underdeveloped teachers does not enhance student achievement. On the contrary, it risks diminishing school culture and student engagement. Shifting to a 5-day week may hasten teacher retirements, undermining the positive steps taken to improve recruitment and retention opportunities.

Proposed rule 6.10.5 undermines the legislative process, silencing the voices of educators and the community who contributed to its formation. It disregards local customs and culture, dilutes equity for rural populations, diminishes the legislative efforts to enhance teaching as a profession, and lends no solution to the financial burden forced upon districts. This rule sets a disconcerting precedent, suggesting that measures can be dictated without regard for scientific research or the constitutional processes outlined in the legislative framework. We earnestly implore the NMPED to reconsider this rule and instead support the ongoing commitment to improved instruction, as outlined in the well-vetted and collaboratively strategized HB 130.

Johnna Bruhn, Superintendent
Mosquero Municipal Schools

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[6.10.5_Exhibit 2048](#)

From: [Angela Sullivan](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule Change
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 12:03:54 PM

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To the out of touch powers that be (specifically Michelle Lujan Grisham),
I am writing this email to voice my absolute disagreement about the current rule change you are proposing to implement next year. As a teacher in the Los Alamos School district I am 100% against this.

The past 4 years of teaching have been the most difficult teaching I have experienced. The turmoil we have been through as teachers could fill paragraphs of this email. A lot of that turmoil can be credited to our current governors ineffective policies.

So here we are, yet again facing drastic changes to not only our school calendar, but to the whole way our schools operate. I can list how each aspect of this rule change is negatively going to affect us, but what it all boils down to is, as always, "do more with less."

We have already had a major change to our calendar this year, and we have not even completed a full year working within this huge change and you are proposing another drastic change!? I am so SICK and TIRED of people who haven't set foot in a classroom making decisions for our education system, and they have no idea what we deal with on a daily basis.

Here is one guarantee you can count on if this rule change gets approved. The teachers who have their foot halfway out the door (and believe me, there are A LOT) will absolutely leave. You will seal the deal on them leaving with this change. In a system that is already stressed, an industry where teachers are leaving in droves, why on earth would you add more stress and frustration to our lives!?

Oh, I know why. Probably because our state is last in the nation in education, so our failure of a governor has to look like she's doing something to improve that. Also because ultimately she's only thinking about herself and how she can get herself into a higher position in government. She doesn't care about New Mexicans, she only cares about herself. This rule change is not going to fix ANY of that! Adding more days to our calendar is NOT going to improve the abysmal situation our education system in New Mexico is currently in.

Not that you will listen or read this,
Sincerely,
Angela Sullivan
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ellen Specter](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Adamantly opposed to all 4 rule changes
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 12:17:18 PM

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Public Comment PED rule changes: Adamantly Opposed to Rule Changes

I am **adamantly opposed** to these 4 rule changes and am submitting public comment to express my outrage at the draconian content of the rule changes, the unreasonable process and unsubstantiated reasoning behind the proposed changes. It is a **sham** to hold a one-hour hearing for 3 rule changes during the school day on the last week before Winter Break and quashes public input especially from educators and parents.

When I first read these rule changes, I had a feeling of déjà vu. Are we in a time warp that sent us back to the Suzanna Martinez / Hannah Skandera era? Or did Texas take over New Mexico to enact draconian measures for our schools?

I am School Board Vice President in Los Alamos and have served since 2017.

I could write volumes about why these rule changes are harmful and ill considered. Here are a few reasons why these changes must be rejected:

- The proposed changes **undermine legislation** that was carefully thought out and negotiated and just enacted in July.
- The rules **eradicate local decision making** and autonomy and are most certainly **illegal**. Costly court battles will ensue if they are passed. This will take resources from students and learning.
- PED rightly advocates for data driven decision making. However, PED has presented **no data to justify these changes**. In fact, there is no data here with not even 1 semester using the new calendar.
- The rules create **equity** issues for lower income and at-risk families to scramble for new childcare needs and are the antithesis of efforts to uphold the Yazzie-Martinez ruling.
- It will create **unintended consequences** for secondary school block schedules and graduation outcomes.

Effective educational change takes **at least 3 years**. Why would we drastically change course without even trying the new system for a full school year? Furthermore, this rushed approach, even if it were a good idea, **does not allow for adequate planning** and thoughtful implementation. All districts will have to scramble with just a couple of months to devise and pass budgets.

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**.

Please withdraw these rule changes and reconsider the process for future rule changes to include all stakeholders, thoughtful consideration of data and enough time and resources to implement changes if they are necessary.

Sincerely,

Ellen Specter,

Vice President, Los Alamos Public Schools Board of Education



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

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

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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 advice 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 go to 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 National 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 losses 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

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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
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) 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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 user.

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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

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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

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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

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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
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request to Revoke Proposed Rule on Calendar Reform
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 4:37:43 PM

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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

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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
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Sunday, December 17, 2023 4:54:51 PM

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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

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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 user.

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

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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

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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

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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 user.

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

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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

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This email has been sent from a verified 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

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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

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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

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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 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

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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

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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 their 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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 are 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!

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

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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 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

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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 16th 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 49th 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 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 user.

From: [Leslie](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: 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 9th 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

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

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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 will 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

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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 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

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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

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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 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

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

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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

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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
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

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Cheryl Kemnitz
PSC Facilitator
(505) 688-2455

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

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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.

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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
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

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Cheryl Kemnitz
PSC Facilitator
(505) 688-2455

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

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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 530 am and sometimes ends at 830 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

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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

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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

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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

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

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Brooklyn Bird
615 Broken Bow St.
Silver City, New Mexico, 88061
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

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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 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
214-578-9539

CIMARRON MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS

165 N. COLLISON AVE., CIMARRON NM, 87714

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

[Cimarron Municipal Schools](http://CimarronMunicipalSchools.org)

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.

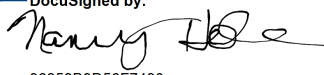
Be It Further Resolved that the Board urges the PED to consider the significant impact of these changes on local communities, the importance of maintaining local control over educational practices, and the need to preserve the unique and successful educational models that have been established in districts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

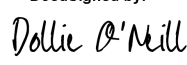
Be It Finally Resolved that this resolution be sent to the PED, the New Mexico Legislature, and relevant parties to express the Board's stance on this critical issue and to underscore the importance of collaborative decision-making in educational policy.

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

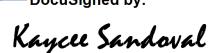
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Kari Jaramillo
Board Secretary

DocuSigned by:

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Kaycee Sandoval
Member

DocuSigned by:

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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

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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.

Doug 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 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](#) 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 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
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
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

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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> 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

Sent from my iPhone

From: 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
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](https://www.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.puebos%20speaking%2025%20different%20languages.>



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

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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

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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

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

From: **Mary A Mirabal** <mmirabal@magschools.us>
Date: Sun, Dec 17, 2023 at 10:05 PM
Subject: School day requirements
To: <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

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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

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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

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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

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

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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

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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

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This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

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

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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

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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

Lynn Ovaska, NBCT

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

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This email has been sent from a verified 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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 trudged 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

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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

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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 it 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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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.

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

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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.

Thank you,

V. Sue Cleveland, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Rio Rancho Public Schools

Rio Rancho, NM 87124

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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

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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)

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Albuquerque, NM 87114

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6.10.5_Exhibit 2195

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

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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

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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

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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

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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 becuase 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

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

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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

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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 altercation 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; [Romero, Andres G.](#); [Soules, William P.](#); 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
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

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; [Romero, Andres G.](#); [Soules, William P.](#); 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

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 -12th 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 ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial 'T'.

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.

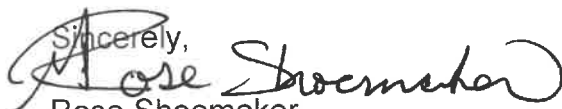
Even though the days are longer, I see great positive things coming from the four day week. My grandchildren are focused and eager to learn. Much of a child's school day is consumed by preparing for and getting to and from school. Putting this into four days is a better use of their time. Also a huge 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
rms Shoemaker@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,



Grace Runyan
Parent

Krystal Perea
P.O. Box 152
Tyrone, NM 88065
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.

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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, reading "Krystal M. Perea". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial "K" and a stylized "P".

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.

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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

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Senovio Perea", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

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

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steven Perea".

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

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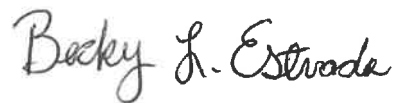
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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky L. Estrada". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the "Sincerely," text.

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

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ray Muniz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

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

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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

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Perea', with a stylized, flowing script.

Michelle Perea

Consuelo Munoz
711 S Texas St.
Silver City, NM 88061
575-538-9018

Date: December 12, 2023

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Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department

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Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Consuelo Munoz". The signature is written in dark ink and features a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right, ending in a small loop.

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.

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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.

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***

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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: cmeans@yahoo.com
Phone Number: 575-534-7907
Date: 12/7/2023

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Subject: ***Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department***

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3. **Bias in Funding and Accreditation:** The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.
4. **Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time:** Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.
5. **Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes:** There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



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.
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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: SALEBRACK 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***

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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: PO 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.

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In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals.

I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

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.

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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.

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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.

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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

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.

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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 and delete and destroy the message.

La informacion contenida en este correo electronico esta disenada solamente para el individuluo o entidad a quien va dirigido. Su contenido (incluso cualquier archivo adjunto) puede contener informacion confidencial o privilegiada. Si usted no es un usted recibio este mensaje por error, por favor notifique al remitente por correo electronico de respuesta 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 5th 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

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 from 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



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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

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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 14th, 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

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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

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

--

Cheryl Kemnitz
PSC Facilitator
(505) 688-2455

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

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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

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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

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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 5th 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



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 9th 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 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

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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 they 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
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

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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 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 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

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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

--

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From: [Betz John](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:02:11 AM

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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

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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

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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 l **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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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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

From: [EILEEN SPELLER](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerns Regarding Proposed School Calendar Changes
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:09:17 AM

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12/18/23

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 support 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 crisis counseling intervention during the school day, I have been the one to make the call on a few of them. 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. At the beginning of the school year, work-life balance and self-care was highlighted and we were told of its importance. However, not only have our workloads and stress increased, but our physical work-life calendar balance is in danger of tipping too far.

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. My department alone has been filled 50% with short and long-term substitutes for the last 3 years. We have already had two full time certified teachers quit this year. We cannot fill the open positions we already have, let alone attract for future years, to which adding additional time to our schedule will not help.

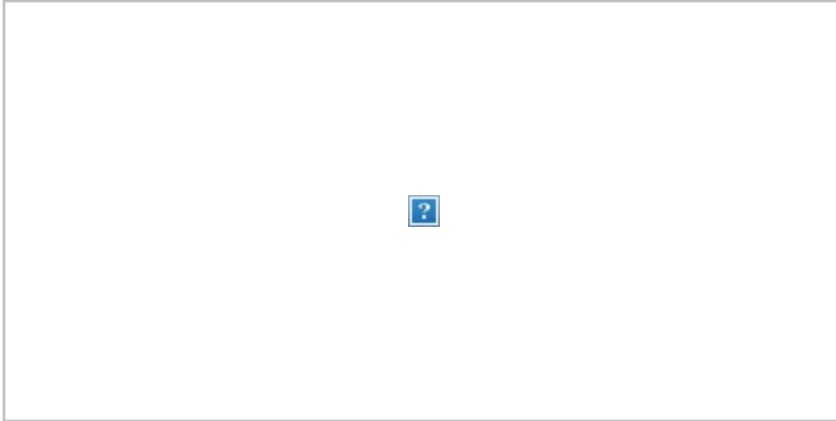
Adding unnecessary days to the calendar will exacerbate this issue, as current teachers will look at positions across state lines, and people considering going into education will see New Mexico as a less desirable option.

Thank you again for considering my perspective on these matters.

Regards,

Eileen Speller
Clovis High School

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From: [STEPHANIE OLIVA-CASTELLANOS](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Calendar
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:10:33 AM

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

To whom it may concern,

I recently graduated with my bachelors degree in Elementary Education. In January I will begin my first year in teaching. After viewing the changes that will be going on in the near future, I am a little concerned that students will be overwhelmed with the new schedule. I have been working with the schools as an Educational Assistant for the past 8 years and throughout the 8 years the schedule has been an ongoing debate. Some years we had half days, other years we had long days. These days would be in the middle of the week which would make it difficult for parents to find someone to pick up their child because they were at work, or they did not have childcare available for someone to watch their children until they got off of work. This caused teachers to have to stay and watch the students until they were able to be picked up. Then the short days in the middle of the week changed to long days which also caused teachers to find ways to keep students learning still even though they spent the scheduled amount of time that is required already learning. This can be overwhelming for students and adding more time to the schedule is not going to meet the needs that students and teachers are truly needing. Also as a new teacher entering for the first time and hearing what is going on it makes me want to rethink things.

Thank You for your time.

God Bless,

Stephanie O.

Deuteronomy 31:6 ~ Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

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From: [Jenny Lambson](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:14:20 AM

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

NMPED,

I strongly oppose the proposed changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements".

Our teachers, staff and students do not need more hours in school. They need more support and resources available to them without strings attached.

The proposed rule changes will increase current burn out and frustration for students and staff.

I feel that the individual districts have the best interests of their communities at heart and understand what will best meet their needs. It is not required of the state to impose such strict requirements on the schools. These rules will add a strain to our teachers whom already have so much responsibility, allowing their professional development to count as school hours is beneficial for the staff and the students as those teachers will be better prepared to educated and support their students. The rules requiring more credits for High School graduation are also detrimental to our students and staff. As students prepare for their next chapter the real-life skills of employment are key to help students transition this becomes a more difficult goal if they are not given the option to have free periods to find employment. Please do not implement these changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5

Thank you for your time.

From a concerned, Parent, Educator and Community Member.

Jenny Lambson

From: [Lucero Brandon](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO SCHOOL FRIDAY!
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:15:46 AM

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Hi, my name is Brandon Lucero. I would like not to have school on friday because i like to go for friday intervention for my grades because my grades aren't as good so that's why i would like no school on friday.

From: [Tyler Boe](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:15:49 AM

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

My name is Tyler Boe, 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.

From: [GABRIEL DODD](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PED school hour changes
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:15:51 AM

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

To whomever this may concern,

I know that you have already received many angry emails about the changes, so I hope that this email will not be like that. Like many others, I dislike the changes being made to the school year and requirements, but I understand that for most of New Mexico this is a necessary change. The number of hours feels like it will become quite overwhelming, so I feel like changes made, extending days instead would be better, because even though many people already complain about the shortening of breaks, having time after school is much more useful for homework and mental health than 3 months of summer break. The need for 32 credits makes sense, and the 8 classes do have enough positives that some people would only need proper explanation to stop complaining. There are more things like the absence of free periods, and more which are more minor changes that do negatively affect some, that if possible should be compromised, but I know that this might not be possible. In the end, I understand that these changes are necessary, but at the same time many people, including myself, dislike many of these changes which extend school hours, get rid of commodities such as free periods, and more. Even if New Mexico as a whole needs these changes, at Los Alamos we feel that these are unnecessary as we already have good education, yet there may be nothing that can be done for us. Thank you for your time, and I hope his email was at least somewhat different from the many angry emails you may have gotten and may get.

Sincerely,

Robbie Dodd



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

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SCHOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLLL PLEASEEEEEEE

From: [Medina Ezra](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:17:59 AM

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

noooooooooo kids do not need to come on fridays because our summer is already short no
fridayyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyyy

From: [Reagan Asian](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:18:09 AM

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

My name is Reagan Hill, 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,
Reagan Hill

From: [Jenny Lambson](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:18:11 AM

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

NMPED,

I strongly oppose the proposed changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements".

Our teachers, staff and students do not need more hours in school. They need more support and resources available to them without strings attached.

The proposed rule changes will increase current burn out and frustration for students and staff.

I feel that the individual districts have the best interests of their communities at heart and understand what will best meet their needs. It is not required of the state to impose such strict requirements on the schools. These rules will add a strain to our teachers whom already have so much responsibility, allowing their professional development to count as school hours is beneficial for the staff and the students as those teachers will be better prepared to educated and support their students. The rules requiring more credits for High School graduation are also detrimental to our students and staff. As students prepare for their next chapter the real-life skills of employment are key to help students transition this becomes a more difficult goal if they are not given the option to have free periods to find employment. Please do not implement these changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5

Thank you for your time.

From a concerned, Parent, Educator and Community Member.

Jenny Lambson

From: [Austin Robert](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:18:23 AM

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

We should have no school on friday

From: [Laughlin Vivienne](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] KEEP OUR FRIDAYS FREE
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:18:24 AM

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

Let us keep our fridays free

From: [Lindemann Sean](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5 Day week days
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:18:27 AM

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

My name is Sean Patrick Lindemann 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,
Sean Lindemann

From: [melissa.gutierrez](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Roble, Amy](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Calendar rule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:18:31 AM

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

PED, Not all schools are textbooks, not all families are textbooks. 5 days a week may work for some families and schools but not all. As for Maxwell we have a great education level already. There is nothing that 5 days a week will fix. Why break us in our pocketbooks and time on our farms and sports. We are all individuals, don't put us all on the same ship. This will hurt us more than help us! It will cost my family alone, time I have to take away on a school day for appointments to see doctors and dental. This hurts our farm chores and livelihood. We travel a total of 120 miles a day to take and pick our children up from Maxwell. One way trip is 30 miles from our home. That's an extra \$40 cost to take our children an extra day. Please take into consideration our rural schools are tight funded and small. And PED is NOT picking up any extra costs that are going to add to our budget. This will hurt us greatly! This will affect our children in a negative way. We chose to put all 3 of our children in Maxwell District because it is an excellent school! My oldest graduated valedictorian in 2019. That says a lot! We need all these great teachers. We do not need any losses to our funding, children and teachers, Thank you Mr and Mrs Julian Gutierrez

From: [Devin mcintyre](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment Against The PED 180 School Day Rule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:18:47 AM

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

My name is Devin McIntyre, 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,
Devin McIntyre

From: [Ashley](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:20:09 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 believe it will negatively impact my family. I'd be happy to provide further explanation if necessary.

Sincerely,
Ashley Taylor-Wrightson

From: [Nicole Allen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:20:19 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 writing today against proposed NMAC Rule 6.10.5 regarding School Instructional Time Requirements. As a parent with students from 3rd grade to 11th grade these proposed changes would affect my family for quite some time. Being members of Los Alamos Public Schools, a community that has always excelled academically these changes are unnecessary. I understand that there are parts of the state that may require additional help with further educational instruction time, however, this needs to be addressed on a county by county, or school by school basis. The proposed changes to academic time are not a one size fits all proposal and will put further undo stress on our students and community.

Growing up in Los Alamos myself I have personally been part of and seen the level of pressure put on students to succeed in this community. Adding additional requirements to an already difficult standard is unnecessary and will significantly have a negative impact on the mental health of our students, something that is already a struggle. As a parent of a Junior this year, and one that carries a course load with multiple AP courses, having a free period has helped him by allowing extra study time that he may not have otherwise. Many of our high school students work very hard to get good grades in a difficult school system, carry a job, take classes at the local college campus and participate in extracurricular activities. The proposed changes would have an impact on all of these.

Aside from the students well being, these proposed changes additionally affect our teachers that are already over worked and in high demand. Limiting essential planning time for our teachers will put additional undue strain on them. We are already fighting to keep the teachers we have. Straining them further will not be good for our community, or the state as a whole.

I ask that you please consider my thoughts on the matter and if you feel changes need to be made, that it be done on an individual school/county basis, and not as a rushed decision. Not all education the state is broken. All students, teachers and families should not be punished when help is only needed in parts.

Thank you for your time,

Nicole Allen

From: [Alex Sanchez](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ASK Academy
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:20:34 AM

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

My name is Alex Sanchez, 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.

From: [Ava Rupert](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keeping Fridays free
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:20:39 AM

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

My name is Ava Rupert, 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,
Ava Rupert

From: [Elisabeth Moberly](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:20:46 AM

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

My name is Elisabeth Moberly, 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,
Elisabeth Moberly

From: [Skye Hreha](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Problems with new ruling
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:20:50 AM

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

My name is Sebastian Hreha, 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,
Sebastian Hreha

From: [Johnathan Morain](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposing the 180 school day rule change
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:20:51 AM

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

Hello! My name is Johnathan Morain 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,

Johnathan Morain

Ask Academy Scholar.

From: [Sara Wiseman](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:21:08 AM

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

My name is Sara Wiseman, 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,
Sara Wiseman

From: [Matthew Herrera](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ask academy, four day plus one
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:21:39 AM

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

Hello my name is Matthew Herrera. I have had two of my sons go to ask academy. And I understand the benefit of their four-day school schedule. Friday is actually very beneficial for the students when they need additional help or if they just want to take the time to get ahead. I would ask that you would consider maintaining and fighting for rules that would allow for this to continue. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Matthew Herrera
505-933-4411

From: [Jeb Archey](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to school calendar requirements rule change by PED
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:21:55 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 writing to voice my opposition to PED changing the calendar requirements for our local school districts and adding additional days to the calendar year. I also oppose taking away the flexibility and opportunity that some smaller districts use to have a 4-day school week as opposed to a mandated 5 day week.

I do not believe the state PED mandating additional days or instructional hours will improve overall performance of NM students, nor have I seen any research to provide evidence that more days results in better learning. If anything, the research I have seen from across the country is when districts are able to have some freedom to create a culture of learning and support their students their results improve.

I believe the larger issue in NM is that our largest districts (Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Santa Fe) drag down the rest of the state in terms of scoring, statistics, truancy, and days when students are not in class. A one-sized fits all approach will not provide the positive effect that is desired.

I believe real change will happen as local districts are allowed to maintain more autonomy and flexibility in meeting the needs of the students in their immediate context. I do believe any rule and days change will cause higher performing teachers and students to seek their education and employment outside of NM.

Respectfully submitted
Jeb Archey
Parent of two students in Clovis NM

From: [Alexis McGaughey](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Calendar
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:22:22 AM

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

My name is Alexis 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,
Alexis McGaughey

From: [BRITTANY Beckner](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Extended Contracts
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:22:33 AM

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

>
> Hello,
>
> As a teacher I very strongly disagree with extending the length or number of school days. Anyone who has been in a classroom for any length of time knows that burnout already occurs regularly for both students and teachers. Increasing the time spent in school will only further that and will not be beneficial.
>
> Brittany Beckner

From: [Mason Coriz](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I object
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:22:38 AM

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

My name is Mason Coriz, 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,
Mason Coriz

From: [CHRISTINE CALHOUN](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 180 day school year
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:23:13 AM

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

To whom it may concern,

Thank you for taking the time to read my email. I thought about what I wanted to say for quite a while. I tend to be very wordy and over complicate things, so I am going to be short and to the point. I do not think that implementing the 180 academic days is what is best for New Mexico or Clovis. I think this policy ignores the transient community that our state has due to the military and is dismissive of the travel needed for students to see their families (both military and students that travel to Mexico). I do not believe that adding this policy will have the desired effect and will just create more student absences. I truly believe that if the goal is to improve education through attendance, then that is where we should start, making attendance mandatory. I understand how this idea looks good on paper; however, we need to ask ourselves, is looking good on paper the goal, or is the goal to improve education? We need quality over quantity. We need to draw quality teachers to NM, not chase the ones that we have away. Why would I choose to work in a state that requires more work days than at least 20 other states, especially when the pay is better in some of those areas? Adding better regulated summer programs and learning opportunities would engage students while accomplishing the desired effect of increasing knowledge retention. This would also keep families who leave the local area to visit family in Mexico, or those that move due to military obligations, from having to make impossible choices.

Thank you,

Christie Calhoun

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From: [Dodie Carter](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback re: Proposed Changes to 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:23:24 AM

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

To whom it may concern:

The proposed changes to the School Calendar Requirements will not improve education in our state. I encourage you to read the report, "The Opportunity Myth" from tntp.org. Research consistently shows increased instructional time alone does not guarantee improved student outcomes. In order to improve student outcomes and the educational system in the state, according to "The Opportunity Myth", "students need these four key resources in their daily school experiences: consistent opportunities to work on grade-appropriate assignments, strong instruction that lets students do most of the thinking in the lesson, a sense of deep engagement in what they're learning, and teacher who hold high expectations for students and truly believe they can meet grade-level standards." More time with already burnt-out teachers, or long-term subs who are filling the gaps where there are shortages, will not fix this issue. High expectations, high engagement, teacher support, and consequences for truancy and teacher mistreatment are a few areas of improvement that I would consider addressing before I tried adding days to the instructional calendar.

I leave you with one more article to consider. The website "We Are Teachers" released the article "6 Things the Nation's Top-Performing School System Does Differently" on October 11, 2023, written by Kelly Treleaven. The article reiterates several points I've mentioned already as well as those being discussed among other educators across the country.

I encourage you to look into other problems before deciding that an extended school year is going to fix this educational system.

Dodie Amanda Carter
Mother and educator of NM's youth

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [Reagan Asian](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:23:30 AM

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

My name is Reagan Hill, 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,
Reagan Hill

From: [Jameson Rupert](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I object
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:24:04 AM

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

My name is Jameson Beck Rupert , 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,
Jameson Rupert

From: [Sanchez Kase](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition for a Fixed Schedule for Every School
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:24:05 AM

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

My name is Kase James Sanchez. I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed regulations that would require students to attend a five-day school week. As a student who values holistic education, I have observed the success of the current educational model based on her 4-day plan. We are seeing outstanding results in our academic performance, teacher and student interactions and the overall school environment. This model not only enables effective learning, but also gives teachers the flexibility to provide individualized instruction and engage in important professional development on the fifth day. Given the national trend of more schools adopting a four-day school week, it seems counter-intuitive for New Mexico to go in the opposite direction. The benefits of a shorter school week are widely recognized as contributing to improved student outcomes and a more balanced and engaging learning experience. We respectfully encourage you to carefully consider the potential impact of implementing a five-day school week on the broader educational community. Each school has its own unique dynamics, and a one-size-fits-all approach may not be right for all institutions. On behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community, I reject this proposed rule change. I believe that continued flexibility in scheduling is critical to ensuring the continued success and health of our education system. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to hearing your thoughts on this issue and what you are doing to meet the diverse needs of students and teachers. Sincerely, Kase (hello@coolkase.dev)

From: [Benny Donato](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I object
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:24:14 AM

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

My name is [Benny Donato], 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,
[Benny Donato]

From: [Kaden Sheffler](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5 Days of school
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:24:27 AM

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

My name is Kaden Sheffler, 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,
Kaden Sheffler

From: [Juliet Barela](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:24:38 AM

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

My name is Juliet Barela, 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,
Juliet Barela

From: [Paulina McAtee](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Paulina McAtee](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:25:14 AM

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

To Whom It May Concern,

The Los Alamos Public Schools School Board sent out a message with the rule changes being proposed by the PED. As a parent of 3 children in Los Alamos public schools, I would like to voice my concern and opposition to the proposed changes.

These changes will be a disruption to both staff and families and will limit staff planning time. I see no justification being provided to show perceived benefit of changes to *students*. Lastly, the proposed timeline for changes to go into effect during the 24/25 school year does not provide sufficient time for LAPS, teachers, and families to prepare for the changes.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,
Paulina

Paulina McAtee
pzelenay@gmail.com
(505) 412-1048

This email transmission and any documents, files or previous email messages attached to it may contain information that is confidential or legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient or a person responsible for delivering this transmission to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you must not read this transmission and that any disclosure, copying, printing, distribution or use of this transmission is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please immediately notify the sender by telephone or return email and delete the original transmission and its attachments without reading or saving in any manner.

From: [Jenny Lambson](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:25:21 AM

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

NMPED,

I strongly oppose the proposed changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements".

Our teachers, staff and students do not need more hours in school. They need more support and resources available to them without strings attached.

The proposed rule changes will increase current burn out and frustration for students and staff. I feel that the individual districts have the best interests of their communities at heart and understand what will best meet their needs. It is not required of the state to impose such strict requirements on the schools. These rules will add a strain to our teachers whom already have so much responsibility, allowing their professional development to count as school hours is beneficial for the staff and the students as those teachers will be better prepared to educate and support their students. The rules requiring more credits for High School graduation are also detrimental to our students and staff. As students prepare for their next chapter the real-life skills of employment are key to help students transition this becomes a more difficult goal if they are not given the option to have free periods to find employment.

Please do not implement these changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5

Thank you for your time.

From a concerned, Parent, Educator and Community Member.

Jenny Lambson



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Kimberly Pacheco](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Advocating for a 4-Day School Week
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:25:29 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 writing to express my support for maintaining a 4-day school week within our district. Having experienced both 4-day and 5-day weeks with my own children, I believe this schedule not only enhances students' work-life balance but also provides numerous benefits, including but not limited to student engagement, teacher morale, and district-wide cost savings.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Kim Pacheco

From: [Lacey McCarty](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback: 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:26:04 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 emailing in regard to issue **6.10.5 NMAC**. I would like to relate my reasons for my strong opposition to this proposed rule. My opinions are based on my experiences as a parent of a child this will affect and on those of my current experiences as an educator in a school district that will be greatly, and negatively impacted by this proposed rule change.

Firstly, the bypass of the democratic process through the use of a rule change creates massive problems for our school district. Loving, New Mexico has had a 4-day school week for almost a decade. In Loving, where I teach and my own children attend school, the rule change is in opposition to our elected school board's authority of local control when they voted it in almost a decade ago. This new rule change would require us to either adopt a year-round calendar or move back to all weeks are 5-instructional days per week.

As data will show, our district has had increasing success year after year with our current calendar. Although our district can't pay as high as other nearby and larger school districts, good teachers are drawn to our schools because of our calendar. Undoubtedly, we will lose teachers who commute here if a fifth day is added to our school week. I assure you, teachers will not be drawn to commute here for less pay. As a teacher, I still utilize that 5th day every week to develop meaningful lesson plans, complete grading and engage in professional development. The money our district saves in energy, transportation, and food costs helps to fund special programs for our students.

Like all school districts, we struggle with attendance issues. Since the state has failed to impose any consequences for excessive school absences, our hands are tied on this matter. Despite this, our district has the advantage that a four-day school week provides since students are less inclined to miss school since they attend just four days a week. They know that each day is filled with rigorous lessons that they don't want to miss.

Teaching is the hardest job I have ever done. New Mexico already makes its teachers jump through unnecessary licensure hoops to prove their worth in a thankless profession. I have had extensive careers in the medical field and in archaeology before I chose to pursue my passion for education and become a certified teacher. I assure you, the only reason I am able to continue to do this job, and I do it well, is because of the supportive district I teach in. Many school districts in the neighboring states of Texas and Colorado are moving to four-day weeks and are having success in attendance and academics.

Without trying to sound cliché, to be honest, in our case, less is more.
With kindest regards,
Lacey McCarty
Middle School Language Arts Teacher
Loving, New Mexico

--

Lacey McCarty
Vintage.lacey@gmail.com

From: [Katelyn Mahoney](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements - I do not support
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:27:30 AM

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

Hello,

I do not support this rule change. I am a Los Alamos Public School Parent and I think it will negatively impact the students and teachers.

Thank you,
Katelyn Mahoney

From: [Lopez-Alvarez Sofia](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:28:05 AM

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

My name is Sofia,

I don't want school on Friday's!!!

From: [Juli Newton](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:28:22 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 am writing to express my concern about the rule change 6.10.5 and adding more calendar days. As a mother and teacher I am not in favor of the added days. I think my kids attend school enough as is and their time off is much needed. The busy schedule of school and homework does not need to be compounded with more time in school. As a teacher I value our PD days and parent teacher conference days as they are right now. A lot of schools are on 4-day weeks, this will require them to switch to 5-day weeks. Districts like Loving and schools like our Penasco will be greatly impacted by this (there are a lot more in our state as well). The amount of money involved in making this work is astronomical and may be impossible for some districts. These 4-day week schools are often the schools with the best growth and test scores, negating the "more learning time is necessary" argument. This may mean small schools closing or being consolidated and parents homeschooling. If you have never lived in a small community, I assure you this impact will be detrimental to many families and the staffs of those schools.

I also disagree with rule 6.19.4 concerning the Accreditation Process. This is a lot of work for the district to provide information that NMPED already has. While this does not seem too difficult, the penalties for not passing the accreditation process are very harsh. These range from having to resubmit to having the state come to the district to terminating our school board and superintendent.

Thank you for listening,

Juli K. Newton
NBCT Art Teacher for Artesia Public Schools

From: [Chris Auclair](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HB130
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:29:10 AM

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

We parents at Capitan School District are opposed to proposed change to a 5 day school week. Most of us have adjusted our schedules over the years to accommodate the 4 day school week and it would be very inconvenient to change again. If this rule is changed several of us will pull our children from Capitan School District. This will not only inconvenience our parents, but our children as well. Your willy nilly. Just because we want to change the rule will have a huge effect on our communities.

Sent from Chris's iPhone

From: [Reed Bair](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cecil Grayson Reed Bair,
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:29:27 AM

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

My name is Cecil Grayson Reed Bair, 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,
Cecil Grayson Reed Bair,

From: [brett eller](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:29:32 AM

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

School calendar requirements.

This new calendar IS NOT in the best interest of our children.

We ABSOLUTELY DO NOT want this new school calendar.

Regards,
Kristy Eller

From: [Alan Williams](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for:
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:29:56 AM

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

6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements

6.19.4 NMAC, Accreditation Procedures

These rules are not the answer. We don't need more time, we need better time and better accountability mainly from parents and students. All accountability from the PED is always directed to teachers. If we have more time with students who don't want to be there and parents who don't care, nothing will change.

I am NOT in favor of these proposed rules.

Alan Williams

From: [Anita Odell](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback on 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:30:35 AM
Importance: High

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

Good morning,

As a teacher in New Mexico's public school system, I strongly object to the proposed rule change and wish to express my concerns regarding the 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements.

This rule change aims to mandate 180 days of instruction, overruling House Bill 130. It's crucial to recognize that an increased number of school days does not necessarily correlate with improved test scores or serve as a guaranteed method to elevate New Mexico from its 50th position in education. Consider Alaska, which has 180 instructional days but is ranked 49th, and West Virginia, also with 180 instructional days, yet ranked 47th. Instead of extending our instructional calendar with the hope of transforming New Mexico's education system, it is imperative that we engage in a dialogue addressing the root issues impeding progress—overcrowded classrooms, chronic absenteeism, and the practice of promoting students to the next grade despite not meeting proficiency standards. What measures are being taken to address these critical challenges?

I vehemently object to this proposed change and advocate for a focus on rectifying the foundational problems within New Mexico's educational framework.

References: https://nces.ed.gov/programs/statereform/tab5_14.asp

Anita Odell

Deming High School
Social Studies Teacher
National Honor Society Advisor

**“You cannot open the mind of another unless you yourself have an open mind”
– Kakashi Hatake**

From: [Carolyn Sloan](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback on 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:31:09 AM

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

I am a parent in Clovis, NM and also an educator. I do not agree with the proposed rule change to mandate a minimum of 180 student days per school year.

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.

This proposed change raises questions about the NMPED power and the potential infringement on our local autonomy.

Furthermore, the proposed amendment from NMPED not only challenges the efficacy of our current school calendar but also threatens the very essence of local control. Our community has thrived on the ability to tailor our school calendar to the unique needs and values of CMS. We are a unique community

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.

My feedback is that the NMPED should not make this proposed change and instead focus on research and evidence based changes to improve our schools across the state.

From: [Dominik PicchioneLopez](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Five days a week
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:31:27 AM

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

My name is Dominik, 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,
Dominik Picchione-Lopez

From: [Steven Cole](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Vote Against 180 Day Calendar
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:31:31 AM

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

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Thank you, and please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or concerns,

Steven Cole
Project Manager, ASK! Academy
Science, 8th Grade

There will always be a moon over Marin

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my concerns and reservations regarding the current 180-day school year requirement in the state of New Mexico. As a concerned parent/citizen/taxpayer, I believe that this policy may not be serving the best interests of our students and educators. I understand the importance of providing a comprehensive education, but I believe it is crucial to revisit and reconsider the rigidity of the 180-day requirement for several reasons.

Firstly, educational research and evolving pedagogical practices suggest that the focus should be on the quality of instruction rather than the quantity of days spent in school. Many successful educational systems around the world prioritize innovative teaching methods, personalized learning, and flexible academic calendars to better cater to the diverse needs of students.

Secondly, the 180-day requirement may inadvertently contribute to teacher burnout and fatigue, potentially compromising the overall effectiveness of instruction. Teachers are invaluable resources, and their well-being directly impacts the quality of education students receive. A more flexible approach to the academic calendar could better support the holistic needs of both educators and students.

Furthermore, the world is evolving rapidly, and the traditional school calendar may not align with the changing dynamics of the workforce and societal needs. A more adaptive and flexible school year could better prepare students for the challenges and opportunities they will face in the future.

I kindly request that the New Mexico Public Education Department conduct a comprehensive review of the current 180-day school year requirement. I believe that engaging in a dialogue with educators, parents, and stakeholders in the education community will provide valuable insights into potential improvements and alternatives that could better serve the interests of our students.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I appreciate the dedication of the New Mexico Public Education Department to enhancing the quality of education in our state, and I trust that you will carefully consider the concerns raised in this letter.

Sincerely,

Steven Cole

From: [Margarita Garcia](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HB130
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:33:42 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 writing on behalf of Clovis school district, in Clovis, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,
A concerned parent, Margarita Garcia

Margarita Garcia

From: [Daniel E Morgan](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: 6.10.5 NMAC and 6.81.2 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:33:55 AM

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

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements and 6.81.2 NMAC Requirements for Nonpublic Schools and for Public Education Department Accreditation.,

I am writing this to register my opposition to the proposed rule change eliminating the four day school week. Firstly, I feel this proposed rule change takes away local school control. Local schools should have the ability to choose what is best for their students based on the local community needs. Secondly, I don't think the PED has thought through the additional monetary burden this would put on rural schools. Without looking at actual numbers it appears on the surface that adding an extra day to the school week would appear to require a twenty percent increase in operating cost for things such as busing and cafeteria costs.

As a former educator I stand firmly against the proposed rules because it usurps local control of the educational process. We who live in the outlying counties know and understand the needs of our local constituency better than state officials far removed from our communities.

Respectfully,
Daniel E. Morgan
PO Box 194
Quemado, NM 87829

From: [Katherine Hayes](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reference: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:37:11 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 concerns as a ASK ACADEMY charter school parent. My son who is now in 11th grade as attended the ASK Academy charter school since 6th grade. The curriculum is more stringent then RRPS but he is willing to work harder so he can have Fridays to either go into school for intervention, make-up work, project time with other scholars, and he also works on Fridays at Blake's. Please understand your one size fit all doesn't fit all.

Thank you for your time,
Katherine Hayes

From: [Courtney Richardson](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:39:52 AM

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

Hello,

I am an educator and a mom of three students in the Los Alamos Public School district. I am writing to express my concern about the proposed changes to our school calendar per the NMAC Rule 6.10.5.

I believe the new rule would add too many days to the calendar which would negatively impact students and teachers. Teachers need planning time in order to adequately prepare lessons and participate in vital professional development activities, and students need time to spend with families, and develop extracurricular activities. Summer breaks afford both parties the opportunity to rest and refresh in order to be physically and mentally prepared for a new year.

Increasing the amount of hours required for school each week also decreases planning time for staff who are already stretched thin and lacking adequate prep time. It also adds to fatigue of both students and staff.

Asking secondary students to take 4 credit bearing classes each day (8 classes each week) would cause major changes to a meticulously constructed schedule and would increase workload for students and staff. Increasing the minimum graduation requirement to 32 credits (from 24 credits) also sets less attainable goals and would likely cause a decrease in our student graduation rates.

New Mexico already has lower graduation rates, attendance rates, and test scores than many other states. I believe we made a mistake in allowing our students to miss vital educational time during the pandemic. I also believe that adding hours and days to our calendar now will not make up for that lost time. You can't increase quality with quantity alone. The only thing we'll be increasing is stress and fatigue.

Additionally, by attempting to initiate these new calendar requirements for the upcoming year, the PED is asking too much too soon for our districts to upend the current calendars and schedules that they've already spent countless hours planning and drafting. More time is needed to consider and implement such drastic changes.

Thank you for your consideration,
Courtney Richardson

From: [Jonah Davis](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Friday
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:39:55 AM

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

We should not have school on Friday pleaseeeeeeeeeee I really like having a weekend on Friday its so nice

From: [DuranGarcia Jose](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fed back
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:41:39 AM

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

I really think that we don't need to come on Fridays since we spend a lot of time at school doing work and maybe it would be better if we had recess since it wouldn't help us feel better for the afternoon.

From: [Dr Worthylake](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 180 Rule OPPOSITION
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:42:32 AM

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

My name is Becky Worthylake, 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 Teacher 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,
Becky Worthylake

From: [Makynzi Dudar](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep Fridays Free
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:42:52 AM

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

To whom it may concern,

My name is Makynzi Dudar, I attend The Ask Academy in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. I benefit from Fridays off because I can do extracurricular activities, catch up on missing work, and get help if needed. Research shows that kids get better test grades having 4 days instead of 5 because it gives them a chance to rest and engage in other activities like sports and clubs.

Having three-day weekends is less stressful because instead of two days you have three to complete your work and be ready for the next Monday.

The Ask Academy has many amazing teachers, it would be such a shame to lose almost all of them. If we lose our free Fridays we lose our teachers which will result in having a worse education because we will have long-term subs.

The Ask Academy is one of the best schools in New Mexico score-wise, AND we only have 4 days a week. Please consider these facts and retract your statement.

Thank you,
Makynzi Dudar

From: [Castellano, Joseph O](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Joe Castellano](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:43:46 AM

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

My name is Joseph Castellano, and I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students.

As a parent 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 NM (who ranks near the bottom educationally in the nation) 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 firmly oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of the 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. As a parent of two children, one a senior and the second in 8th grade, I can absolutely state that this 4-day model works amazing for my children. Having that flex day at the end of the week to get tutoring, which my 8th grader has used often and the ability to make up missed assignments, projects, tests, etc., has been invaluable to my children's success. I firmly believe more children would highly benefit from this model.

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,

Joseph Castellano
Sh5 F9 Die Prep SGL DOT Assignment
(505)400-3114

From: [Andres Chavez](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Supporting 4-days a week
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:45:35 AM

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

Dear NM Public Education Department,

This email pertains to the 4-day week schedule. As a recent graduate in May of 2023, I wanted to share my perspective on the 4-day school week that was implemented during my time. Having experienced this schedule personally, I believe it had a profoundly positive impact on students' well-being, including mental health.

The condensed school week allowed for a more balanced approach to academics and personal life, significantly contributing to reduced stress levels among students. Personally, I found the extra day off to be crucial for mental rejuvenation and the pursuit of extracurricular interests.

Moreover, as I still have siblings attending the Cobre Consolidated School District, I am eager to advocate for the continuation of this schedule. The benefits extend beyond individual well-being, encompassing improved student engagement, enhanced teacher retention, and positive environmental impacts.

Thank you for considering the well-being of students, and I appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully,

Andres Chavez

From: [gloria.mendoza](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:46:27 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 writing as a grandparent, school district employee and community member regarding my concerns about the proposed amendment to school calendar. There are varying needs among all of the school districts in the state of New Mexico. Creating a cookie cutter Calendar schedule for all districts in the state of New Mexico seems to be counterproductive because we are all so different. A few of my concerns are listed below:

- Additional calendar days will cost a significant amount of money. How will the funding be provided to sustain staffing, facility and transportation costs?
- Language has been inserted in the rule that does not currently exist in New Mexico Statute. By doing this, NMPED will be exerting authority that it does not have.
- This will take away the essential element of local control, undermining our ability to make decisions that impact the unique needs of our individual communities.

Things to consider about adding additional days to the school calendar:

- Ensuring all districts are fully staffed with certified teachers and other professionals will impact student learning. How will we continue to close the gap on teacher vacancies?
- Consider the training that teachers and other educators need in providing a robust learning environment for students; this is more impactful than increasing the amount of days students attend.
- There should be some consideration for a strong Attendance Policy that will ensure students and parents are held accountable for the school attendance. Adding days to our school calendar will not help this endeavor.

In closing, making decisions without any thought of the ramifications can have a horrific result. The changing of rules is a violation of our democracy! I strongly oppose the amendment to 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements. I appreciate your time and consideration.

With regards,

Gloria Mendoza-Christensen
Grandparent
Community Member of Clovis, NM
Executive Director for Clovis Municipal Schools

From: [Christina Tatum](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose 180 school day rule change
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:47:01 AM

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

Hello

I'm a parent of 2 children in the Clovis Municipal School district. I'm writing in opposition of the proposed rule change of a minimum of 180 school days a year. Currently, our district follows a 170 day school year, which has been more than enough school days.

Family time is extremely important to us & taking away a minimum of 10 days from our family time is not something that I think is worth it. Between the current 170 day school year & my kids' extracurricular school activities, there's barely any time for family time & travel to see extended family.

Please do not take away our District's ability to craft a school calendar that works best for our local area. I respectfully request that the proposed rule change be rejected.

Sincerely,
Christina Tatum

From: [Jeff Lewis](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:47:01 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 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: [Kirstie Ahern](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED; aftnmaction@gmail.com](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:47:33 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, I teach 3Y 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. My students do not attend school on Wednesday because of the brevity of their program. It would be extremely difficult to have morning and afternoon sessions if timing requirements changed. 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.

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 unintended but significant 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 Wednesday afternoons are currently designated as teacher prep time and the only time that our district can fit in the allotted average of 300 minutes of prep time that our collective bargaining agreement guarantees. 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 voting no on NMAC Rule 6.10.5.

Thank you for your consideration,
Kirstie Ahern

3Y Special Education Preschool
Pinon Elementary
LAPS

From: [Mike McDonald](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerns over mandating 5 day school weeks
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:47:49 AM

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

Hi,

I'd like to express my concern around mandating a 5-day school week as a parent with multiple children in NM schools. I would assume people at PED understand there is not a sole/singular way that best fits the educational needs of every child. Yet, PED is wanting to adopt a posture that there is a sole/singular way that best fits the needs of every child. At best this is foolish and poorly thought out. At it's worst this is insidious and cruel to punish many students who have thrived in a variety of settings. Further, I can't imagine mandating all schools to be open 5-days a week is financially prudent given the associated costs with keeping schools open 5-days a week, every week. I've never in all my time heard NM educators speak of surplus, excess or abundant finances to meet needs, yet PED wants to sink more money into mandating all schools are open for 5 days. Please use common sense and abandon this bad idea that makes no educational or financial sense.

Thanks,

Mike McDonald

Lead Pastor

Faith Church

Phone: 505-891-0393

From: [Ramie Collins](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:48:06 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 the passing of this rule as many students are already struggling with mental health issues due to the rigorous requirements of our educational system. As such, I have already removed my children from the public schools and am homeschooling. The change to required hours would deeply affect my family in negative ways. As a homeschool family, we are able to complete a lot more work in less time. I have 3 children so the 1-to-3 teacher-to-student ratio makes learning time easier and more productive. In addition, we do not have to factor in transition times as public schools do. There is a rise in homeschool families around the country and our ability to cover more information in less time has to be considered in the educational requirements.

As a former public school family, we were already stretched thin between school hours, homework, extracurricular activities, dinner, family time, and a reasonable bedtime. Adding more hours and days would not solve problems but only add to them. Children need time to play freely and be with their families.

I understand that for many students, home life is not a safe and stable environment, but keeping them in school does not solve those issues. We need to be addressing this at the root of the problem, not covering it with a band-aid.

Thoughtfully,

Ramie Collins

From: [Mike McDonald](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements - Concerns over mandating 5 day school weeks
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:48:54 AM

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

I apologize for failing to get this into the subject line the first time around.

Hi,

I'd like to express my concern around mandating a 5-day school week as a parent with multiple children in NM schools. I would assume people at PED understand there is not a sole/singular way that best fits the educational needs of every child. Yet, PED is wanting to adopt a posture that there is a sole/singular way that best fits the needs of every child. At best this is foolish and poorly thought out. At it's worst this is insidious and cruel to punish many students who have thrived in a variety of settings. Further, I can't imagine mandating all schools to be open 5-days a week is financially prudent given the associated costs with keeping schools open 5-days a week, every week. I've never in all my time heard NM educators speak of surplus, excess or abundant finances to meet needs, yet PED wants to sink more money into mandating all schools are open for 5 days. Please use common sense and abandon this bad idea that makes no educational or financial sense.

Thanks,

Mike McDonald

Lead Pastor

Faith Church

Phone: 505-891-0393

From: [Mitzi and Todd Estes](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule Change: School Calendars
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:49:20 AM

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

My husband and I have public school experience (59 years) and strongly encourage consideration of improving the education in NM different than adding more of the same (increasing days and hours). Between the two of us we have experience in both large and small districts.

Perhaps funneling money to large school districts to provide smaller class sizes with a more personalized education would be better than forcing ALL districts to conform to one solution— 180 school days. Removing local control from school boards is inappropriate and undermines their existence.

Another very important consideration that must be addressed, especially with this proposal is the teacher shortage. While things are improving in our state in this regard, adding more days and time will have a huge negative impact on the progress that is being made. It's truly not primarily about the money that is deterring teachers, rather the time dedicated to differentiate for all students with varying backgrounds and an increase in behavioral and mental health issues throughout the grade levels.

We do not support this proposed rule change, as it is not as simple a fix for NM education to add more of the same.

Sincerely,
Mitzi and Todd Estes

From: [Mabel Feazell](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HB130 (6.10.5 NMAC)
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:49:39 AM

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

To whom this may concern:

I am a parent of a student in Capitan Elementary school in Capitan NM and I'm against the proposed changes to the school calendar. 6.10.5 NMAC

My son is in 5th grade and he is an all A student, we moved to the district from Texas in 2020, in fact we came to ski and when we heard about the 4 days school week we were persuaded to make the move to NM. We are business owners in the community and are always willing to help our school, we drive 30 minutes each way to his school when he could go to one 5 minutes away in Ruidoso but they go 5 days a week and shorter days, we don't want to, we live it at Capitan; but if they change it to 5 days my son has expressed he will like to be homeschooled to protest.

This doesn't mean we are lazy parents, but it gives the kids more time to rest and give it's all during the 4 days of school.

My daughter recently moved into town also from Texas and enrolled her little ones in Capitan, they also drive 30 minutes twice a day to drop off and pick up, please reconsider the changes. Some districts in Texas started the 4 day model this year .

Thanks

Mabel P. Feazell

2542146107

From: [magaly ruiz](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:50:50 AM

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I do NOT agree with adding more time to the school requirements.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

From: [Magaly Anaya Ruiz](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:52:04 AM

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

I don't agree with this change!

Magaly A Ruiz
SENIOR LOAN OFFICER
Phone: 575 742 3717
Fax: 575 791 5287

From: [Stasia Christensen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:52:11 AM

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

NMPED,

I strongly oppose the proposed changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements".

I feel that the individual districts have the best interests of their communities at heart and understand what will best meet their needs. It is not required of the state to impose such strict requirements on the schools. Our teachers, staff and students do not need more hours in school. They need more support and resources available to them without strings attached. The proposed rule changes will increase current burn out and frustration for students and staff. These rules will add a strain to our teachers who already have so much responsibility, allowing their professional development to count as school hours is beneficial for the staff and the students as those teachers will be better prepared to educate and support their students.

Please do not implement these changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5

Thank you for your time,
Stasia Christensen

From: [taejohn do](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I oppose the rule that would NOT allow four-day school weeks
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:52:31 AM

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

Local school boards can make decisions for their schools - no need for Santa Fe to butt in on this issue.

V/r,

JML

From: [Janemor12](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements and 6.81.2 NMAC, Requirements for Nonpublic Schools and for Public Education Department Accreditation
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:53:58 AM

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

Being a resident of a very rural community in Catron County, I see the extending of requirement that the students attend 5 days a week rather than 4 as a detriment to our students and our school. The increase in costs to the district is unacceptable. The need is NOT apparent. Children here are bused many miles a day to attend school. Making the requirement of an additional school attendance day simply puts a burden on our schools, students, parents and teachers and does not equal any supposed gains. Please look at this proposal and take into account all of your counties and rural areas and determine what is best for them as well.

Jane Morgan
37 Brook Blvd.
Quemado, NM 87829-0194

Sent from my iPad

From: [Isabella Mariotto](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:54:43 AM

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

As teacher, with U.S. and international experience, I do NOT agree with this new rule because it will NOT improve the scholars education. They lack primary school basics. They go to high school and cannot do a simple multiplication.

Besides, many teachers will quit their position.

--

Dr. Isabella Mariotto
High School Instructor
AP Biology and Biomedical Science
The ASK Academy
4550 Sundt Rd NE - Rio Rancho, NM 87124
Email: imariotto@theaskacademy.org

From: [Bridgette Noriega](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED; act@atfunion.org](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:54:44 AM

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Dear NMPED,

I have been an educator for 29 years. I say NO to arbitrary rule changes. This is circumventing the state law and is a reckless use of power without process.

Bridgette Noriega

From: [William Moberly](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5-day week
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:54:46 AM

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

My name is William David Moberly, 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,
William

From: [Shaylene Mays](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule for
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:55:43 AM

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

I am for the new rule to add hours to the schools. It would prepare the kids for the real world.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rebecca Smith](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 4-day school week
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:56:00 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 children attend 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 children and family. The 4-day school week provides our family the opportunity to support our children'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 also have educators who travel a distance to work at our school, because of the curriculum and instruction time. Changing to a 5-day week would likely mean we lose some of our best educators.

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

*Sincerely,
Rebecca Smith*

From: [Liu, Sunny](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Charles.Sallee](#); [Courtney, Jon](#)
Subject: Rule Feedback for: 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:58:11 AM
Attachments: [LFC Memo on 6.10.5 NMAC Rulemaking.pdf](#)



To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept the following attached letter on behalf of the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee relating to the proposed changes to 6.10.5 NMAC.

Thank you,

Sunny Z. Liu

Principal Fiscal Analyst
New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee
325 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Telephone: 505.986.4550
Direct Line: 505.986.4572
sunny.liu@nmlegis.gov



Senator George K. Muñoz
Chair

Senator Pete Campos
Senator Roberto “Bobby” J. Gonzales
Senator Siah Correa Hemphill
Senator Steven P. Neville
Senator Nancy Rodriguez
Senator William E. Sharer
Senator Pat Woods



Representative Nathan P. Small
Vice Chair

Representative Gail Armstrong
Representative Brian G. Baca
Representative Jack Chatfield
Representative Meredith A. Dixon
Representative Harry Garcia
Representative Derrick J. Lente
Representative Debra M. Sariñana

State of New Mexico
**LEGISLATIVE FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

325 Don Gaspar, Suite 101 • Santa Fe, NM 87501
Phone: (505) 986-4550 • Fax (505) 986-4545

Charles Sallee
Director

December 14, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Romero,

As discussed during your budget hearing for public school support on December 14, 2023, the Legislative Finance Committee has significant concerns about the Public Education Department’s (PED) proposed amendment to school calendar requirements pursuant to 6.10.5. NMAC and enforcement of instructional hour requirements pursuant to the General Appropriation Act of 2023. While the committee agrees that more high-quality learning time can improve the achievement of at-risk students named in the *Martinez-Yazzie* education sufficiency lawsuit, the committee finds certain provisions of PED’s proposed rule to be an overreach of executive authority. Unfortunately, PED’s proposed rule misses an opportunity to target learning time and support to the neediest students across the state.

The debate between mandating school days or school hours has been waged by the Legislature for years. Prior to 2009, statute required 990 instructional hours for kindergarten through sixth grade and 1,080 hours for seventh through 12th grade. In 2009, the state initiated a mandate of 180 instructional days for a regular school year calendar and 150 instructional days for a variable school calendar, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. In 2010, the state delayed implementation of the 180-day mandate to 2011-2012 due to budget concerns. And in 2011, the state reversed course, changing the measure of a school year back to instructional hours. Despite the *Martinez-Yazzie* ruling and lost instructional time during the Covid-19 pandemic, attempts to mandate additional school days failed. In 2023, however, the enactment of Chapter 19 (House Bill 130) increased instructional time for students in all grade levels to 1,140 hours.

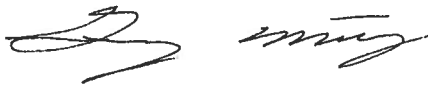
The committee understands the update of 6.10.5 NMAC was necessary and past due, given the outdated 180-day requirement was still on the books from 2010 and the new 1,140-hour requirement from House Bill 130 required clarification. PED is authorized by statute to adopt, promulgate, and enforce rules to exercise its authority and the authority of the secretary (Section 22-2-1(B)(1) NMSA 1978). PED also has the authority to control, manage, and direct all public schools, except as otherwise provided by law (Section 22-2-1(A)).

However, some provisions of PED’s proposed rule go beyond the legislative intent of House Bill 130 by prohibiting school districts from generating K-12 Plus program units intended for districts with a 4-day

school week. By deliberately establishing separate K-12 Plus funding formula components for both 5-day school weeks and 4-day school weeks, the Legislature acknowledged the existence of 4-day school weeks and authorized them to generate additional dollars if they chose to extend their school calendars. No rule is valid or enforceable if it conflicts with state statute and such conflicts are resolved in favor of the statute (Section 14-4-5.7(A)). The language in Section 22-8-23.14 (House Bill 130) makes clear a public school operating on a 4-day calendar that provides more than 155 days of instruction shall be considered a “K-12 Plus” school and shall be eligible to receive additional units. The proposed rule appears to conflict with state statute and would not be enforceable.

The committee recognizes the potential academic costs of switching to a 4-day school week, as evidenced by the prohibition of new 4-day school weeks in a provision within the General Appropriation Act. While some districts with 4-day school weeks report low performance and notable achievement gaps, other districts with 4-day school weeks display some of the best student outcomes New Mexico can produce. By requiring all public schools to operate on a 5-day school week for purposes of generating K-12 Plus program funding, the proposed rule cuts off a major revenue source for districts on 4-day school weeks to comply with the 180-day requirement, ignores substantive law authorizing formula funds for schools with a 4-day school week, and focuses attention on the number of school calendar days rather than what the days are intended for—improving the outcomes of our lowest performing students.

Sincerely,



Senator George K. Munoz, Chair, LFC



Representative Nathan Small, Vice-Chair, LFC

From: [Stahl, Teddy David](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Stahl, Mel](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:58:23 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!

Thank you,
Ted Stahl
Los Alamos Parent

From: [Lewis Evan](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep Fridays Free
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:01:12 AM

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

My name is Evan Lewis, 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,
Evan Lewis

From: [Amy Roble](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Calendar rule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:02:16 AM

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

Good morning,

My name is Amy Roble and I am the Superintendent in Maxwell. Currently, Maxwell Elementary and Middle schools are rated as Schools of Excellence and our High School is a Spotlight School. Maxwell has been a 4-day week district for 40 years.

- We are a rural ranching community. And ranching is a family business. Our families count on having their entire family home 3 days a week to complete work on the ranch and to teach the next generation the family business.
- We do not have medical services in Maxwell. Families have to travel to other cities for medical care. And, if you need a specialist, you have to go 2 hours away each direction. Anytime you have an appointment, it takes away a full day. We have made strides in reducing our chronic absentee numbers but moving to a 5-day week will reverse our progress. Staff absences will also increase for medical appointments and we only have 3 subs, which we share with other districts.
- We've been able to achieve academically because of our daily schedule. Only having school 4-days a week means we attend for longer hours each day which allows us to have a built-in intervention period every day where we target specific skills. Moving to a 5-day week means shortening our daily schedule and we would lose that build-in time.
- Being a rural district, our teams have to travel far distances for competitions. Currently, we schedule those trips that are longer distances on Fridays when we don't have school so students don't have to miss classes. If we look at our schedule this year, if we were currently on a 5-day calendar, our students who participate in those activities, and it is about 90% of our overall population, would miss classes on 22 Fridays to travel to those contests.

We've been told there will be a waiver process for schools. However, when you read the waiver options in the proposed rule, only 5 items qualify a district for a waiver: severe acts of nature, natural disasters, health emergencies, death or illness of key staff, and a violent act committed on

school property. These provisions make obtaining a waiver impossible.

As a small, rural district, we already have trouble recruiting staff. This year, we were not able to replace our secondary math teacher which required us to contract with a cyber school to provide remote math instruction to our students. Maxwell does have several teachers who could retire today if they wanted to do so. This makes me extremely anxious about finding qualified replacements.

We have been told that all this proposed rule does is update the current rule to comply with HB 130. However, this proposed rule is directly contrary to HB 130 in that the 1140 instructional hours requirement would now EXCLUDE professional work hours. And, there was a competing bill in the legislature that would have set a minimum instructional DAY requirement. That bill did not pass and HB 130 was enacted into law specifically because it addressed instructional HOURS, not days. This proposed rule is a means to circumvent the intent of the legislature.

There is no research to say that 180 school days, 5-days a week is a magic recipe for school success. However, there is plenty of research to support the fact that a one size fits all approach to education is not effective. Each community has unique needs that must be met for students to achieve. Our unique needs are best met with a 4-day week.

Finally, I'll leave you with this quote from Stephen M.R. Covey:

You cannot hold people accountable if you dictate their methods.

Amy Roble

Superintendent

Maxwell Municipal Schools

575-375-3001 (office)

505-280-0403 (cell)

From: [Santiago Rodriguez-Sanchez](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5-day rule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:02:20 AM

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

My name is Santiago Rodriguez Sanchez, 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,
santiago Rodriguez sacnhez

From: [Eric Greer](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Eric, Greer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule Regarding School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:02:34 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 strong opposition to the Proposed Rule regarding the extension of the school calendar, as presented by the New Mexico Public Education Department. While I understand the importance of ensuring quality education for our students, I believe that the proposed changes may have adverse effects on both students and educators.

Firstly, I would like to emphasize the importance of local control in education. Communities are unique and have different needs and priorities. Imposing a standardized, extended school calendar fails to acknowledge these differences and inhibits the ability of local educators and administrators to tailor the academic schedule to best serve the needs of their students. Local control is essential for fostering a responsive and effective educational environment.

Furthermore, absenteeism is already a prevalent issue in our schools, and extending the school calendar may exacerbate this problem. Longer school years can contribute to increased burnout among students, leading to higher rates of absenteeism and decreased engagement. Rather than focusing on the quantity of instructional days, it is crucial to address the quality of education and find innovative ways to engage students in the learning process.

Another item to consider is the financial burden that this will place on every district, especially smaller districts. Where are the additional dollars that it will take to extend the school calendar going to come from? Will the budget include allocated money to help districts with the additional cost? Where is the financial study that was conducted to account for the additional cost to extend the school calendar? Schools, especially smaller districts, cannot incur the cost that it will take to extend the school calendar.

Highly qualified educators are becoming more and more difficult to find. Extending the school calendar will only make it more difficult to ensure our classrooms have highly qualified staff educating our students.

Lastly, accountability should be directed towards making the most of the existing structure rather than introducing additional demands. Instead of extending the school calendar, efforts should be concentrated on improving the effectiveness of current instructional hours and ensuring that students are held accountable for the material covered within the established timeframe.

In conclusion, I urge the New Mexico Public Education Department to reconsider the proposed rule and engage in a collaborative process with local communities, educators, and stakeholders to develop solutions that are responsive to the unique needs of our students. Together, we can create

an educational system that prioritizes quality, flexibility, and accountability without compromising the well-being of students and educators.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I look forward to seeing an educational system that truly reflects the needs and values of our community.

Sincerely,

Eric Greer
Principal
Artesia High School
1002 W. Richardson
Artesia, NM 88210
Phone: 575-746-9816 Ext. 1561
Fax: 575-746-4365
Email: egreer@bulldogs.org

ARTESIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – “SUPERIOR QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS”

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From: [Tracie Jones](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I vote NO on the change
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:02:34 AM

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I am a former NM educator who has since left the field due to lack of work-life balance. I am also a parent of 2 children in NM public schools. I think the rule change would be disastrous for NM schools. Here are some issues schools are facing:

1. Poor attendance is the biggest challenge teachers face in getting students to pass. Currently there are ZERO consequences for students or parents for lack of attendance. Students can miss weeks at a time and nothing is done.
2. Teacher mental health crisis - they are overwhelmed and under supported. Teachers are there to teach content, NOT be social workers, therapists, nurses, parents, etc. etc.
3. NM has a huge teacher shortage, which adding additional days will exacerbate. We already run long term subs in core classes. Extending the school year will cause current teachers to consider positions out of state, and make NM less appealing when trying to recruit new teachers.
4. Research does not support the notion that more time = better education. It doesn't work!

Tracie Jones
Clovis, NM

From: [Adan Montoya](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] no 5day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:02:47 AM

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we should not have 5 days. We are all reting 1 hour more.

From: [STEVE KING](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: change
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:03:53 AM

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

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

From: **STEVE KING** <steve.king@clovis-schools.org>
Date: Sat, Dec 9, 2023 at 7:11 AM
Subject: change
To: STEVE KING <steve.king@clovis-schools.org>

To whom it may concern:

I have been a teacher in New Mexico for 31 years. I have worked for three school districts, 5a, 3a ,and 1a size schools. I am proud of the growth,and progress the district has made to ensure quality education. We currently go to school 170 calendar days and the new proposal would add an additional 10 extra days. Recently, the PED sent out the top high schools for the state of New Mexico and my school made the list at 25. In November, our school district also learned that schools in Clovis and surrounding areas moved to spotlight schools and to the new category labeled excellence. Following these two announcements the PED issued a statement speaking of calendar changes.

The reason for writing this letter is to express my concerns. I understand that each year we must continue to grow as a state, however adding additional days is not the answer to ensure growth. Additionally, the laws being used to try to back the new changes have been manipulated to fit the needs of the PED instead of the needs of students and educators across the state. The only way to address issues with education in our state is for members of the PED to come to each district and speak with educators, principals, parents and students. During the discussions, come into the classroom and see what is happening. Aside from this, allow the districts and schools to continue to have local control over matters and run the school calendar as they deem appropriate.

6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements

Type of Rule Change: Repeal and Replace

-

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

-

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

Public Comment Updated 12/07/2023

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From: [James Ayres](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Student input on 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:05:55 AM

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

My name is James Ayres, 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,
James A.

From: [Fuegodragonhealing](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] APS proposed schedule change
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:07:04 AM

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

I am a mother of 2 children at Mitchell elementary school and a licensed teacher at Highland High School. It would be illegal for the school year to change by rule instead of law. In addition, it is not effective to have the students for more hours in the classroom without more support (more counselors, social workers and other support staff, state support for parents).

Thank you,
Madeline Garcia

From: [Dave Anderson](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New 180 day school year proposal
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:07:09 AM

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

I am a Governing Board Member at 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 children and families. The 4-day school week provides families the opportunity to support students 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,
David Anderson*

From: [Carol Spizman](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:10:07 AM

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

Dear PED,

I am unhappy with the new Calendar requirements. As an OT in the schools, I know that students require some unstructured leisure time for whole-person development and that more days in the classroom does not lead to improved test scores. Human beings are nuanced, complex creatures with emotional, spiritual as well as intellectual growth that does not benefit from too much classroom instruction. Over the years, we have seen well-intentioned legislators and educators chip away at any and all forms of play; Recess, Art, Music, and vacation. Kids are looking at screens from an early age and for too long rather than playing outdoors, interacting with their environment and developing eye-hand coordination (in authentic spatial relationships), balance and strength. It is well-documented that children have been becoming weaker over the past few decades and also that there is a relationship between core strength and confidence, hand strength and longevity and bilateral coordination and versatility. The number of students with special needs, with behavior problems, with academic loss is rising while the time in the classroom is falling. It is too easy to keep adding instructional time. The data and complexity of these issues are not so easily solved.

Thanks,

Carol Spizman, MOTR/L

--

Carol Spizman, MOTR/L

Wherry E.S.

Highland H.S.

Coronado E.S.

Garfield M.S.

Van Buren M.S.

"You must do the thing you think you cannot do." Eleanor Roosevelt

From: [JASPER CARPENTER](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:11:58 AM

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

The proposed law is foolish because it just assumes that test scores will increase when there is more time in school. However, this is not the case, you should focus on increasing salaries, funding and other things. The lack of free periods also makes it harder for kids to take harder classes because they have less time to study and do homework. The lack of half days in elementary schools is also a problem. Kids make their opinions of school at an early age, and these half days make kids like school more. This law is like throwing a textbook at someone, and hoping something sticks. Perhaps instead, we should focus on specific districts that need help, instead of affecting all of them.



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [JILLIAN LEWIS](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PED Change to school hours
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:13:46 AM

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

Hello,

I do not think we should support the proposed rule change. Half days on Wednesday for elementary school were one of my fondest memories of elementary school. High schoolers already don't get enough sleep so we should not be adding more classes and free periods allow students to take more AP classes.

Sincerely,
Jillian Lewis



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Elaine Drees](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School instructional time requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:14:26 AM

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

I write to comment on PED rule proposal being put forth for New Mexico school districts.

I write in opposition of this proposed rule that adds days to the recently increased hours at our districts. Just this year, districts were required to change calendars and schedules with very little notice. A great amount of stress was put up on teachers, districts and school boards to address it just 9 months ago. Now again this is being put up on our districts for the upcoming school year. Please wait to see the effect of one change before adding on more changes to our schools.

This rule does not take into account districts that use block schedule of A and B days where students do carry 4 courses or more, but may not attend them all on the same day (eg. Los Alamos schools). This rule does not offer ability for community college classes or other training that upper classmen in high school often attend outside of school once they have exhausted what the high school curriculum has to offer them.

A lot more work and collaboration is needed before a rule like this can be implemented. Starting this next year is simply a very bad idea. Years of discussion with districts, school boards, teachers and families needs to take place. Years of planning to address the funding and increased teacher needs should to be allowed before any these changes. This rule has not been properly vetted and if rushed through for the upcoming year, it will cause extreme difficulties for districts all across our state. This will add to our already stressed teachers, administrations and families. It will hugely and negatively impact our schools and students.

Please explore more than just the quantity of school hours and days for improvement of education quality in New Mexico. We have to address teacher shortages, and look at class size. Consider capping class size for K thru 3 at 20 students per teacher, grades 4-6 at 25 students and grades 7-12 at 30 students. Look at teacher salaries. If we are adding time, please adjust salaries and make regular pay raises for teaching staff per federal cost of living adjustment annually. Please support teachers and staff with professional training support that is included in the present school year. Do the research on what will have the biggest impact on student achievement - it is not the time they spend in school, but the quality of the programs. Invest in quality of the teacher education programs at our universities and make teaching a more attractive and well compensated profession in our state so that trained teachers will stay here for their careers.

The biggest things impacting student achievement have nothing to do with the time students are in school or how long the school year is. Socioeconomics, parenting and parent involvement, mental and physical health, and quality of our teachers are the most important factors. Address these first before making more unproven changes to the school calendar requirements.

Sincerely,

Elaine Drees MS RD
Parent of 2 New Mexico High School students

From: [Nicole Jimenez](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 180 day rule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:15:30 AM

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I am vehemently against the 180 day or 5 day week rule for public schools. Different schools should be able to tailor their weeks to fit their student needs. A lot of families seek out charter schools and such for these very reasons.

Nicole

From: [ARIANA PORTER](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:18:28 AM

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

Hello,

I do not believe that we should change the school calendar requirements. Firstly, high schoolers do not get enough sleep, this change would take away sleep and joy from each individual. This will also cause extra stress to students and teachers. In addition many teachers are willing to quit if this bill passes and students are considering going online. This put unnecessary pressure on the district, with hiring new teachers, and providing more salaries.

I hope this message is considered.

Thank you.



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Jerri Cole](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:20:00 AM

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

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my concerns and reservations regarding the current 180-day school year requirement in the state of New Mexico. As a concerned parent/citizen/taxpayer, I believe that this policy may not be serving the best interests of our students and educators. I understand the importance of providing a comprehensive education, but I believe it is crucial to revisit and reconsider the rigidity of the 180-day requirement for several reasons.

Firstly, educational research and evolving pedagogical practices suggest that the focus should be on the quality of instruction rather than the quantity of days spent in school. Many successful educational systems around the world prioritize innovative teaching methods, personalized learning, and flexible academic calendars to better cater to the diverse needs of students.

Secondly, the 180-day requirement may inadvertently contribute to teacher burnout and fatigue, potentially compromising the overall effectiveness of instruction. Teachers are invaluable resources, and their well-being directly impacts the quality of education students receive. A more flexible approach to the academic calendar could better support the holistic needs of both educators and students.

Furthermore, the world is evolving rapidly, and the traditional school calendar may not align with the changing dynamics of the workforce and societal needs. A more adaptive and flexible school year could better prepare students for the challenges and opportunities they will face in the future.

I kindly request that the New Mexico Public Education Department conduct a comprehensive review of the current 180-day school year requirement. I believe that engaging in a dialogue with educators, parents, and stakeholders in the education community will provide valuable insights into potential improvements and alternatives that could better serve the interests of our students.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I appreciate the dedication of the New Mexico Public Education Department to enhancing the quality of education in our state, and I trust that you will carefully consider the concerns raised in this letter.

Sincerely,
Jerri Cole

From: [Kim Ayres](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:24:45 AM

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Good morning,

I am reaching out with concerns about the proposed changes to the School Calendar Requirements.

My first concern is about the overreach of the PED in attempting to change something that was so recently negotiated and passed through the legislature. When the school hours requirements were discussed and passed in the last legislative session, there was an intentional decision by our representatives to mandate hours rather than days. These decisions were made by elected officials representing the concerns and needs of ALL New Mexicans.

I am deeply concerned about the proposal to mandate 5-day weeks for all schools (even if it is a 50% of the calendar requirement). I am both a parent and educator in a charter school which currently has a 4-day week with optional time available for all students on the 5th day. As a parent, this schedule allows me to schedule appointments (dentist, dr, etc) on a day when my children will not miss any instructional time. This has allowed us to reduce school absences in our home. As an educator, I have been able to see the benefits of my students being able to come in for support on Fridays when we do not have regularly-scheduled classes, but educators are available to students.

My next concern is regarding the lack of time given with the new requirements in place. This rule proposal began only 2-3 months into the school year. That is not adequate time to measure any success or failure. First semester grades are still not finalized today when you are having your public hearings. So, I question what up-to-date data, specific to New Mexican students, you have been able to gather in this short period.

I urge the PED to not make any changes to the school calendar requirements at this time.

Thank you,
Kim Ayres
Rio Rancho, NM

From: [Deanne Milligan](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:25:54 AM

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Good morning,

I do not believe that charter schools should have to follow this rule if they are meeting the needed requirements for their students. One of my children goes to ASK Academy in RIo Rancho and the flexibility of Fridays being used for intervention, extra help, or make-up of assignments has truly helped him. It gives him time for one-on-one instruction which gives him a better understanding of the topic. It has helped him bring his grades up and it has also helped give him ownership in his education. He takes more pride in what he can accomplish and it allows the teachers time to give him what he individually needs. The teachers are able to meet their students where they are academically, and differentiate in the ways they may need. As a teacher myself, I know it is hard to meet all the needs of my students and the environment at charter schools like the ASK Academy is very focused on the students and learning in the best way possible.

Thank you,
DeAnne Milligan

roots & wings COMMUNITY SCHOOL

December 18, 2023



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

Subject: Request to Revoke Proposed Rule 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements

Dear Secretary Romero,

I am writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed rule on instructional time requirements (6.10.5 NMAC) and respectfully request the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) revoke the proposal as mentioned above. The legislature recently debated calendar reform, which has been implemented in schools for six months. There was significant debate on the calendar reform legislation in the 2023 legislative session. That debate led to a compromise on legislation that the Governor signed. We acknowledge the department's commitment to enhancing educational outcomes. However, given the recency of the new legislation and the Department's lack of statutory authority to execute this rule as proposed, we request that PED revoke this proposed rule and go through the legislative process to meet these requirements.

Direct Impacts to Our School

Roots and Wing Community School (RWCS), a K-8th grade, state-authorized charter school, is considered a 4-day/week school for calendaring purposes. This year, with the mandated calendar change last year, we are currently operating with 54% of our weeks as 5-day weeks with 171 student contact days meeting the required 1140 contact hour mandate. The majority of our students use a rural transportation system bus for transportation, and parents drive the rest. Our school hours are dictated by the bus schedule, which provides us with a fixed 6.5-hour school day. In addition to all the concerns that this rule proposes for all schools, we will be additionally penalized by enacting this rule as it currently reads.

a. We will lose over \$92,000 (approximately 9% of our operating budget) in K-12 Plus funding. We will have to add nine (9) days to our calendar to make 180 days, eliminating us from participating in the K-12+ program next year. This will take us to 1,199 hours! So we are adding nine (9) days and 58.5 instructional hours to our calendar AND having our budget REDUCED!

Jon Orris, Director
Veronica Garcia, Office Manager

35 La Lama Rd.
HC 81 Box 22, Questa, NM 87556
575-586-2076/fax 575-586-2087

roots & wings COMMUNITY SCHOOL



b. Last year, we had to add a net of seven (7) work days to our teacher contracts, so we added a stipend contract to all teaching staff, paying them for the additional seven days with money from the K-12+ funding. This was an added expense of \$22,750.

c. With this proposal, unless we significantly cut the limited number of PD days the teachers have, we will again have to pay the teachers a stipend for extra days with little or no K-12 Plus funding. Cutting teacher PD days is not an answer to improving student achievement or training high-quality teachers. If we don't offer the stipend, teachers will likely leave as we would ask them to work more days with no salary increase from the previous year.

Remote Days Issue

Our school is located in the Foothills of the Sangre de Cristo mountains at 8,200 ft. in northern Taos county, where we get a lot of snow. Since most of our students use the RTD public transportation to come to school and parents drive the rest, we can not do delayed openings as no bus is scheduled at those times. Therefore, we must cancel school if the surrounding districts call for a delay, or we would have to require parents to drive all students to school during unsafe driving conditions. The pandemic taught us that we can effectively learn remotely on days otherwise lost. By restricting us from using remote learning days instead of canceling school and due to the increased number of school days required by this rule, we would have to add days at the end of the year instead of continuing our instruction. Students and parents will NOT send their students to school at the end of the year to do make-up days, causing them to be wasted and increasing our absenteeism rate. Please allow us to use this remote learning tool without restrictions for weather and unexpected shutdowns.

Loss of Local Control and Staffing Issues

We have been a 4-day school since the school's beginnings over 20 years ago. We participated in the ELTP program and used the extra funding to provide more student contact time, teacher PD time, and enrichment programs to benefit our students. We were a Spotlight school in 2022 and are currently ranked as Traditional, and we have not been on any corrective action plans. Additionally, we received a 5-year contract renewal and continue to score very high on our annual site reviews by CSD/PEC. But last year, due to the increased contact hours, we eliminated most of our teacher PD days, and because of state rules/mandates, we were forced to eliminate a robust after-school enrichment program for our students. We know what works for our students and want what is best for them, but the continued implementation of these attempted one-size-fits-all regulations is detrimental to the students and staff you are trying to help. Allow us to be innovative and successful, and stop handcuffing us with rules and mandates that prevent us from best serving our students and staff. Increasing staff workloads and decreasing professional development time are not ways to retain staff. This is especially true in rural areas where

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staff must travel hours to receive medical or basic life needs services. Working them five days a week will require them to take more days off and out of their classrooms.



Impacts to All Schools

State law clearly states that rule cannot run further than statute: 14-4-5.7(A):

“No rule is valid or enforceable if it conflicts with statute. A conflict between a rule and a statute is resolved in favor of the statute.” Within the proposed rule, several new policies lack statutory authority for PED to provide the mandates in the proposed rule:

a. Statute clearly allows for school districts to meet statutory hourly requirements without regard to school days. In fact, NMSA 22-2-8 only allows the Secretary to waive minimum requirements associated with school hours in certain circumstances. It’s unclear where the authority for a maximum number of hours is allowed in law. The law does not allow the Secretary to make mandates in our analysis. The statute is silent on the length of the school week except for language surrounding K-12 Plus funding (NMSA 22-8-23.14), which states that schools operating on a 4-day school week must have more than 156 school days to qualify for K12 Plus programming. This clearly provides for 4-day school weeks in law without any explicit authority for the secretary to mandate a length of school week. The proposed rule oversteps New Mexico school law by prescribing more than 50% of weeks to be five-day weeks. Further, the proposed rule mandates that schools must have 180 days to qualify for K-12 Plus funding, which directly contradicts the statute. It is essential to align the rule with statutory provisions on flexible scheduling for districts and charter schools. Revisiting the law to provide authority for the Secretary is necessary to implement the policy.

b. The proposed rule introduces maximum hours in a school day without explicit statutory authorization. Identifying the specific statutory provisions granting the Secretary the authority to establish such limits is imperative. Further, this section of the proposed rule would not apply to charter schools that exercise a nondiscretionary waiver associated with “Length of School Day” NMSA22-8B-5(c).

c. The rule mandates a 30-minute lunch period, which directly contradicts the 20-minute lunch period stipulated in statute (NMSA 22-13c-10). It is crucial to adhere to statutory limitations and recognize the bounds of PED's authority in prescribing lunch periods.

Moreover, the mandated requirement that secondary students attend a minimum of four courses per day (6.10.5.8(A) in the proposed rule) poses considerable challenges for dual-credit high schools. The potential impact on charter schools, exempt from course requirements through nondiscretionary waivers, raises concerns about equitable

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application across all educational institutions. Should the proposed rule go through, this would be an area in which the state's public charter schools are exempt through non-discretionary waivers NMSA 22-8B-5(c).

The proposed rule does not seem to recognize the diversity of school performance across the state regardless of the school calendar. Some of the state's highest-performing schools are on 4-day calendars, including RWCS. Students will face unnecessary disruptions by modifying their calendars without a clear risk-based justification. Acknowledging the success of existing calendar structures and avoiding unnecessary changes that may adversely affect student outcomes is imperative.

Lastly, PCSNM has regularly called for collaboration on the issue of attendance/chronic absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism has hovered around 40%, and the average New Mexico student misses 10.5 days of school. Focusing on changing student attendance status, in conjunction with all education partners, would provide a more impactful change than further calendar change.

In light of these concerns, we urge the PED to reconsider the proposed rule, pursue calendar reform through the legislative process, and focus on leading New Mexico's communities in regularly getting our kids to school. This approach would provide the necessary statutory clarity and allow for comprehensive stakeholder engagement to address the diverse needs of our educational community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the PED will carefully consider the implications of the proposed rule and work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop solutions that prioritize the best interests of our students and educators.

Yours sincerely,

Jon Orris, MA
Director
Roots and Wings Community School
Physical: 35 La Lama Road
Mail: HC 81 Box 22
Questa, New Mexico 87556
575.586.2076

*Jon Orris, Director
Veronica Garcia, Office Manager*

35 La Lama Rd.
HC 81 Box 22, Questa, NM 87556
575-586-2076/fax 575-586-2087

From: [Jocelyn Chapman](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:27:12 AM

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I do not support this rule change. I am a Los Alamos Public School Parent and I think it will negatively impact my student.

Thank you.

From: [Ayres Caitlynn](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5-Day Week Concern
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:28:03 AM

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My name is Caitlynn Ayres, 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,
Caitlynn Ayres

From: [Feloniece grano](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PED 180 School Day Rule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:30:18 AM

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

My name is Feloniece Grano , 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,
Feloniece Grano

From: [Nona](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5 week day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:31:45 AM

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

My name is Nona Acosta , 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,
Nona Acosta

From: [Maya Williamson](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School schedule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:31:58 AM

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

My name is Maya Williamson 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,
Maya Williamson

From: [Virginia Grant](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:32:41 AM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in strong and adamant opposition to the proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements.

This proposal would bring only negative changes to the students, their families, and the teachers. School children in New Mexico do not need more hours in school, and the changes needed to give preparation time to teachers would create very difficult schedules for students and their families.

This proposal would also make it impossible for elementary students to be released early one day a week, as they are in my county. This break in the school week is of the utmost importance for children to have a break for rest and play, plus extra time with their families.

I urge you to reject this proposal for the good of the students, the teachers, and the families of New Mexico.

Sincerely,

Virginia Grant, PhD
Los Alamos County

From: [Giselle B](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:33:58 AM

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

Hi I am emailing to voice my opposition to the changes being proposed to rule 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements. This rule would unnecessarily impact schools like the ASK Academy who already have rigorous academic requirements and require the 5th day of the week to ensure student success. The ASK Academy provides tutoring and additional support for students on their Fridays and this would negatively impact the academic outcomes. Additionally, there is no evidence based practice that definitively points that more face to face time equates improved academic outcomes.

Thank you,

--

Giselle Bango, MS, LMFT (NC, SC, NM), LADAC (NM)
Hablo espanol

Please note I am in Mountain Standard Time.

Por favor note que estoy en zona horario de EU montana.

828-301-8171 (cell)

828-333-5584 (fax)

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  <font face="Arial" style="font-size:13px;">
    (828) 333-5584</font>
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style="text-align:center;">
    <img src='https://secure.myfax.com/public/faxme/g1.jpg' alt='Click to fax me now.'
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target="_blank">MyFax Online Fax Service</a></font>
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From: [Jeri Lyn Manzanares](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] One size does not fit all!
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:35:54 AM

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

Dear PED,

My name is Jeri Lyn Mourning Manzanares and I am a gifted education teacher at Santa Fe Public Schools. I am writing to let you know that a one size fits all approach to education does not work in a state as diverse as New Mexico. A mandated 5 day school week is not supported by the achievement data coming out of 4 day districts such as Cimmaron, Los Alamos and Taos in addition to others. We are expected to differentiate in our classes. Why then, are we being offered this one size fits all to our state's district calendars?

More days do not necessarily correlate with higher testing outcomes. Speaking of which, the number of hours wasted on testing cuts into valuable instructional time. We need to teach our students to prepare for jobs of the future, critical thinking skills and how to be thriving members of society.

This push for additional days added to the schedule seems arbitrary and obviously hasn't been well thought out. This is evident by the sheer volume of letters from parents and educators pushing back on the idea of more days. What does more days mean? Has anyone even set forth a vision on what that looks like? When are teachers supposed to plan and create amazing, intentional lessons for our students? Santa Fe Public schools have early release on Fridays. This is when we come together, discuss concerns and what is working, hone and share our pedagogy, meet with teams to discuss children in crisis, not just educational crisis, but safety and basic needs being met.

Reduce class sizes or add trained, well paid instructional aides to all classrooms in grades Pre-K through 12. Students need more contact with caring adults who meet more than their instructional needs. We are handing out food and clothing at schools all across New Mexico. The problem here is POVERTY and we need reduced class sizes and more wrap around services so that our students can learn! Kids can't learn if their basic needs aren't being met. More counselors, nurses, social workers, community schools are key to helping students succeed.

Stop trying to fix the woes of our educational system on the backs of exhausted teachers who give it their all EVERY SINGLE DAY to teach their students and make sure that they can grow and learn academically. Let's hear some real solutions, not this reactive, seemingly punitive solution that is being offered.

Respectfully,

Jeri Lyn Mourning Manzanares

Nina Otero Community School
Gifted Education-21st Century Site Coordinator
505-467-4232 (office) 505-310-4420 (cell)



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From: [Stephanie Schroeder](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Teacher Feedback re: PED Calendar Rule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:36:23 AM

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

To whom it may concern,

Please pardon that this is a simple, humble email and not a formal, fancy letter, but I'm a simple, humble teacher in the throes of finals work, trying my best to meaningfully wrap up the semester, and this is all I could muster. I write to you today in reference to the proposed PED calendar changes which would, in short, be disastrous for schools, teachers, and ultimately students.

I would like to preface my comments with the acknowledgement that New Mexico has always faced an uphill battle from before the state's inception. Our history of colonialism and conflict has left many of the state's inhabitants in poverty and on unequal footing in almost every area. In today's world, one of those impacted areas is education, where our numbers and statistics seem dismal and which make our state look disreputable. That said, **there are better solutions to the problems at hand than simply "throwing" more calendar days at students, while taking away teacher professional development time and school autonomy.**

I suspect many people reading this email have not been in the classroom for extended periods of time teaching young people. (And for those of you who have, hopefully you can commiserate with what I'm saying.) Let me be the first to say that teaching is the best, but most difficult, job I have ever had. It is rewarding in a way unlike most others, but also has deep consequences if not done to the best of one's ability. Students are unique---so full of curiosity, but combating a changing world that constantly divides their attention. They often want to learn, but it can seem like an uphill battle, especially in the face of poverty, crime, learning disabilities/challenges, social media, complicated family lives, and understaffed schools. **Simply adding more days to the calendar while removing teacher professional days from the count is not the way to solve this problem.**

I am a good teacher because I have time to plan and collaborate with colleagues and meaningfully grade student work and give feedback and generally enjoy my school. Our school's executive director, who is in Santa Fe today, summed it up best when he said that "not allowing teacher professional work hours to be included in the determination of the entirety of a school calendar is demeaning to the profession and ignores the research on what truly leads to improved student outcomes." I have been teaching for a decade now and this year is the first I can recall where our staff is feeling underprepared by way of professional development days. We are a tight-knit community school and one of the highest performing in the state; rest assured that **we are only this way because of the time we spend together, growing and learning from one another, and collaborating in meaningful ways.** I cannot stomach years and years of less and less "teacher time" and I fear that many teachers will leave the profession if you keep "tightening the drum" in this unsustainable way. Things break under too much pressure, and schools/teachers/students are no different.

I urge you to allow schools some autonomy in these decisions, especially small, independently-ran charters like ours. (I cannot speak to how a large district school operates

best because I do not work at one.) I urge you to allow schools to be creative in approaching the extra calendar days, like our school does with our experiential learning model, called "[Discovery](#)." I urge you to let teacher professional development days count toward the overall calendar total because they are mission-critical to school & student success. I urge you to address the wider issues of poverty and crime and meaningful teacher preparation programs, which will undoubtedly also help New Mexico's schools lift themselves out of last place.

We are a strong, resilient state and you do not fix ongoing, centuries-long problems like these overnight. Please be patient and creative in your efforts and know that teachers do not do this job unless their whole heart is in it. Please trust us and trust schools and allow us to implement various solutions to achieve the student learning you so desire. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of the matter.

Stephanie Schroeder

Level 3 Teacher, East Mountain High School
Governing Council Faculty Representative
Social Studies Department Chair
Student Council Sponsor

From: [Carrie Broten](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:36:34 AM

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Good morning,

I am a developmental specialist and a parent of a child with special needs, and I urge you to consider the benefits of a 4-day schedule as an option for students.

My son has been on an IEP since first grade due to multiple learning disabilities caused by Chiari Malformation, a brain abnormality. He was consistently multiple grade levels behind in his skills. His school operates on a 4-day schedule, leaving Fridays open for students to get 1:1 time with a teacher or tutor. He has steadily made gains since switching to this schedule in 6th grade, and now in 8th grade he just tested at grade level for the first time in his life. We celebrated this accomplishment with tears in our eyes!

As a developmental specialist, I work with kids who NEED that 1:1 time. Adding to their schedule through after-school options is not beneficial as they are tired after a full day of school.

On the other end of the spectrum, I have a son who does not have learning disabilities and consistently scores in the 94-99th percentile. Thanks to his 4-day week schedule he was able to participate in dual enrollment and take classes with CNM, participate in clubs, etc. He has chosen to attend UNM next year and stay in New Mexico with pride.

Both of my children are excited about school and feel less overwhelmed knowing they have Friday available to them to catch up, pursue other achievements, rest, whatever they need!

I recognize that there are students who benefit from a 5-day week schedule. Those programs exist. There are kids who benefit from a 4-day week schedule. Why would we disallow the program to exist? Why can't families have that option? It's working. The ASK Academy has excellent turn-out on a 4-day week schedule. This benefits our state!

Don't politicize this. Leave the option, as it is working. Punishing success makes no sense at all.

Thank you.

From: [julia Joyce](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:37:39 AM

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Hello, my name is Julia Joyce and I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposal for a 5-day school week. While the idea may seem appealing for various reasons, I believe it may cause more harm than good.

Firstly, a compressed 5-day schedule could lead to increased stress and burnout among students. With fewer days for recuperation, students might struggle to manage their workload, leaving little time for extracurricular activities, hobbies, or simply unwinding. This can adversely impact their mental health and overall well-being.

Additionally, a 5-day school week might limit opportunities for diverse learning experiences outside the classroom. With less time available, students may have fewer chances for internships, volunteering, or pursuing passions that contribute significantly to their personal and academic growth.

Furthermore, a compressed schedule might impact teachers' abilities to provide adequate individual attention to students, diminishing the quality of education. Longer hours could also strain educators, affecting their ability to deliver engaging and effective lessons.

Many students attend support on Friday and need that extra help, without support students may be struggling as they will not have the 1-1 attention that they require, leading to lower grades.

In conclusion, while the idea of a 5-day school week may seem beneficial on the surface, its implementation could negatively impact students' mental health, academic performance, and overall development. It's crucial to consider a balanced approach that prioritizes both academic rigor and students' well-being.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Julia Joyce

12/18/23

Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed School Calendar Changes

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,

Vanessa Miranda
Clovis High School



Rio Grande Academy of Fine Arts . 1401 Old Coors Dr. SW, Albuquerque, NM 87114 . 505-361-1838

Founders & Directors: Jordan Franco & Michele Platis

Michele Platis
RioGAFA
1401 Old Coors Dr. SW
Albuquerque, NM 87114

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 our concerns regarding the proposed rule on instructional time requirements (6.10.5 NMAC) and respectfully request that the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) reconsider and revoke the aforementioned proposal.

During the 2023 legislative session, there was extensive debate on calendar reform, culminating in a compromise on legislation that was ultimately agreed upon and signed by the Governor. While we acknowledge the department's dedication to enhancing educational outcomes, it is essential to highlight that the lack of authority particularly concerning as it directly conflicts with the legislation on instructional hours that was previously agreed upon and signed into law.

In light of these circumstances, RioGAFA kindly requests that the NMPED revokes the proposed rule. We believe that any modifications to instructional time requirements should undergo the legislative process to ensure alignment with the previously established and agreed-upon legislation. This approach will not only uphold the integrity of the legislative compromise reached during the 2023 session but also ensure that any changes are made within the appropriate legal framework.

State law clearly states that rule cannot run contrary to statute: NMSA 14-4-5.7(A) states "No rule is valid or enforceable if it conflicts with statute. A conflict between a rule and a statute is resolved in favor of the statute."

Within the proposed rule, there are several policies that lack statutory authority for the PED to mandate:

- a. The proposed rule provides for a maximum length of 7.5 hours per school day, and it's unclear where the authority for the secretary to mandate a maximum number of hours is allowed in law. In fact, NMSA 22-2-8 only allows for the Secretary to waive **minimum** requirements associated with school hours in certain circumstances.

- b. The proposed rule attempts to mandate 180 days on every school's calendar. However, the law does not provide the Secretary to make mandates on the length of the school calendar. Statute is silent on the length of school week except for language surrounding K-12 Plus funding (NMSA 22-8-23.14), which explicitly allows for schools to operate on a 4-day school week. In that section of statute, it notes that 4-day week schools must have more than 156 school days to qualify for K12 Plus programming. This clearly provides for 4-day school weeks in law without any explicit authority for the Secretary to mandate the number of days provided in a school week.
- c. The proposed rule oversteps New Mexico school law by prescribing more than 50% of weeks to be five-day weeks. We see no statutory authority for this action by the Secretary.
- d. The proposed rule mandates a 30-minute lunch period, which directly contradicts the 20-minute lunch period stipulated in statute (NMSA 22-13c-10). It is crucial to adhere to statutory limitations and recognize the bounds of PED's authority in prescribing lunch periods.

It is imperative to align the proposed rule with statutory provisions on flexible scheduling, prompting a reevaluation of existing laws to empower the Secretary with the necessary authority for the effective implementation of the proposed policy.

Moreover, the proposed policy mandating a minimum of four courses per day for secondary students overlooks a critical consideration for those enrolled in early college high schools. While RioGAFA is not currently affected by this, we will be in the future. This provision could prove impractical for students engaged in college-level work, as their schedules may not align with the mandated minimum of four daily courses. Careful consideration is needed for these unique circumstances of students pursuing dual credit to prevent imposing damaging requirements on their academic pursuits.

Furthermore, the proposed rule's attempt to impose calendar mandates on all schools, regardless of performance, requires scrutiny in light of existing data. Research is mixed on longer school days and years and indicates a lack of conclusive evidence linking longer school days and years to improved student performance. Many studies underscore the importance of considering factors such as the quality of instruction, prior student knowledge and ability, and classroom environment in shaping educational outcomes. Therefore, a data-driven, nuanced approach is needed to avoid potentially counterproductive measures.

In light of these concerns, RioGAFA appreciates your attention to this matter and urges the NMPED to meticulously consider the broader implications of the proposed rule. Collaborative efforts with the legislature, informed by the latest research findings, are essential to formulate solutions that prioritize the best interests of our students and address the multifaceted challenges posed by the proposed changes.

Thank you for your dedication to our educational system, and I look forward to positive developments in this regard.

Sincerely,



Michele Platis
Co-Founder & Co- Director
Rio Grande Academy of Fine Arts

From: [Kristine Coblentz](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements" - opposed
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:39:55 AM

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

To the members of the NMPED School Calendar Requirements Committee -

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed rule changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5. Adding hours and days to the school year may seem like a simple and easy solution to the academic and social emotional struggles our students are facing, but developing effective strategies to improve student outcomes will require a more intentional and strategic use of time and resources.

What our students lack is not time in seats, but exposure to effective student engagement strategies that are rooted in culturally responsive environments that keep rigor at the forefront for all students. Adding more of the same is going to produce the same results. My recommendation would be to invest the time and resources it would require to extend student hours and days in developing a stronger, more culturally competent teaching force dedicated to using research-based methods of engaging students in a dynamic process of teaching and learning. Use that funding to create a summer teaching academy designed and directed by New Mexico's most effective master teachers so that we can achieve significant sustainable positive outcomes in a reasonable amount of time. An additional benefit? - Capitalizing on the strengths of our teachers and in the process reigniting the spark of inspiration that educators need to be able to continue this work.

If this rule takes effect, the Los Alamos Public Schools would lose the time that is currently being used for staff collaboration across grades and disciplines, NMPED required trainings, professional development opportunities selected by sites to improve teaching and learning, and conferencing with families which increases family engagement in the educational process. This would require the addition of professional development days and planning time for teaching and administrative staff.

As a prevention program coordinator who works closely with school counseling staff, it is clear that students, staff, and families are still struggling from the effects of the pandemic. Mental health and substance use challenges are on the rise. Even the most accomplished students and staff express feeling unmotivated and burned out. As we try to balance academic requirements with a focus on social emotional wellbeing, it is clear that what students and staff DO NOT need is more time in seats. They need more time for rest, exercise, social connection, and community activities. Research shows us that when these basic needs are met, people are happier and able to perform at a higher level.

Please take the above into consideration in your decision making process.

Thank you,
Kristine Coblentz

Kristine Coblentz
she/her/hers

Prevention Support Specialist
Los Alamos Public Schools
505.663.2575

Mon - Wed @ LAMS, Room 134B in the Library
Tues - Thurs - Fri @ LAHS, Room A210 in the Upper Commons
Community and Elementary School and Work Sites - Contact me to schedule a time!

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This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Tammie Yazzie](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I do not support 180 day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:42:48 AM

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Good morning my name is Tammie Johnson. I teach 5th grade in CCSD and we are struggling to work on student attendance. Adding days will make it far more difficult for all. What can we do to improve student attendance should be a higher priority. We cannot make improvements without addressing the real issue. Adding more days won't get students to school. Therefore I do not support additional days to school calendars.

Thank you,
Tammie Johnson
5th Grade Educator

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Carmen Whitlock](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:43:42 AM

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

180 days is not the way to go. Give the students what they need. In my district, Las Cruces Public Schools, we adopted a new publisher for our social studies curriculum. WE CAN'T GET THE STUDENT WORKTEXTS! My principal ordered the books five different times! So, I sent the student to their homeschool within the district and the student got her worktexts! However, the assistant principal literally removed the books from my student's hands and said our virtual program is going to get them for her. Removed from her hands, were the books she needed.

Fix the system at district levels! Don't put the fix on the backs of the broken educator and learners. No to 180 days!

Carmen Merlano-Whitlock, MA

From: [Ramona Moya](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:44:09 AM

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To whom it may concern:

1. Our students at Mesa Vista , like many other students, were extremely affected by the COVID.epidemic. They are now still struggling to get back on their daily routine, so extending schools days would set them back again.
- (2) Busing for our students to school has been a challenge on a 4 day instructional week, extending days to 5 days, makes it more challenging.
- (3) attendance would also be an issue.

Thank you
Ramona Moya
El Rito Elementary School/ Mesa vista Schools

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [Gabi Michnovicz](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Consider Not Changing All School's to Five Days a Week
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:46:27 AM

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

My name is Gabriella Michnovicz, 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,
Gabriella Michnovicz

From: [Sybil Walterscheid](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback: 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:47:07 AM

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

Dec. 18, 2023

Ref: Feedback : 6.10.5 NMAC

To the NM Public Education Dept:

Our grandson attends 1st grade at Loving Municipal Schools which presently uses a very successful 4 day school week. We are against the proposed rule change of 1140 hours to 180 days of instructional time. It is feared that LMS teachers will leave to Carlsbad (CMS). As a larger school district CMS is offering a \$20,000 sign on bonus for teachers. This would leave LMS with less teachers and force the use of more substitute teachers. Senator David Gallegos said that the Jal, Eunice, and Tatum school districts are looking at the same scenario of losing teachers to the Hobbs school district or even nearby Texas. This issue should be left up to the local school district. Most high school sports are played on Fridays or Saturdays. With a 4 day school week it enables LMS teams out of town travel time. The student athletes do not miss school during that time. Another particular issue for LMS is that with the 4 day school week the school buses will not be on the highways for 1 day per week, That would avoid the heavy dangerous traffic due to the surrounding oilfield and large NMDOT highway construction project going on inside and outside Loving.

James and Sybil Waltercheid

From: [Carol Brooks](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:47:12 AM

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Dear Sirs/Madame,

As an educator with years of experience at various age levels I ask you to look carefully at the Instructional Process in our schools not the time element.

Thank you,

Carol Brooks

IA SPED-Cliff School-Silver Consolidated Schools

From: [Ayres Caitlynn](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: 5-Day Week Concern
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:47:48 AM

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As an addition to my point stated earlier I wanted to say that these Fridays really help scholars. We go to school longer than schools and have longer days. Along with shorter breaks. We would hardly have these Fridays for extra and tutoring.

Sincerely

Caitlynn Ayres

On Mon, Dec 18, 2023 at 10:27 AM Ayres Caitlynn

<ayres.caitlynn2030@theaskacademy.org> wrote:

My name is Caitlynn Ayres, 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,
Caitlynn Ayres

From: [BLISS SCHLUETER](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] proposed 180 day requirement
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:47:58 AM

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I have been a teacher in NM for 24 years. In my experience, there is no difference between a 1,140-hour requirement and a 180-day requirement. Allowing districts flexibility and more time within teachers' contracts to provide useful professional development is a great benefit. Until we find a way to convince more families in NM that education is important and that education begins and continues at home, adding days or hours to the school year will not improve graduation rates or test scores in our state. Ultimately, this proposal will punish high-performing districts that currently attend school fewer than 180 days, but meet the 1,140-hour requirement. Teacher recruitment and retention is already suffering in NM, and this proposal will not help that problem either. Please rescind this proposal and maintain local districts' autonomy in the way their calendars are created.

Sincerely,

--

Bliss B. Schlueter

Math instructor

Educators Rising Teacher Leader

Clovis High School

Go Wildcats!

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From: [Darrell Chavez](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:48:05 AM

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More days are not the answer to our current situation. There are better and simpler solutions which could lead to a win win situation for both student and educator. One just simply has to ask those who are in the classrooms daily and use that information to make the best decisions possible.

From: [Donato Giovana](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] school
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:49:12 AM

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I want to have Fridays off because we can go in on fridays and get help, if we don't have Friday then I would think some of the students wouldn't get the help they need .

From: [Gabi Michnovicz](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Consider Not Enforcing a Five Day a Week Policy
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:49:23 AM

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

My name is Gabriella Michnovicz, 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,
Gabriella Michnovicz

From: [Humphrey Alyss](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback (School Calendar Requirements)
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:49:47 AM

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

My name is Alyss Humphrey, 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,
Alyss Humphrey

From: [Cynthia Björk](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:49:57 AM

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

Dear NMPED Leaders,

First, thank you for your intentions to assist New Mexico educators and schools to improve in all dimensions. I am writing to make a plea for you to employ logic and current research informed guidance to address our challenges and issues using a wider-broader lens with information from Council of Chief State School Officers, IES OELA and many education researchers. Your approach which focuses solely on extended time excludes other necessary and vital ways to help our students progress in school. These aspects include reduced class sizes, smaller caseloads for special educators, decreased time and resources spent on standardized testing, increased planning time for educators to allow for quality preparation and delivery of instruction, understanding student disengagement, addressing chronic absenteeism, resourcing mental health issues, and paying more for continually rising educator health care costs, to stabilize the workforce-to name a few.

I write as a Dual Language Interventionist with Bernalillo Public Schools to advocate that you listen to our NEA representatives to drop the extended time focus and expand your school improvement efforts.

Warm Regards,
Cynthia Björk
cynthiabjork@ymail.com
720.480.9390



From: xenangel@earthlink.net
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose amendments to 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:49:58 AM

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

We oppose the proposed amendments to 6.10.5 NMAC. Please do not make these changes that will negatively impact our children.

Sharon Seitz

Sent from EarthLink Mobile mail

From: [Kathy Potter](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5day school week
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:50:29 AM

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

A five day school week isn't what makes the difference in A child's education. It's the quality of the days that they do have in school, it's the relationship with the teachers and staff that make the difference. The flexibility of a four-day school week helps to retain quality staff and allows a school to creatively use the fifth day to support and or enrich a student's experience in the classroom. I strongly urge you to not make a five day school week mandatory. It is the least relevant factor in an quality experience for learners.

Kathy Montoya Potter
Former educator
parent and grandparent
KP Sent from my iPhone

From: [Claire Sanders](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Against changes in NMAC Rule 6.10.5 - school instructional time requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:51:36 AM

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

Hi,

I'm writing to oppose the changes to instructional time proposed in NMAC rule 6.10.5. The changes and additions to instructional time reduce the time that our students have to spend with their families and engage in other productive and important activities, such as sports, non-school based lessons and clubs, summer camps and travel. Time outside of school is essential to our students' success as they need to learn to balance different priorities and options in life. Additionally, the current school commitment was just changed last year, and we are just now adjusting to shortened breaks and changing requirements. The late implementation of which affected summer plans, including things like camps that were registered for before the state and districts made a final decision. Adding more hours will tax teachers, increasing their hours and reducing planning time without increasing student learning and outcomes. Please do not implement more last minute changes that will not improve educational outcomes, instead focus on improving the time that children are already spending in their classrooms.

Thanks you,
Claire Sanders
Los Alamos

From: [Gabriella Michnovicz](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Consider Not Switching to a Five Day a Week Policy
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:51:44 AM

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

My name is Gabriella Michnovicz, 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,
Gabriella Michnovicz

From: [Chaves Lianna](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback (School Calendar Requirements)
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:51:51 AM

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

My name is Lianna Chaves

, 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,
Lianna Chaves

From: [Holly Deglado](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule Feeback for: Title 6, Chapter 10, Part 5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:52:24 AM

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

In regards to the Title 6, Chapter 10, Part 5 Rule in discussion.

It would be helpful to know the reasoning behind the rule change to provide adequate feedback - had we known a reason for this rule we wouldn't be left to assume and thus formed our feedback on our own assumptions.

Nevertheless, extending instructional time for our students by 5 days hardly has an impact on their educational performance in a positive manner. As it stands now, children are antsy at winter break, spring break and prior to summer break with not wanting to be inside a classroom.

The challenge education faces is not "more instructional hours" it's finding an engaging curriculum that trains students for their future not just in academics but in everyday living. Not to mention helping them develop the emotional maturity they need to thrive in a Public Education setting - with the rise of bullying, ADHD, and suicide more educational hours should be the least of our concerns. Developing a quality curriculum that helps students cope with the social aspect of attending public school would go a long way in helping children focus on their studies, thus making each educational hour count.

Extending instructional hours would also put undue stress on our educators who spend countless hours OUTSIDE of their normal classroom hours preparing lessons and finding creative ways to engage their less-than-motivated students. To require more hours from them is preposterous.

More hours is not the solution to our educational challenges.

From: [Nancy Oakes](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:52:53 AM

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

Choosing this "solution" to the problems students in NM face will not solve anything. There are far better ways to impact the problem. Short sighted thinking.

Nancy E. Oakes

505-331-1371

neoakes08@gmail.com

From: [LISA PEREZ](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:53:04 AM

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

Longer school days could result in attention deficit and fatigue, making the extra class time ineffective. When students are too tired or mentally exhausted to concentrate, the last hour of the day becomes useless. Some students, even as old as eighth-graders, suffer from post-lunch attention deficit syndrome and aren't mentally prepared to take on an additional hour of classwork. Young students might feel fatigue or fall asleep during class time if they are too tired to concentrate or perform.

I would vote NO overall

v/r

Lisa

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From: [Leslie Karasic](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:53:23 AM

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

Absenteeism rates are high without 180 days. Extending the school year is not going to increase learning. Having more support for mental health, and smaller class sizes will help. We need not to burn out teachers and students even more. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Brandi Flores](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:53:28 AM

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

Good morning.

Our child attends the ASK Academy in Rio Rancho. We currently have a 4-day school week and we do not wish this to change. Our child thrives with this schedule and along with the STEM based curriculum, the schedule played a large part in our choice of this charter school. Our family is asking that the 4-day school week remain unchanged for ASK Academy scholars.

Thank you.

Brandi Flores

From: [Archer Candelaria](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:53:47 AM

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

My name is Anastacia Candelaria, 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,
Anastacia
Candelaria

From: [Martin Mila](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Feedback for friday
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:54:32 AM

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

I would also like to suggest that if you do this you provided buses as friday is the day of the week where parents have the most work and if people don't go to school it could cause problems at home so if you do go with this idea please provide buses

sincerely

Mila Martin

On Mon, Dec 18, 2023 at 8:58 AM Martin Mila <martin.mila2030@theaskacademy.org> wrote:

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: [Julie Horner](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:54:39 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 writing this letter to express my concern regarding the proposal 6.10.5 NMAC Calendar Requirements of adding more school days to the academic year. In my opinion, this would not help the situation in any way. It would only make the students who already attend school come more often, while those who do not attend will still not come.

I believe that the state of New Mexico is responsible for the current problem of students not attending school. The state should hold the parents or guardians accountable for the education neglect of their children. The state has made education less important by hiring inexperienced individuals as teachers and not valuing the dedicated teachers who have spent their lives educating students.

I think that the state should pay the teachers what they deserve as they are the ones who are shaping the future of our nation. It is also important for the state to focus on resolving the issue of attendance rather than adding more days to the academic year. The state should take measures to make education a priority and ensure that every student has access to it.

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns.

Sincerely,

Julie Horner

Julie Horner
AIS 6th Grade Math Teacher

From: [Steven Booth](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I am AGAINST the proposed rule change 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:54:40 AM

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

I am a grandparent in Los Alamos. I wish to note my opposition to the proposed rule change 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements.

Thank you,
Steve

--

Steven Booth
srboothnm@gmail.com

From: [Kristensen Alexia](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to 5 Days a week
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:54:47 AM

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

Dear NMPED,

I am a scholar at the Rio Rancho ASK Academy, and I would like to request that you don't pass the 180 5 days a week rule. The Friday hours off are very important to me and other scholars to do projects and review for tests. The academic rigor would be even more taxing and exhausting if we had 5 days a week, and Fridays are invaluable for the teachers and students' mental health.

Sincerely,

A concerned student,

Alexia Kristensen

From: [gabi nichole](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Consider Not Switching to a Five Day a Week Policy
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:55:07 AM

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

My name is Gabriella Michnovicz, 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,
Gabriella Michnovicz

From: [Nancy Oakes](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day - NMAC 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:55:25 AM

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

RE: rule number NMAC 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements

Choosing this "solution" to the problems students in NM face will not solve anything. There are far better ways to impact the problem. Short sighted thinking.

Nancy E. Oakes

505-331-1371

neoakes08@gmail.com

From: [Minyard, Debra](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:56:03 AM

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

Dear NMPED,

I am alarmed that the PED is proposing a new rule to change school instructional time requirements. Mandating 180 school days for students exclusive of teacher professional development days, when we recently went through a calendar change, does little to benefit teaching and learning. We have no evidence or data that what we recently changed has had a positive impact on student learning, and yet here we are with another proposed change about adding even more time.

Instead, we need to be focused on practices that actually fix our education system. These aspects include reduced class sizes, smaller caseloads for special educators, decreased time and resources spent on standardized testing, increased planning time for educators to allow for quality preparation and delivery of instruction, understanding student disengagement, addressing chronic absenteeism, resourcing mental health issues, and paying more for continually rising educator health care costs, to stabilize the workforce-to name a few.

Data driven, researched based practices are what will make an impact on teaching and learning in this state. Simply adding more contact time is not the answer.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Minyard, NBCT
2015 New Mexico Teacher of the Year
Pojoaque Valley High School Band Director
Link Crew Coordinator
AVID District Director



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From: [gax.isreal](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Consider Not Switching to a Five Day Per Week Policy
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:56:43 AM

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

My name is Gabriella Michnovicz, 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,
Gabriella Michnovicz

From: [Ames-Brown, Sara](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:57:24 AM

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

Dearest PED,

Please pay attention to the work done by the LFC and qualified New Mexican educators and do what is right for ALL New Mexico schools - not just those in the metro area. If accountability is the bright shiny new focus for PED (again), please use actual DATA when making decisions. If PED does indeed want reading and math skills to improve, it makes more sense to focus the school days we have on academics - let's get rid of in school sports! A three season athlete misses nearly 75 of the 180 school days, and so much school time is devoted to pep rallies and athletic rah rah.

Without a true focus on academics - as well as the professional time needed to really implement data driven instruction - New Mexico will continue to struggle in proficiency of basic skills.

Doing more of something that is already not working will not magically improve results.

Do your homework, and do what's right for New Mexico students.

SaB

Sara Ames Brown

Ruidoso High School
Eng III, PHSS, T ACAD

This message originates from the Ruidoso Municipal School District. This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual(s) or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager at admin@ruidososchools.org or via phone at 575-257-4051. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this email. Please notify the sender immediately by email if you have received this email by mistake and delete this email 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: [Danny Tallon](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HB 130 Feedback
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:57:48 AM

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

To whom it may concern,

After reading the recent rule changes coming into effect to increase the number of school days, I have two things to say:

1. My class sizes are unmanageable, and my department is not hiring a new teacher to help. I have three sections of over 34 students, and the rest are near that limit. This is increasing my workload, makes individual feedback and intervention more difficult, and (in my particular science class) makes doing hands-on, engaging labs extremely laborious. The learning of my students has suffered because of this.
2. I do not believe that increasing the number of hours in the classroom will be the fix to help my students succeed. The issues I am mostly dealing with cannot be fixed by increasing student hours; they can only be fixed by giving my district more leeway to hire the people they need to decrease our workload.

Thanks,

--

Danny Tallon

Your friendly neighborhood physics teacher

|| Valencia High School ||

Rm. 208 Ext. 6367

From: [rev w0rship](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please Consider Not Switching to a Five Day Per Week Mandate
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:58:17 AM

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

My name is Gabriella Michnovicz, 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,
Gabriella Michnovicz

From: [Maria Aragon](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:00:03 AM

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

More instructional days without smaller class sizes and more support for teachers will not solve the learning deficit. It's a waste of time and money that would be better spent reimagining existing systems to give NM kids an education that fits their needs, cultural background, and situation.

Sent from my iPhone
(please excuse brevity, punctuation, & typos)

From: [Marvin Martin](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:01:11 AM

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

I am strongly opposed to this proposal, not only because it is not in state statute, but also because of the one size fits all mentality. The majority of our staff commutes 25 miles per day. To ask them to add another 30 plus days without compensation will only worsen the very problems we are trying to improve. Please change your method of going about this Mr. Secretary so that all stakeholders have a voice and responsibility to the students of New Mexico.

Hondo Valley Public Schools

From: [Advocacy Club](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:01:13 AM

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

Dear PED

Please do not do this we love our 4 day schedule

Ethan Staton 6th Grade Student at The ASK Academy

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

From: **Staton Ethan** <staton.ethan2030@theaskacademy.org>

Date: Mon, Dec 18, 2023 at 9:08 AM

Subject: Re: URGENT: Submit a Comment Against the PED 180 School Day Rule (KEEP FRIDAYS FREE)

To: Advocacy Club <advocacy@theaskacademy.org>

From: [Betsy Hemphill](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:02:17 AM

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

I am strongly opposed to this change.

1) You have not even waited a full year to see if the last change was effective. Why would you consider another change before evaluating the data from the last change to determine whether it was positive or negative?

2) High school students currently have the opportunity to get college credit and work internships. Increasing the credit hours will just make more students less able to graduate and provide less competitive advantages. I graduated from a New Mexico High School and so did my husband. He went to Harvard because the schedule allowed him to have free periods and gain real world knowledge that contributed to his academic success. Why would you take away those same opportunities from current students?

3) This rule will make current teachers quit, and make it harder to hire new teachers. There is already a shortage of certified teachers in this state, so let's try to listen to the educators and encourage them to stay by not increasing the hours they must be with students. There already is not enough professional development time, so this rule will not be beneficial for educators or their students.

Betsy Hemphill, Ph.D., NCSP
Nationally Certified School Psychologist



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Advocacy Club](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:02:52 AM

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

My name is Thomas Gibsob, 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,
Thomas Gibson

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

From: **Thomas Gibson** <tgibson2027@theaskacademy.org>

Date: Mon, Dec 18, 2023 at 8:10 AM

Subject: Re: URGENT: Submit a Comment Against the PED 180 School Day Rule (KEEP FRIDAYS FREE)

To: Advocacy Club <advocacy@theaskacademy.org>

From: [Gage Morain](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:04:03 AM

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

My name is Gage Patrick Morain, 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,
Gage Patrick Morain

Please don't

From: [Advocacy Club](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:04:14 AM

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

My name is xyon khatam, 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,
xyon khatam

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

From: **Xyon Khatam** <xkhatam2028@theaskacademy.org>
Date: Mon, Dec 18, 2023 at 10:51 AM
Subject: 5-day school week
To: Advocacy Club <advocacy@theaskacademy.org>

From: [Sunee Sandoval](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:04:42 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 concerned in the sudden change in requirements. I am also deeply concerned that the rule would be at odds with the law. I believe that this rule has unintended consequences that will limit critical staff planning time and be disruptive to our schools. Although parents, teachers, and schools are working to understand the overall impact of the rule change, I believe that NMPED is failing to give districts adequate time to prepare for this unexpected change that dramatically impacts the students, teachers, and families.

I as a concerned mother, and I am in agreement that I do NOT support the adoption of the proposed rule change.

Thank you,

Sunee Sandoval

From: [Dannelle Sierra Aragon](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMPED Possibly Change to 4-day Week School Schedule - Parent's Concerns
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:05:23 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 (AKCS), 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 week was a big factor in choosing AKCS for our daughter. My husband and I both are working parents and the consistency of the AKCS schedule allows us to efficiently plan and be off with our child during teacher development days (on Friday at AKCS). I am off on Friday and do not have any family support to stay home with my child during the day if my daughter's Monday-Thursday school schedule gets disrupted. A second, equally important reason that the 4-day schedule works for us is that I take my daughter for private speech and occupational therapy on Friday with NO disruption to her school day, currently as elementary students at AKCS never have school on Friday. My daughter is on the Autism Spectrum and her therapy is a very important part of helping her develop skills to use day-to-day. If her schedule changes to 5 day, I will have to disrupt her school day to pull her out for her outside speech and occupational therapy. 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 and greatly impact the consistency of my daughter's routine, which is vitally important to those on the Autism spectrum. She now has minimal if any disruptions to her day and her schedule is very consistent. AKCS's schedule supports our daughter's needs and opportunities for continued growth and improvement.

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

Sincerely,
Dannelle Aragon

From: [Rebekah Jimenez](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:06:57 AM

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

Good Morning,

I strongly oppose the proposed rule to extend the school calendar put forth by the New Mexico Public Education Department. While quality education for students is imperative, these specific changes could negatively impact both students and teachers.

First, standardized extended school years overlook each community's unique needs and priorities. Imposing the same calendar everywhere restricts local leaders from developing schedules tailored to their students. Local control enables responsive, effective education. Additionally, longer calendars may worsen absenteeism, already problematic in many schools. More school days could exhaust students, decreasing engagement and increasing truancy. Rather than emphasizing more days, we should focus on improving daily education quality and using innovative techniques to motivate student participation. Moreover, extra days strain budgets, especially for smaller districts without financial flexibility. Where will additional funds for extended years come from? Has an analysis been done detailing the increased costs districts will face? Many schools cannot absorb these costs.

Teacher shortages are also intensifying. Mandatory longer school years will likely worsen hiring challenges.

Finally, accountability efforts should center on optimizing current instructional time before mandating further obligations. Let's concentrate first on helping students master covered material, not expanding curriculums.

In summary, I urge reconsideration of extended calendars and collaborative development of solutions addressing local, student and teacher needs. Together we can prioritize quality, flexibility and accountability without overburdening key stakeholders.

I welcome continued discussion on building an education system reflecting our community. Thank you.

Rebekah Jimenez, Instructor

Artesia High School
575-748-9816

ARTESIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS – “SUPERIOR QUALITY EDUCATION FOR ALL STUDENTS”

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From: [William Cooper](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Why you should keep fridays for ask
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:07:12 AM

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

Dear secretary of education for New Mexico

I believe that you should let schools in New Mexico keep Fridays off because there is multiple pieces of evidence that suggest that keeping Fridays off would be more beneficial than adding them. My first piece of evidence is that when people go to school less or go to work less they are more productive it is called the 80-20 effect which to put simply states that 20% of the things you do results in 80% of the results so basically the 20% of studying you do results in the 80% that you do so basically in a shorter school week we would get the exact same amount of things done if not more, plus keep in mind that our school also has longer school days. My second piece of evidence is that longer school weeks worsen mental and physical health and also can cause attention fatigue also another school day will also cause less sleep studies have shown that 70% of teenagers do not get the required amount of sleep now with me on school nights I do not either but with friday I use that as a day to get a lot better sleep and studies have also shown that shorter sleep weeks resulting in an increase of a 34 minute increase each night with less school.

That secretary of education for New Mexico is why I believe that you should keep Fridays off as they are also a time to help students who are behind in class without the need to hold everyone back.

-A random Student

From: [Advocacy Club](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:07:17 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, 6th Grade Student The ASK Academy

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

From: Dollens Taylor <dollens.taylor2030@theaskacademy.org>

Date: Mon, Dec 18, 2023 at 8:53 AM

Subject: Re: URGENT: Submit a Comment Against the PED 180 School Day Rule (KEEP FRIDAYS FREE)

To: Advocacy Club <advocacy@theaskacademy.org>

From: [Gage Morain](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re:
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:08:19 AM

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



On Mon, Dec 18, 2023 at 11:03 AM Gage Morain <gage.morain2030@theaskacademy.org> wrote:

My name is Gage Patrick Morain, 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,
Gage Patrick Morain

Please don't

From: [Robinson Elliana](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Taking Away Our Fridays
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:09:18 AM

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

My name is Elliana Robinson, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that we would go to school 5-days a week for students and teachers at the Ask Academy.

As a student I greatly appreciate the Friday hours we have off, and the time that we have to get help from our teachers. It gives everyone a chance to get extra help, and work on school work. I believe that grades will drop and students will be less motivated if we add on Fridays. I think this because the Fridays are always something that I look forward to. And, I feel re-energized after the 3-day weekend. Without it, I would not want to go to school, and I would be less-active and bored.

Plus, the teachers would not want to teach a class full of students who are too tired to pay attention. So, why would we add Fridays? I do not see any positives in adding them.

Every school has something special to it that makes students want to be there. The Ask Academy's special thing is our Fridays. What if students leave because we loose our special thing?

I oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community.

Thank you for your time, I hope that you will take these things into consideration during your choice.

Sincerely,

Elliana Robinson

From: [Lisa A Flores](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:09:21 AM

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

My name is Lisa Flores, and I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students and educators.

I am a national board certified science teacher with endorsements in science, math, business administration and TESOL. When Hannah Skandera was secretary of Education in NM and teachers were rated based upon students' test scores, my group of students consistently demonstrated growth (in Life science, Biology, Chemistry & Physics), resulting in highly effective ratings for myself. In 2021 and 2022 (COVID & post COVID), my AP Biology students' mean test scores were higher (3.13 and 3.67, respectively) than the state's scores (2.72 and 2.74) and global scores (2.83 and 3.10). For the same groups, in 2021, the number of my students who scored a 3 or higher was 87.5% compared to the state's of 53.1% and global results of 59.2%. In 2022, my students who scored a 3 or higher was 100% compared to the state's of 53.8% and global results of 67.8%

I have 5 years to retirement; but, if this rule passes, I will likely not finish my career in the public education system. Instead, I will start looking for a job as an accountant at UNM and finish my last 5 years there so that I can still qualify at NMERB. (My CPA license is still on inactive status in another state.) I will not go back to a traditional classroom in a district where teachers have student loads of 190 students, 2-3 different complex science/math classes to teach, and 1 hour to prepare for those classes, evaluate student work, and comply with the HUGE amount of paperwork required for the HUGE special education population that every school I have been to in NM imposes. None of these things improves the learning environment for students in the general education population and certainly doesn't help retain teachers. NM is dead last in education; and there are many reasons for that: socio-economics, unqualified teachers, lack of student and teacher support, school lock-downs; the list is too long to address prior to this afternoon's "public" hearing, which not surprisingly is during the day, when students and teachers are in class.

There is currently a national trend where an increasing number of schools across the country are adopting a 4-day school week, primarily to retain teachers; why is NM moving in the opposite direction? The students at our charter school thrive in our current environment. We operate on a 4-day schedule. We have longer school days and start earlier in the school year than our counterparts. Friday is available for students to come in and receive additional support. Some of our students pursue internships during this 5th day and some of our students have a job and work on this 5th day.

I oppose the proposed rule change on behalf of students and teachers across our community. I believe it is essential to maintain flexibility in scheduling to ensure the continued success of our Charter school.

Sincerely,

Lisa Flores

Sent from my iPad

From: [Spurlock Maddix](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:09:36 AM

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

My name is Maddix Alen Spurlock, 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,
Maddix Alien Spurlock

From: [Avangel](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:10:23 AM

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

Please do not push this rule through as-is. At least make an exception for STEM/Charter/Magnet schools within NM.

Our schools are the absolute worst, and a mandated 5-day week is not going to help. Colorado is #4 in education rankings this year, and it allows a 4 day school week.

Please invest actual time into education policy. Send folks out to see what the leading states are doing, and learn from them.

While a 5 day school week is shown to improve reading scores, that's all it improves. You're putting extra strain on teachers and students to up a single score, in the single, worst education system in the US. So much more needs to be improved.

Don't aim to get out of 50th place. Aim to actually improve our schools, and aim to be in the top 10.

David Pape

From: [Ashley Curtis](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule Change: School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:10:23 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 writing in regards to the Proposed Rule Change: School Calendar Requirements.

Last year we completed the extended stay in order to not have to extend our school calendar. Research has shown that increased instructional time does not promise improved student outcomes. If you were to add more instruction time, we will have a decrease in staff. You will be removing the ability of our smaller schools to continue with their four- day school weeks. Along with our local autonomy as well as knowing what is best for our students, parents, and educators. How can someone who does not live in our area make the best decisions for our students and staff? How do you know what is working and what is not working? The Clovis Municipal School district asks countless times for parents' input and they listen. How are you to guarantee that you will?

If this change is granted how will you compensate the staff? More sick time due to longer school times? Add in a few days off? Increase in pay? How will you maintain morale and support? Just because you add more school days does not guarantee increased learning and regular attendance.

I am both a parent and a staff member. As a staff member, I look forward to my breaks that I get to spend with my children. Not only that, but I make my health appointments or fun activities on our days off. As a support staff we deserve, need, and look forward to our breaks. It is a time to rest, reset, and gear up.

As a parent, my children are able to have down time, mental rest, reset, and have their health appointments, along with fun activities. This also increases their learning opportunities and engagements. My children have perfect attendance. This is partly due to having their breaks and much needed downtime. Do not take our much needed time away from ourselves and our families.

Respectfully a parent and staff member,
Ashley

From: [Advocacy Club](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:11:09 AM

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

My name is Londyn Baugh, 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,

Londyn Baugh

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

From: **Baugh Londyn** <baugh.londyn2030@theaskacademy.org>

Date: Mon, Dec 18, 2023 at 9:11 AM

Subject: Re: URGENT: Submit a Comment Against the PED 180 School Day Rule (KEEP FRIDAYS FREE)

To: Advocacy Club <advocacy@theaskacademy.org>

From: [Terri Cole](#)
To: [Romero, Arsenio, PED](#); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Instructional Days Rule Change Input
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:12:39 AM
Attachments: [Instructional Days Rule Change.pdf](#)

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

Hi Arsenio,

Hope you're well. Here is the Chamber's letter of support for the rule change in advance of today's hearing. Please let us know if we can help with anything.

Thanks,
Terri



December 18, 2023

Dear Secretary and Public Education Department policy team,

We are writing in support of PED proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC, which would increase the number of days – not just hours – of instruction New Mexico students would receive.

For years, the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce has been a vocal supporter of extended learning time programs to boost student learning in an effort to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic learning loss and close stubborn achievement gaps. The latest student performance data shows there's still much room for improvement.

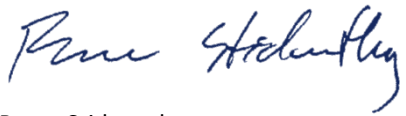
More instructional time is a powerful lever, but what happens within that instructional time is even more important. More than anything, New Mexico's kids need strong academic instruction that also supports their growth as individuals. The school week structure should support this work, but we should ensure we're not just counting minutes our students spend inside a school building, but rather weighing how much meaningful time they spend truly learning.

It's this difference between counting minutes and intentionally investing more high-quality instructional time in our students that informs our belief that it may be appropriate to create a waiver or other mechanism that allows districts that get results for students to decide their school week's structure. Schools and districts that demonstrate their ability to produce strong student outcomes should be allowed (and encouraged!) to continue the practices that contribute to their success; if these practices include a four-day week that enables them to recruit and retain the best teachers for their students, they should be permitted to continue.

However, for those districts whose student performance continues to lag, more guardrails like a mandated 180-day school calendar are in order. Adding a few minutes onto each class period should not satisfy instructional hour requirements if it isn't programmed and doesn't make a difference for our students' academic skills. Until districts demonstrate they can help their students achieve at a high level and can maintain this performance, it's fair and reasonable to create stricter, concrete requirements that will assist those districts in improving; once they do, it's appropriate to discuss those guardrails coming down to enable more flexibility and freedom. Accountability and greater autonomy work best when they go together.

We urge you to put students first and implement a nuanced rule that will encourage excellence in instruction and facilitate more learning for New Mexico's kids – one that acknowledges that effectiveness can be reached by different means but that discourages adding minutes for their own sake. As always, we are glad to be partners in the work of supporting our students' learning and are happy to be helpful in any way we can. Thank you for your dedication to our state's kids and their futures.

Sincerely,



Bruce Stidworthy
Chair, GACC Board of Directors
President and CEO, Bohannon Huston, Inc.



Terri Cole
President and CEO
Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce



Del Archuleta
Chair, Education Reform Bold Issue Group
Chairman of the Board, Molzen Corbin & Associates

From: [Lindsay Arellano](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:14:21 AM

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

In referencing NMAC Rule 6.10.5,

To whom it may concern,

This message is to inform you that I strongly disagree with this proposed schedule change for students in New Mexico.

Last year I made the hard decision to pull my children out of public school, put all of my personal goals and desires on hold and invest my time and energy into homeschooling my children. I didn't make that decision because they were not learning in school, but rather because i felt their mental health being more and more at risk as they matured. I felt that I had less and less time with them to guide them in challenging situations, to know what struggles they were facing, and truly, to allow them the freedom to enjoy childhood.

For many of my friends and neighbors, homeschooling is simply not an option. It's added a lot of expenses to our lives that many NM could not easily take on. Public school, as a whole, should be a safe and healthy option for those families. I fear that with these changes, it will only add to the stresses, pressures and metal loads of these students and the system is ill-equipped to provide more support in those areas.

Teachers are struggling to balance their personal and professional lives as it is, and staffing continues to be a huge issue state-wide. Passing more requirements only burdens the dwindling staff more without providing sufficient support and morale.

My father works as a special needs driver in Rio Rancho and he can attest to the fact that staff are feeling burned out and exhausted as kids are receiving less and less support from the their families and, instead pulling more and more from a system that has nothing more to give.

Students who are already struggling to make it to graduation are now going to be thrown more hurdles to jump over? This is not the path forward for New Mexico. Studies repeatedly prove that down-time, relaxation and family connection can have lasting effects on people's overall health. Why would we take our kids and push them into life of stress and exhaustion. To what end? their performance and as the quality of education continues to decrease, more and more families will seek alternatives.

If New Mexico schools seek to begin to thrive, it is imperative that they start to look at students as individuals with families, passions and a real need for respite. Not continue to treat them as test scores, numbers and a means for more funding.

Lindsay Arellano

From: [Shannon Diepenbrock](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PED School Schedule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:14:53 AM

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Hello,

I am writing to you in regards to the meeting that will occur today, Monday, December 18, 2023.

With an understanding that students need a required amount of hours to fulfill their educational commitments, I absolutely believe that Ask Academy is able to provide the proper environment and required scheduling for scholars. The past 2 1/2 years, my son has attended Ask Academy, and has greatly benefited by having the four day, full day school week, with Friday support days. Fridays allow our students to have more one on one time with their teachers. When a child needs that additional instruction, these support days, allow them to come in on an appointment basis, and receive the one on one attention that they need. As our school is also a project based curriculum, the Support days also provide time for students to come together for additional collaboration as needed. It is also used as an intervention support, for students in need or at risk.

My son suffers from anxiety and PTSD, and though he has grown the past three years at the school, he still values the opportunity to have the Support days, when he is having a hard time requesting help during regular class. I know he is not alone, as there are many children at the school, and across the country with various backgrounds, who would benefit by more small group, 1-on-1 time. Friday Support days are inexplicably beneficial to so many at our school, and I truly believe they would be beneficial across the board.

Please consider these messages that I am sure you will receive from so many, who have witnessed and truly believe this as being an amazing benefit to our children, our teachers & administration.

Respectfully,
Shannon Diepenbrock

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Melanie Colgan](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirement"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:15:42 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirement". As a member of the Los Alamos Public School Board, a professor at Northern New Mexico College, and a parent of five school aged children, I believe these changes would have significant negative impacts on both students and educators.

The proposed alterations to NMAC Rule 6.10.5 raise serious concerns, particularly regarding the elimination of free periods for high school students. The removal of these valuable breaks in the schedule could have detrimental effects on the mental health and academic performance of our high school students.

Current NM high school graduation requirements mandate at least one credit taken by a student must be Honors, Advanced Placement, Dual Enrollment, or Distance Learning. Many students use their free period to study and complete course work for these rigorous classes. Also, many New Mexico high school students participate in extracurricular activities such as sports, clubs, community service, and/or jobs. A free period provides flexibility for students to manage these commitments without feeling overwhelmed by a packed academic schedule. In summary, a free class period is not just about having time off; it's about creating a balanced and supportive learning environment that considers the holistic development and well-being of high school students.

Furthermore, I am deeply concerned that these changes may exacerbate the existing teacher shortage crisis, leading to an increased number of educators leaving the profession. Teachers in New Mexico face heavy workloads, including but not limited to, lesson planning, grading, and extracurricular responsibilities. High levels of stress and burnout can result from these demands, prompting educators to leave the profession or seek employment in areas with more manageable workloads. All of the proposed changes to NMAC 6.10.5 will increase teacher workload and stress. These changes are simply not wise in a state that continues to have an increased teacher vacancy rate year after year.

Fewer teachers mean larger class sizes. Larger class sizes can adversely affect the quality of education, limiting the ability of teachers to provide individualized attention and support to each student. Larger classes may lead to decreased student participation and engagement. Students may feel less inclined to participate in class discussions or ask questions when they are in a large group, potentially impacting their overall learning experience. Managing a large number of students can be challenging for teachers. Maintaining discipline, addressing behavioral issues, and fostering a positive classroom environment become more complex when class sizes are large. All of these factors will negatively affect students and teachers.

I urge you to reconsider the proposed changes, taking into account the potential unintended consequences on students' academic experiences. Additionally, please engage in a more inclusive and collaborative process that involves input from parents, teachers, superintendents,

and other stakeholders to ensure that any changes made to the school calendar requirements are balanced and equitable.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to a positive resolution that upholds the values of quality education, the well-being of our students, and addresses the ongoing challenges in teacher recruitment and retention, potential increases in class sizes, and the equitable access to academic opportunities.

Respectfully,

Melanie A. Colgan
Los Alamos Public Schools Board Member



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Anna Haynes](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to instructional time rule change
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:15:47 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 writing in opposition to the proposed rule change for required instructional time. This rule is a one-size-fits none change that harms students, families, and teachers in every district.

Our students are already extremely busy and tired from the day. Removing any additional free time they have to rest, socialize, or pursue hobbies diminishes their ability to flourish outside the classroom, and even potentially inside the classroom as they experience burnout. Our students who rely on the ability to earn and save money to pay for future education or aid their families will now also be further strained and less able to earn for their future or that of their family. Our students who are subjected to larger class sizes, especially our special needs students, will be also subjected to a lower standard of education. Not due in any part to the abilities of their teachers, but due to the impossibility of offering sufficient 1-on-1 instructional time. There is a reason why homeschool students score an average of 15-30 points higher on standardized tests than public school students. Small class sizes have always been an indicator of higher quality education. Forcing the schools into larger class sizes due to this change only lowers the standard of education for everyone.

Our families suffer from not being able to spend as much time together. Studies consistently show that time spent as a family supports children in their social, emotional, mental and physical growth. Healthy relationships with siblings and parents also have been demonstrated to result in success in other aspects of life.

Our teachers suffer from limited opportunities for professional development and planning that should be completed AT WORK, not after hours at home when they should be interacting with family, resting, pursuing hobbies, etc. Burnout has led to a mass exodus of teachers nationwide. Increasing class sizes without decreasing expectations of quality, removing opportunities for lesson planning and professional development throughout the regular workday, and creating an environment where the students they teach will also be tired, burned out, and unable to pursue their own passions independently can only lead to further loss of quality educators, increasing the drop in New Mexico education quality as a whole.

Please reconsider this proposal, keeping in mind that quality of instruction will always outweigh the quantity of time spent.

-Anna Haynes

From: [Molly Lewis](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerns
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:17:19 AM

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My name is Molly Lewis, 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,
Molly Lewis

From: [HANNAH WOLFE](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule Change: School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:17:29 AM

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Dear PED,

Please consider voting against the Proposal. Here are several reasons why:

- adds days to the Clovis School calendar, even though we have exceeded the amount of hours per school year.
- removes the ability of our neighboring small schools to continue with a four-day per week schedule. (This is discriminatory towards farming communities)
- inserts language into the rule that does not currently exist in New Mexico Statute, and by doing so, the NMPED will be exerting authority it does not have.
- raises questions about the NMPED's power and potential infringement on our local autonomy.
- challenges the efficacy of our current school calendar.
- strips away the essential element of local control, undermining our ability to make decisions that best serve our students, parents, and educators.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

--

Hannah Wolfe
Music Teacher
Barry Elementary School
Clovis Municipal Schools
hannah.wolfe@clovis-schools.org

"Let us take our children seriously! Everything else follows from this...only the best is good enough for a child."

~Zoltan Kodaly

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From: [Brian Smith](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day Proposal
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:17:55 AM

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The students that are the furthest behind are already the ones missing school. More school days isn't going to help them. I've been a teacher for about 15 years and what we really need is more help getting students to come to school. Whatever money is earmarked for this would be better spent on attendance people or lowering class sizes to help us build relationships.

Please don't do this. We are already losing so many teachers.

-B

From: carving_plates.0q@icloud.com
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:18:16 AM

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

Hello,

As a teacher and a parent our kids do not need more school. You all continue to add more school and more expectations and take away recess time. These kids are tired of school and the behaviors are showing. Give teachers and students a break and give more recess time to help calm the bad behaviors going on in our schools. Take a break and go visit schools so you can see how your decisions have impacted our schools for the worse. You will not understand until you see first hand.

Please do not add more schools days for our kids. Bring back more recess time for our kids. Stop expecting so much from kids that is not developmentally appropriate for their ages. Fix the real problems like poverty, domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, teenage pregnancy, and the other issues. More school and more expectations has not fixed one thing!! ASK teachers who are the ones carrying out these rules if you really want to see a change in NM schools.

Sincerely a tired teacher.

From: [Felicia Aragon](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: aftnmaction@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC RULE 6.10.5 "school calendar requirements "
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:19:00 AM

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To Whom it May Concern,

I am a first grade teacher for APS. I have taught for 20 years.

Over the weekend, I read a meme that said "teachers should not have to wait for a break to feel like a functioning human being." This statement made me cry because it's so true. As an educator, I am extremely stressed out. I am on anxiety medication and go home utterly exhausted. More time in the classroom is not the answer. Smaller class sizes and resources are the answers. The only thing this proposed rule will do is make teachers leave.

This rule does not take into account the opinions or expertise of the people who know best, educators!!!

Please reconsider or you will have no teachers to teach.

Sincerely,

Felicia Aragon
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rafael & Giselle Bango](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:21:00 AM

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

Good morning,

I am writing you in opposition of 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements.

As a parent, I watch my children spend extra time in school with little free time to be a child. So, for me to hear that you are considering requiring them to spend more time in school is unacceptable, unrealistic, and frankly irresponsible of you.

During their current school year, my children have rigorous educational standards that their STEM school implements in order to assist them in advancing in their education and knowledge. Our students gain a noticeable advantage in the way their teachers provide their education; perhaps some of you don't recall or had a different experience than I did I school, but I didn't get the quality education and experience when I was in school that my children currently do. The school utilizes Fridays as days for the teachers/project managers to provide support and tutoring to the students/scholars.

Perhaps you ought to put yourselves in these children's shoes regarding the education they receive- and the type of rest and study time they need- rather than simply add more days to their school year blindly.

Best regards,
Rafael Bango

From: [Scott Kerns](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:21:22 AM

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Hello - my daughter's school has informed me that you have a proposal to mandate five days a week of instruction for all schools. I disagree with that mandate.

My daughter's school uses Friday as an optional and flexible day to address any unfinished assignments, extra help, or other things a student needs. She benefits greatly from having the extra time for what she needs and can work more closely with her teachers on Fridays. Charter schools should have the flexibility and autonomy to decide how best to meet their students needs.

Respectfully,

Scott Kerns
Rio Rancho

From: [Autumn Brooks](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirement Feedback
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:21:37 AM

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Good Morning,

Currently my child attends A.S.K. Academy Charter School in Rio Rancho, NM. ASK is on a 4 day school schedule. This has been beyond beneficial to her, her grades have improved since attending ASK and I feel like they have found a formula that not only works for my daughter but also most other students. She primarily uses that day to study, meet with her teachers for scheduled meetings or complete homework. It works for our family activities and our work schedules as well. I am writing to you today to beg you not to change the rule to make a 5 day school schedule a requirement for NM School districts as well as the 180 day schedule. Not all students learn the same, and a 4 day schedule is helping my child.

Thank you,

--

Autumn Brooks
(505) 417-4115

From: [Denise Yeary](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:22:11 AM

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Dear New Public Education Department,

Regarding the proposed changes to the school calendar requirement, I urge you to reconsider this change for the following reasons:

- 1). There is no data that supports that more hours/day is beneficial for student growth.
- 2). Dr. Arsenio Romero suggests that it is better for students. Where is the research-based data to support this claim?
- 3). Most 4-day a week schools are meeting/exceeding state requirements.
- 4). In education we focus on diversity, inclusion, and cultural responsiveness to reach our students. This rule directly violates these principles for all districts by issuing a blanket solution rather than focusing on the needs of each district based on individualized student/family needs.
- 5). How can the PED change legislation without going through the proper legislative process?
- 6). These decisions should be made/approved by the local school boards and communities. I am respectfully asking to allow our representatives to do the job they were elected to do without interference at the state level.
- 7). We are already in a teacher shortage crisis across the state. This rule will not support districts in the plight to retain qualified teachers.
- 8). The PED claims that it facilitates partnerships with parents, yet this rule is being proposed without any input from parents and/or families.

9). This rule is also being proposed without input from superintendents, school boards, teachers, and staff.

10). Where will the funding for such a mandate come from? Resources in our state are already limited.

Thank you for allowing me to share my input.

Denise Yeary
Special Education Director
Floyd Municipal Schools
575-478-2211 Ext. 1023

Nobody cares how much you know, until they know how much you care . -Theodore Roosevelt

From: [Marilyn Pruitt](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose amendments to 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:22:58 AM

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We oppose the proposed amendments to 6.10.5. NMAC. Please do not make these changes that will negatively impact our children.

Marilyn Pruitt

From: [Cara Bingham](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Against NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "school calendar requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:24:51 AM

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Hello,

I live in Los Alamos, NM. This new rule will highly affect me as a parent and as a staff member at Aspen Elementary. I do not agree with the new hours. Or loosing half day Wednesday's. Our child are in school too much as it is. Half days are the one day a week they look forward too. It resets us as a teacher and as students to be able to conquer the rest of the week. I think taking that away from our kids is silly. They need that reset.

As a staff member, that is our prep time. We take take full advantage of that 3 1/2 hours of prep time for the next week. I work in ILP, we do not get "prep" time throughout our day like General education does. General education teachers at least get and 1 1/2 hours a day for lesson prep, they get time while their students are at specials and lunch and recess. As in an ILP classroom we have to take and stay with our students at specials AND we have to take and stay with them at lunch and all recess. By the state, they are required to have a one on one EA at all times, which take away from that daily lesson plan time.

I understand we would shorten our other week days by an hour to get an hour of lesson planning done a day, at the end of the day. But an hour at the end of the day is not going to help. We need a block, that we can sit down and get lesson planning done. Having 3 1/2 hours Wednesday is helpful verse an hour a day.

I ask that you may reconsider this new rule change as is highly affects not just teachers but students as well. Mentally and physically and emotionally, they need that half day on Wednesday.

Thank you for the consideration,
Cara Bingham

From: basingerheather2012@gmail.com
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:25:04 AM

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

Dear PED,

Please stop making changes to teachers and students calendars without getting input from the people who actually matter: the teachers and students. I am tired of having those who are supposed to understand the classroom setting make rules, regulations, and changes, when in fact, you are probably the most of touch with education. Get back to basics and actually listen to what the people who are actually doing the day to day work have to say that will affect their lives and the lives of the students that we are entrusted.

Sincerely,

Heather Basinger

From: [JANNA HACKETT](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Change: School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:26:40 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 voice my opposition to the proposed rule change requiring 180 school days for our students. As a nurse and an advocate for the children served in our public schools, I implore you to reconsider. Adding more days to the instructional calendar will place an undue burden on parents and families. It will also burden our state by increasing the funds needed to keep all schools open for the ten, extra instructional days. We do not have enough qualified teachers and nurses to support the students in our state, and adding more days will cause some professionals to look for positions in other roles. Poor student attendance is already a major problem in our schools, and increasing the required number of days will only conflate and further burden families who already struggle to get their children to school.

I respectfully request that you reconsider and do not change the current attendance rule.

Respectfully,
Janna Hackett, MSN RN

--

Janna Hackett, MSN RN
iAcademy School Nurse
Clovis Municipal Schools
(575)935-3259

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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,

As a teacher, a parent, and a former NM student, I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed rule on instructional time requirements (6.10.5 NMAC) and respectfully request the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) revoke the proposal as mentioned above.

I live and work in rural Northern New Mexico. As a student, I had to carpool to Eagle Nest Elementary, and then later Cimarron High School. The 4-day week benefited my schooling as it gave me time to recover from the long drive and long days. I felt I did better academically as a result than I did when I attended 5-day week schools, the longer school days of 4-day weeks outweighed the shorter days of 5-day week schools. I felt more relaxed, and did very well academically with a 3.42 GPA when I graduated. The 4-day-school week also allowed me to participate in sports without having to miss a day of school to travel to meets. This kept me from falling behind in my classwork. For rural schools who participate in sports, this is a good thing because they often have to travel long distances to get to a game or track meet. 4-day weeks also allow rural schools to save money on bus transportation, utilities, etc.

As a parent, it was easier for me to spend meaningful time with my son when he attended a 4-day week elementary. As a high schooler, he attends a 5-day week school, but because we live in an area that relies almost solely on tourism, the increase in days this past school year has impacted his ability to make money during the summer and he's concerned that if there's an increase in days next school year, that he won't be able to work enough during the summer and holidays to save up money to buy the things he will need for college. For a student who's about to be on his own for the first time, he finds the thought of not being able to afford basic necessities because he didn't get enough time to save ahead very daunting.

Direct Impacts to the school I currently work at

Roots and Wing Community School (RWCS), a K-8th grade, state-authorized charter school, is considered a 4-day/week school for calendaring purposes. This year, with the mandated calendar change last year, we are currently operating with 54% of our weeks as 5-day weeks with 171 student contact days meeting the required 1140 contact hour mandate. The majority of our students use a rural transportation system bus for transportation, and parents drive the rest. Our school hours are dictated by the bus schedule, which provides us with a fixed 6.5-hour school day. In addition to all the concerns that this rule proposes for all schools, we will be additionally penalized by enacting this rule as it currently reads.

. We will lose over \$92,000 (approximately 9% of our operating budget) in K-12 Plus funding. We will have to add nine (9) days to our calendar just to make 180 days, eliminating us from participating in the K-12+ program again. This will take us to 1,199 hours! So we are adding nine (9) days and 58.5 instructional hours to our calendar AND having our budget REDUCED!

- a. Last year, we had to add a net of seven (7) work days to our teacher contracts, so we added a stipend contract to all teaching staff, paying them for the additional seven days with money from the K-12+ funding. This was an added expense of \$22,750.
- b. With this proposal, unless we significantly cut the limited number of PD days the teachers have, we will again have to pay the teachers a stipend for extra days with little or no K-12 Plus funding. Cutting teacher PD days is not an answer to improving student achievement or training high-quality teachers. If we don't offer the stipend, teachers will likely leave as we would ask them to work more days with no salary increase from the previous year.

Remote Days Issue

Our school is located in the Foothills of the Sangre de Cristo mountains at 8,200 ft. in northern Taos county, where we get a lot of snow. Since most of our students use the RTD public transportation to come to school and parents drive the rest, we can not do delayed openings as no bus is scheduled at those times. Therefore, we must cancel school if the surrounding districts call for a delay, or we would have to require parents to drive all students to school during unsafe driving conditions. The pandemic taught us that we can effectively learn remotely on days otherwise lost. By restricting us from using remote learning days instead of canceling school and due to the increased number of school days required by this rule, we would have to add days at the end of the year instead of continuing our instruction. Students and parents will NOT send their students to school at the end of the year to do make-up days, causing them to be wasted and increasing our absenteeism rate. Please allow us to use this remote learning tool without restrictions for weather and unexpected shutdowns.

Loss of Local Control and Staffing Issues

We have been a 4-day school since the school's beginnings over 20 years ago. We participated in the ELTP program and used the extra funding to provide more student contact time, teacher PD time, and enrichment programs to benefit our students. We were a Spotlight school in 2022 and are currently ranked as Traditional, and we have not been on any corrective action plans. Additionally, we received a 5-year contract renewal and continue to score very high on our annual site reviews by CSD/PEC. But last year, due to the increased contact hours, we eliminated most of our teacher PD days, and because of state rules/mandates, we were forced to eliminate a robust after-school enrichment program for our students. We know what works for our students and want what is best for them, but the continued implementation of these one-size-fits-all regulations is detrimental to the students and staff you are trying to help. Allow us to be innovative and successful, and stop handcuffing us with rules and mandates that prevent us from best serving our students and staff. Increasing staff workloads and decreasing professional development time are not ways to retain staff. This is especially true in rural areas where staff must travel hours to receive medical or basic life needs services. Working them five days a week will require them to take more days off and out of their classrooms.

Impacts to All Schools

State law clearly states that rule cannot run further than statute: 14-4-5.7(A): "No rule is valid or enforceable if it conflicts with statute. A conflict between a rule and a statute is resolved in favor of the statute." Within the proposed rule, several new policies lack statutory authority for PED to provide the mandates in the proposed rule:

a. Statute clearly allows for school districts to meet statutory hourly requirements without regard to school days. In fact, NMSA 22-2-8 only allows the Secretary to waive minimum requirements associated with school hours in certain circumstances. It's unclear where the authority for a maximum number of hours is allowed in law. The law does not allow the Secretary to make mandates in our analysis. The statute is silent on the length of the school week except for language surrounding K-12 Plus funding (NMSA 22-8-23.14), which states that schools operating on a 4-day school week must have more than 156 school days to qualify for K12 Plus programming. This clearly provides for 4-day school weeks in law without any explicit authority for the secretary to mandate a length of school week. The proposed rule oversteps New Mexico school law by prescribing more than 50% of weeks to be five-day weeks. Further, the proposed rule mandates that schools must have 180 days to qualify for K-12 Plus funding, which directly contradicts the statute. It is essential to align the rule with statutory provisions on flexible scheduling for districts and charter schools. Revisiting the law to provide authority for the Secretary is necessary to implement the policy.

b. The proposed rule introduces maximum hours in a school day without explicit statutory authorization. Identifying the specific statutory provisions granting the Secretary the authority to establish such limits is imperative. Further, this section of the proposed rule would not apply to charter schools that exercise a nondiscretionary waiver associated with "Length of School Day" NMSA22-8B-5(c).

c. The rule mandates a 30-minute lunch period, which directly contradicts the 20-minute lunch period stipulated in statute (NMSA 22-13c-10). It is crucial to adhere to statutory limitations and recognize the bounds of PED's authority in prescribing lunch periods.

Moreover, the mandated requirement that secondary students attend a minimum of four courses per day (6.10.5.8(A) in the proposed rule) poses considerable challenges for dual-credit high schools. The potential impact on charter schools, exempt from course requirements through nondiscretionary waivers, and raises concerns about equitable application across all educational institutions. Should the proposed rule go through, this would be an area in which the state's public charter schools are exempt through non-discretionary waivers NMSA 22-8B-5(c).

The proposed rule does not seem to recognize the diversity of school performance across the state regardless of the school calendar. Some of the state's highest-performing schools are on 4-day calendars, Cimarron district, is one of them Cimarron District has been on a 4-day schedule since 1972. Students will face unnecessary disruptions by modifying their calendars without a clear risk-based justification. Acknowledging the success of existing calendar structures and avoiding unnecessary changes that may adversely affect student outcomes is imperative.

Lastly, PCSNM has regularly called for collaboration on the issue of attendance/chronic absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism has hovered around 40%, and the average New Mexico student misses 10.5 days of school. Focusing on changing student attendance status, in conjunction with all education partners, would provide a more impactful change than further calendar change.

In light of these concerns, we urge the PED to reconsider the proposed rule, pursue calendar reform through the legislative process, and focus on leading New Mexico's communities in regularly getting our kids to school. This approach would provide the necessary statutory clarity

and allow for comprehensive stakeholder engagement to address the diverse needs of our educational community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the PED will carefully consider the implications of the proposed rule and work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop solutions that prioritize the best interests of our students and educators.

Yours sincerely,

Sara Saint-Hogan CALP, M.ED, MS



Dr. Sandy Beery
New Mexico Connections Academy
130 Siringo Rd.
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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 our concerns regarding the proposed rule on instructional time requirements (6.10.5 NMAC) and respectfully request the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) revoke the aforementioned proposal. While we understand the intent of the emphasis on student's "time in the classroom," it seems that the proposed rule presupposes that all public schools in the state of New Mexico deliver instruction to students in the same way, and more specifically, in a traditional brick-and-mortar setting. As you are aware, New Mexico Connections Academy (NMCA) is a state-chartered public school that provides an educational program that is completely virtual. We do not maintain a brick-and-mortar school, but rather provide an option for families that allows for maximum flexibility and individualized adaptability depending on the circumstances that students and their families find themselves in.

The virtual educational environment at NMCA allows for students to work at their own pace, whether synchronously or asynchronously, while their attendance is tracked via the number of hours that they are online completing their assignments, attending Live Lessons (whether synchronous or asynchronous), and working independently on the curriculum platform available to them "24/7." If this rule was allowed to go forward, the very nature of our educational delivery model would be called into question. Unless there are waivers specifically targeted for virtual education providers, our school would be in violation of a number of the stipulations articulated in this proposed rule. As it currently stands, and as is articulated in statute (which trumps rule), charter schools shall be granted certain waivers by the Secretary with regard to school instructional hours. By virtue of the way that our unique educational program is delivered, "instructional days" are problematic to define in the traditional sense, and for this reason, waivers have been approved. Our instructional model is deliberate and has been created to meet a need for over 1300 families in our state. NMCA urges the Secretary to revoke the proposed rule so that our non-traditional, virtual educational program can continue to be a viable option for students and families across our great state.

130 Siringo Rd Santa Fe, NM 87505 Phone: (505)-428-2130 eFax: 575-613-7273



Finally, while this rule would specifically impact New Mexico Connections Academy, the impact on the overall non-traditional approaches to educating our students, from both charter schools

and other innovative public schools, could be devastating. This rule seems not to examine and understand innovative ways of schooling, but rather sees public schools as a "one-size-fits-all" endeavor that, with the right rule, would necessarily increase the number of days that students (in a brick-and-mortar setting) actually attend school in-person. If this rule were enacted, it is unclear how overall student attendance would be impacted, if at all.

Again, while NMCA agrees with the underlying idea that more time in learning will positively impact student learning, it strongly disagrees with using this rule as the mechanism to achieve positive student outcomes.

Respectfully,


Dr. Sandy Beery
Executive Director
New Mexico Connections Academy

From: [McKensey Bainbridge](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINT NMAC Rule 6.10.5 school calendar requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:30:36 AM

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hello

writing to let you know we are against this rule and do not wish for year round school
thank you

From: [Shirley Beaupre](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:30:39 AM

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Why don't you give students more attention (smaller class numbers) before you give them more days to struggle and feel defeated by the lack of attention they are able to get from their teachers.

What a great way to drive more teachers from school!

From: [Kimberly Sisson](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:31:18 AM

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

I am an educator, and have been in this career for 26 yrs. now. I strongly oppose the approach of enforcing 180 days not including PD days. You all are going about this the wrong way for fixing the New Mexico school system. Please focus on things that will actually make a difference. Thank you
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Julie Hill](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:31:51 AM

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Having been an educator in two other states and now an educator in NM, I don't oppose having 180 days of instruction for students and additional training for teachers HOWEVER, it isn't the solution to the education problem in NM. **You must couple the extended year with:**

1.) More personnel

- There should never be grade-level combination classes in elementary schools.
- Every elementary school should have an instructional coach.
- Every elementary school should have at least one, better yet, two interventionists.
- Every school should have counselors.
- Every school should have (at minimum) a principal AND assistant principal or dean of students.
- Every school should have a fully staffed library.

2.) Class sizes should be limited by law. No more than 22 per class in elementary schools. There should be a limit to special education teachers' caseloads.

3.) Bilingual teachers should be fluent in both languages. (Visiting teachers should be here for at least 5 years. There is too much turnover with a 3-year commitment.)

4.) Personnel and funding should fit the needs of each school community Funding should not be allocated according to the numbers of students, but the students' needs. Children are not numbers.

Of course, with additional days, these days must be funded. The shortage of teachers will continue if the salaries do not reflect the increased number of days in the year.

Julie Hill
Teacher Librarian
Santa Fe Public Schools

From: [Amanda Brewer](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] changes in the 6.10.5 Proposed Rules
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:38:57 AM

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

I am writing because I have become aware of some rule changes being proposed by the NMPED which I feel would negatively impact MANY schools. There are so many schools this will impact the worst and when you really take a look at it it is all about money. So many school district's have limited resources and teachers are scarce and few. If you were to take a look at many of these schools you will see that they are functioning to the best they can with what they have. If you add up the hours, time teachers spend teaching, tell me. . . are you going to pay them? There is no funding there to help. This means schools will lose teachers making the classrooms bigger, less learning due to overcrowded rooms, leading to more problems. As a parent talking to people who like to make the rules but have no idea the impacts, you really need to stick to golf.

From: [Elissar Pape](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:39:13 AM

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Subjecting students and teachers to additional days of school may appear to be a solution to improve academic performance, but evidence suggests otherwise. Rather than enhancing grades, extended school days or years can actually exacerbate stress levels and fail to yield substantial academic benefits.

Diminishing Returns on Learning: Extending school days or years doesn't necessarily equate to increased learning. There's a limit to how much information students can effectively absorb in a given period. Beyond a certain point, additional time may not result in meaningful academic gains.

Impact on Mental Health: Longer school days mean increased pressure on both students and teachers. Overburdening them with longer hours can lead to burnout, heightened stress, and mental health issues. Students need time for extracurricular activities, hobbies, and relaxation, which are crucial for holistic development.

Quality Over Quantity: It's crucial to focus on the quality of education rather than sheer quantity. Improving teaching methods, personalized learning, and creating a conducive learning environment are more effective strategies than merely extending the duration of schooling.

Teacher Burnout and Effectiveness: Teachers play a pivotal role in education. Extending their work hours can lead to exhaustion and reduced effectiveness in the classroom. Quality teaching relies on well-rested, motivated educators, not on overworked individuals.

Other Factors Impacting Grades: Academic performance is influenced by various factors, including socioeconomic status, access to resources, and individual learning styles. Simply adding more days to the school calendar doesn't address these underlying issues.

Alternative Approaches: Rather than elongating school days, exploring alternative educational models, such as project-based learning, tailored interventions for struggling students, and implementing technology for personalized learning, might yield better academic outcomes without the strain of additional time in school.

In conclusion, advocating for extended school days as a panacea for academic improvement overlooks the complex nature of education. Instead of focusing solely on time spent in school, attention should be directed towards innovative teaching methods, individualized support for students, and holistic approaches that consider mental health and overall well-being. Rethinking education means looking beyond the clock and prioritizing meaningful, effective learning experiences for all students.

Kimberly Ritterhouse
Red River Valley Charter School
PO Box 742
Red River, NM 87558

Secretary Arsenio Romero
New Mexico Public Education Department
300 Don Gaspar Ave
Santa Fe, NM 87558

Subject: Request to Revoke the Proposed Rule on Calendar Reform

Dear Secretary Romero,

I am writing to express concerns regarding the proposed rule on instructional time requirements (6.10.5 NMAC) and respectfully request the the New Mexico Public Education Department revoke the proposal. I understand the desire to make changes to increase our state scores and to pull the state of New Mexico out of the depths of subpar achievement, however making changes in such a rapid-fire manner is not conducive to success. Discussion regarding calendar reform during the 2023 legislative session led to an increase in instructional hours to a minimum of 1140 hours statewide. This should be our holding pattern while we focus on decreasing chronic absenteeism and increasing high quality professional development for our teachers and staff.

State law states that a rule does not trump statute: 14-4-5.7 (A) "No rule is valid or enforceable if it conflicts with statute. A conflict between a rule and a statute is resolved in favor of the statute." Within the proposed rule, there are several new policies that lack statutory authority for the PED to provide a mandate in the proposed rule:

- a. Statute allows for school districts to meet statutory hourly requirements without regard to the number of school days. The statute is silent on the length of the school week except in the case of K-12+ funding. A four-day school week is acceptable in law without any explicit authority for the Secretary to mandate the length of the school week. The proposed rule oversteps New Mexico school law by prescribing that over 50% of the weeks of school to be 5-day weeks, while simultaneously proposing that all schools have a minimum of 180 days. At this point, with chronic absenteeism and ESSER funding sunseting, small rural schools are at great risk of not being able to maintain staff and program on the funding provided.
- b. The proposed rule introduces a maximum number of hours in a school day without clear statutory authorization. It is dire to identify the specific statutory provisions granting the Secretary the authority to establish these limits. Further, this section of the proposed rule would not apply to charter schools who exercise a nondiscretionary waiver associated with the "length of school day' NMSA22-88-5(c).

The proposed rule does not recognize the diversity of school performance across the state or consider the financial impact on small schools. My school will be at great risk of losing staff and program. Considering these concerns, I ask that the PED reconsider the proposed rule and pursue calendar reform through the legislative process and focus on leading New Mexico's communities in getting our most valuable resource, our children, to school on a regular basis.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. The PED has an enormous decision to make regarding the proposed rule and the consequences that schools may experience due to the outcome, from the loss of staff and program to the possible closure of a school because of the increased cost of running a school and all of the programs for the additional days.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Ritterhouse
Executive Director

From: [Sean Hurley](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 180 days around education.
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:41:20 AM

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Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to express my concerns and reservations regarding the current 180-day school year requirement in the state of New Mexico. As a concerned parent and middle school teacher, I believe that this policy may not be serving the best interests of our students and educators. I understand the importance of providing a comprehensive education, but I believe it is crucial to revisit and reconsider the rigidity of the 180-day requirement for several reasons.

Firstly, educational research and evolving pedagogical practices suggest that the focus should be on the quality of instruction rather than the quantity of days spent in school. Many successful educational systems around the world prioritize innovative teaching methods, personalized learning, and flexible academic calendars to better cater to the diverse needs of students.

Secondly, the 180-day requirement may inadvertently contribute to teacher burnout and fatigue, potentially compromising the overall effectiveness of instruction. Teachers are invaluable resources, and their well-being directly impacts the quality of education students receive. A more flexible approach to the academic calendar could better support the holistic needs of both educators and students.

Furthermore, the world is evolving rapidly, and the traditional school calendar may not align with the changing dynamics of the workforce and societal needs. A more adaptive and flexible school year could better prepare students for the challenges and opportunities they will face in the future.

I kindly request that the New Mexico Public Education Department conduct a comprehensive review of the current 180-day school year requirement. I believe that engaging in a dialogue with educators, parents, and stakeholders in the education community will provide valuable insights into potential improvements and alternatives that could better serve the interests of our students.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I appreciate the dedication of the New Mexico Public Education Department to enhancing the quality of education in our state, and I trust that you will carefully consider the concerns raised in this letter.

Sincerely,

Sean Hurley M.Ed
The ASK Academy
Life Science 7 Project Manager

From: [Eric Carlson](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I do NOT support the proposed rule changes
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:42:48 AM

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Dear PED,

I do NOT support your proposed rule changes. Districts should have flexibility to serve their communities. School districts should have local autonomy. We need HIGHER QUALITY SCHOOL rather than increased quantity. More substandard education will not increase learning. Put your efforts into recruiting and retaining high quality teachers, reducing class sizes significantly, and setting high classroom standards instead.

Eric Carlson
258 Los Pinos Rd
Santa Fe, NM 87507
(505) 467-9546

From: [Daniel Rudd](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5 day required work week
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:43:04 AM

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My name is Daniel Rudd, 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,
Daniel Rudd

--

Rudd Orthodontics
Daniel Rudd, DDS, MsD
4320 Ridgecrest Dr SE, Suite E
Rio Rancho, NM 87124
505-891-1151

From: [Gwen King](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NM AC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:44:19 AM

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To our NM leadership,

Please don't put this rule into law. I believe in education and I love that NM takes education seriously, but this Rule is too much. Our kids are already so stressed and tired after a day of school and homework. More would be setting them up for failure and more kids will quit school because they just can't do it.

Teachers are already so overwhelmed and this would add so much more to their plate. We'll lose more teachers and we already have a shortage.

Thank you for your time.

Gwen

Dr. Romero,

I am writing to you regarding **Regulation 6.10.5 NMAC**.

Adding school days to the calendar is a sound byte, not a solution.

If you are truly interested in solving any of the *myriad* of problems facing New Mexico schools today, I offer several suggestions that are far more capable of *meaningful* change than adding days to the school year. I have the experience and credentials to proffer intelligent, meaningful solutions. I'm in my 18th year of teaching primary grades (K-2): 16 years of first grade with Kindergarten mixed in in various formats, and I'm in my second year of second grade. I taught seven years in the inner city in Columbus, Ohio, then moved to New Mexico to teach on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation. I was there for three years, then spent a semester in Silver City. I was lured to Abiquiu by Fanny Castillo, who is now the Bilingual Program Director for Espanola Public Schools. I have been with the district since January, 2017. I have a M.Ed. in Special Education; a Ph.D. in Linguistics; a Reading Intervention endorsement and a TESOL endorsement. This past August I was chosen to be a Noyce Science Master Teacher Fellow at UNM, and I just achieved re-certification of my National Board Certification in Early Childhood Education.

First, let's address the issue of ***chronic truancy***.

On 12/11/23, CBS News ran a segment on post-COVID truancy in Kentucky (you can watch the segment here: <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/educators-go-door-to-door-to-find-absent-students/?intcid=CNM-00-10abd1h>). In Kentucky, students are considered chronically absent after ***ten absences***.

At the end of my third year in Dulce, I was in a SAT meeting during which the Lead Teacher told a parent "Your son only has ***ten absences***. He's doing great!" I thought at the time that it was crazy, because if I had a student in Ohio with ***ten absences***, I would have called Children's Services. I heard you tell a reporter that you want to add four days to the school year because New Mexico is "in last place". Kentucky, it turns out, is ranked 37 by US News & World Report, and is 19 states ahead of us on <https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/>.

I'm sure every teacher in the state could share at least one horror story with you about a truant student, if not regale you with many stories...tragedies, really...of students who are not attending school. In this same year in Dulce mentioned above, I had three students who had missed over 30 days of school, three students who had missed over 20 days of school, and ***only three students who had missed less than ten days*** of school. The rest... between ten and twenty. When I shared this information with my colleagues, they all replied, "Oh yeah? Well I have one who's missed..." 50, 60, 70, and more! days of school.

This is not limited to Dulce. In the one semester I spent in Silver City, I had several students with severe absentee problems. I currently work at Alcalde Elementary, a small rural school just north of Espanola. I have a little girl in my second-grade class whom I also taught in Kindergarten. At that time, she missed a lot of school, and I frequently said, "She'd be the smartest girl in the class if she came to school every day." But she didn't; so she wasn't.

In first grade, I was her reading intervention teacher. She missed an astronomical number of days. She fell further and further behind, to the point that she couldn't perform the simplest of Kindergarten-level

tasks: finding letters I asked her to find from a group of letter tiles. Throughout the spring, I urged her teacher to retain her. As I wasn't her classroom teacher, I don't know exactly what happened, but she wasn't retained (more on that subject later). Now she's in my second-grade classroom, and she is *thoroughly lost*. It's as if she came directly from Kindergarten to second grade without having attended first grade at all, and she is not prepared for the requirements of second grade.

She is not the first child in her family to suffer the consequences of this attendance problem. Her older sister was in third grade when my student was in Kindergarten, and her teacher wanted to retain her for the same reason. She also wasn't retained, and she is now in fifth grade – and in special education.

Many of the children that we deal with in these situations come in “package deals” – with siblings, often multiple siblings – **who are all missing astronomical numbers of school days, year after year.**

And **what are the consequences of such?** None that I've ever seen. Like with this particular family, teachers often ask for retention, but it usually isn't granted. We have meeting after meeting with parents, who make promises, and break those promises, over and over. CYFD rarely is helpful.

Will adding days to the school year help any of these truant students? NO! They don't come to school in the first place. It's doubtful that they will come any additional days that you tack on, no matter how many you add on.

So my first alternative solution to adding days to the calendar is this: **attendance laws with teeth that come with real consequences for parents who are incapable of getting their child(ren) to school with consistency.** I know that in middle and high school the students themselves are often to blame, and you will have to seek the advice of qualified middle and high school teachers to deal with that problem. In elementary school, K-6th grade students cannot drive themselves to school, and they really cannot be held responsible for getting themselves out of bed, fed, or dressed either. That is their parents' responsibility, and if their parent(s) aren't living up to that responsibility, then they need consequences that are going to cost them something.

Pick a number – 10 days? 20 days? 30 days? **If a child misses more than the pre-determined number of days, s/he will automatically be retained.** No parent wants their child to be retained (see below), so perhaps they will work harder to get their child to school. And if not, they can't argue with automatic retention. At some point, missing that many days is the equivalent of not attending school at all, and every teacher in the state has seen it.

Second, and just important, is the **lack of qualified reading intervention teachers** in our schools. Larger schools with money may be able to hire full-time reading intervention teachers, but smaller schools can't. When I was at Dulce, we had reading intervention teachers, but they were often taken out of that position to teach in grade-level classrooms when teachers weren't available. Schools have to pay for reading intervention teachers out of the Title 1 funds, and those are based on how many students a school has. Also, reading intervention teachers are not required to be licensed teachers, let alone are they required to have reading endorsements. If a teacher is not qualified to be a reading intervention teacher, how effective can s/he be?

How do we expect all of our students to learn to read if all of our schools do not have reading intervention teachers with reading endorsements? Give every school in the state the money in their

budget to hire one. Nothing more needs to be said about that. I can give you lots of stats about how far behind we are in reading, but you know that already.

Third, **let's address the teacher shortage, and what's causing it.** The number one problem, and everyone knows it, is **student behavior**. Student behavior has always been a problem, but it is simply getting worse by the day, and administrators (for the most part) and parents (largely) are unwilling to do anything about. Teachers do not want to be physically and verbally assaulted by children, have classrooms that are hijacked by disruptive children who are totally uninterested in learning, have parents who are responsible for raising wild children refuse to take responsibility for the problems they have raised, and at the end of the day, have administrators who do absolutely nothing about it.

I am very fortunate this year that I have a wonderful new principal, Miss Michelle Martinez, who is in her first year of principalship, who is completely supportive and who is trying to get the behavior problems at our school under control. **I would not be at this school this year any longer if it weren't for the support of Miss Martinez.** But talk to other teachers and you will hear the horror stories of what they are enduring.

The problems are too big and too wide-spread to expect teachers to be able to solve them alone, unsupported. **As with the truancy problems, the solution needs to come from the top-down.** We need some policies that will support teachers in the classroom ... and the students who want to learn. Because **no learning takes place in chaos.** And until the chaos is dealt with, and meaningful discipline reforms are put into place, nothing is going to improve.

I also have some ideas that are radical and will most definitely be unpopular.

"Bilingual", or more accurately, Spanish education is highly funded and highly revered in elementary education. In my district, we are constantly told that the state provides us with "lots of money" for bilingual education. When special programming is offered and choices have to be made as to what class(es) have to be canceled on a given day(s), we are told "don't do it during bilingual". We can cancel reading class, we can cancel math class, and of course science or social studies, but – bilingual class is sacred and cannot be cancelled. **Should Spanish class be more important than reading or math?**

I think not! **Reading and math should be priority at every school in New Mexico, especially in the primary grades.** If students don't learn how to read in grades K-3, they will probably never learn how to read. Shouldn't the money and the time be focused on teaching reading, not on teaching Spanish? Not only that, but I personally have noticed that even my brightest first grade students get confused between Spanish sounds & letters and English sounds & letters. If the best and brightest are confused, what is happening to the struggling readers? I proposed that the state stop funding and requiring the teaching of Spanish in grades K-2 or K-3, in order to focus on teaching reading in those grade levels. Take those funds and use it to fund reading intervention at every school instead. Use the class time usually held sacred for "bilingual" be used for reading intervention instead. Let reading intervention be the sacred class that cannot be cancelled at any cost. Then we can make real progress.

(Just so you don't think that I'm one of those "dumb Americans" who thinks we shouldn't learn foreign languages: in high school, college, and graduate school I studied *ten modern, spoken languages* and five dead ones. I'm all for foreign language education – just not when it is getting in the way of learning to read and write in English.)

Finally, **my most radical proposal of all: retention should be decided by teachers, not parents.**

Teachers recommend retention based on data and experience; parents decide based on emotion. Teachers will tell you that Carlos doesn't know his letters and sounds, can't count, can't add, doesn't know sight words, can't decode, etc. Parents will tell you, "My child won't be retained!" or "I don't want my child to be retained!" or "S/he can do it at home!". That is their entire argument. **I have never made an argument for retention and been wrong about it; parents have never refused retention and been right about it.** Allowing students, year after year, to be promoted to the next grade when they are not going to be able to do the work at that grade level, is another huge problem in New Mexico that is holding everyone down. Having so many students in every classroom who are years behind where they need to be are preventing everyone from moving forward. Students who need to be retained in Kindergarten, first, second grade are continually being advanced to the next grade level year after year without having even the most basic skills. This needs to be stopped. If my proposal is too radical, then come up with another one that will work, because, like my other proposals, this problem needs to be solved, and if it is, it will have a far greater impact than adding four days to the calendar.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sophie Forbes, PhD, NBEI

2nd Grade Teacher
Alcalde Elementary School

From: [Scott Johnson](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School calendar requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:44:47 AM

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Dear Dr. Romero and the New Mexico Public Education Department,

I am writing to ask you to consider that there are unintended negative consequences that are going to affect both students and staff if NMAC Rule 6.10.5 is passed. I retired after teaching early elementary students (Kindergartners through third graders) for 25 years in Los Alamos and was nominated for and awarded many awards over the years. One of the reasons I was honored for teaching so often was because we were offered quality professional development opportunities regularly on Wednesdays; students have a half day on Wednesdays and staff have time to become better teachers. NMAC Rule 6.10.5 would eliminate that professional development time if school days can not be shorter than five and a half hours. The students benefit when staff have time to train together.

Please rethink NMAC Rule 6.10.5.

Thank you,

Scott Johnson

15 Verde Ridge

Los Alamos, NM 87025

From: [Chelly Young](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Instructional Time Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:45:34 AM

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NMPED,

As a recently retired teacher from Los Alamos Public Schools, I must speak out against the proposed changes to districts' calendars and obligations. I understand the perception of need for the change, but at the very least, districts must have more than 3 months to plan for a major change such as this, which will have enormous impacts financially and with the budget. With the budget being due in April, that gives virtually no time to really delve into the details needed to make such a drastic change.

Please allow districts time to figure this all out, and consider implementing it for the school year 25-26 instead.

Thank you for your consideration,

Michelle (Chelly) Young
Los Alamos, NM

From: [Holly Rudd](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] against 5 days of school a week
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:46:25 AM

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My name is Holly Rudd, 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,
Holly Rudd

From: [Phil&Rebecca Lee](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed rule change 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:48:56 AM

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To Whom It May Concern:

We stringently opposed this rule change. We have children in NM Public Schools, and are deeply concerned about both the intended and the unintended consequences of this proposed rule change.

1. The new rule would require districts to provide 1140 hours of instruction AND a minimum of 180 days each school year. This is a change from legislation that allowed districts to count hours NOT days. More days does not equal better education, as demonstrated in multiple studies comparing US schools to other countries (in terms of educational outcomes).
2. The rule no longer allows the district 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. Professional development time is a crucial part of teacher activities, and this change PENALIZES teacher in a system where they are already not valued as they should be.
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. This change make no sense - again, more days (or hours, for that matter) does not equal better education. Valuing and respecting teachers, focusing on equity, and de-emphsizing standardized tests are all better ways to improve educational outcomes.
4. The rule requires secondary students to take 4 credit bearing classes each day (8 classes each week). Dictating schedules around days is not helpful to students or teachers.
5. High school students would not be allowed to take a free period. Micromanagement of schedules at the state level is inappropriate - see comments about days/hours not being a good metric for outcomes.
6. High school Students would complete a total of 32 credits. How will increasing the credits actually help students? What additional credits will need to be completed? Again, more time in school does not equal better outcomes.
7. The rule change would go into effect for the 24/25 school year. The new calendar and class schedules would need to be finalized, approved, and submitted before the budget is submitted in April. THIS IS RUSHED AND AN INAPPROPRIATELY SHORT PLANNING PERIOD.

As parents, we are concerned about the sudden change in requirements. We are also deeply concerned that the rule would be at odds with the law. We believe that this rule has unintended consequences that will limit critical staff planning time and be disruptive to our 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.

Please do not move forward with this rule change.

Sincerely,
Rebecca White and Philip Lee
Los Alamos, NM

From: [Dawn Marie Maldonado](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:49:04 AM

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I am a parent of a secondary level student and a previous public-school employee. I am objecting to the proposed amendments to 6.10.5 NMAC. First off, it's understood this rule change is at odds with the law. Any change should first pass legal review before being promoted. It's irresponsible to upend our lives by pushing out a change when appropriate review hasn't even been completed. As I understand it, our district is opposed to it as well. Our students, teachers and school board members are already reeling from a swath of changes last year that included extended calendars and have made no difference in testing in the state of New Mexico. In fact, there has been a decline in math test scores and barely any movement in reading. Math proficiency scores in this state dropped to 24% and we are last in the nation in education.

Our PED needs to be honest with citizens and the legislature. More hours in class will not move the needle, as there are physical/emotional/intellectual limits to the amount of "catch-up" kids can do. Some kids will need to graduate late and need individualized remedial learning. We need to address the real problem as to why testing is so bad.

I don't believe teachers are to blame for the abysmal test results. We have excellent teachers here in our district in Los Alamos. Kudos to our amazing teachers and staff. The Common Core curriculum in this state and across the nation is a proven failure. Numbers don't lie. Traditional learning with reading and math needs to come back.

I would love to see our public-school children benefit from traditional learning like so many of us succeeded with. They deserve to be successful. Give our teachers and students what is needed, a better curriculum, not more exhausting hours and disruptions to their schedules. Highschool students in particular benefit from having time in the day to join the local work force. This experience at first jobs is critical in their movement into successful adulthood. It would be beneficial to write more but the comment window is ridiculously short.

Parts of this comment relies on the Op/Ed submitted by Valerie Fox, Los Alamos Daily Post Dec 16th, 2023.

Thank you for your attention.

Dawn Marie Maldonado

New Mexico Resident

From: [Jacqueline Parenti](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:49:42 AM

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Just like we learned to differentiate in the classroom, you must also all
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Michelee McGeath](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:54:11 AM

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As a teacher and as a parent, I know there are better ways to ensure the success of students of NM, than extending the school year.

Holding parents accountable for students to BE IN SCHOOL is one issue I see as a positive move. Teachers cannot teach students who aren't in school.

Stronger discipline and expectations for all students of NM and a no tolerance policy for disrespectful behavior. Students are in the classroom to learn and there are students who disrupting the learning.

Lastly, mental health is a big issue for students. NM needs to support those students and offer programs during the
School day for counselors to visit with kids.

Smaller class sizes, more counselors in our schools, certified teachers, and parenting classes are just some thoughts that will help students succeed.

Please make some good decisions for our students and school systems—extending the school year is NOT the answer.

From: [JULIE BRUNSON](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed rule change: School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:54:12 AM

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I am a high school nurse with the New Mexico Public Schools. I would like to address the proposed calendar change in school day requirements.

School nurses, occupational therapists, mental health counselors, speech therapists, educational assistants, security, custodians and bus drivers have never been fully staffed as needed. These are all jobs that all of us can get outside of the public school system. We can easily make double the salary and with the same benefits. The only recruitment tool to get the positions filled is the schedule. The schedule enables us to take care of our families in ways that higher paying jobs do not allow.

The problem with the state mandating which hours and days we work as a state will not take into account the differences between the diverse communities. We are not just called the Land of Enchantment because of our varied and beautiful natural world. We are also the Land of Enchantment with the Zia symbol. Why? Because we have united many different cultures to respect each other and prosper. Ranchers and farmers in one part of the state have different interests and family needs. Families in the metropolitan areas have different requirements for their families to function at their best. Native American communities around the reservation areas have different daily needs and schedules. However, in spite of all of the variations of cultures and livelihood, we respect and embrace these differences. If the state attempts to mandate the exact same rules and schedules for all of our families across the state, we will no longer be able to keep the support staff that we rely on heavily. Recruitment advantages due to the schedule that reflects each area's way of life will be gone. Nurses that can no longer help with their student's FFA activities might as well work in a setting where they will make double the salary. Speech therapists that can no longer participate in Native American customs due to new school day requirements will move to a different state and make triple their salary. Educational Assistants that enjoy a four day school week so that they can work a second job on the long weekends and breaks will quit the public schools and easily find jobs in the private sector helping with private schools or disability programs. Custodians will quit to work at a corporate building to get fewer days and double the pay.

If this proposed calendar requirement passes, the state will need to change the motto of "The Land of Enchantment" and ban the Zia symbol. The government will be, instead, forcing all New Mexican citizens to conform to one, uniform way of life instead of continuing to respect their differences and the beauty in their unique different cultures.

Sincerely,
Julie Brunson

--

Julie Brunson, RN, BSN
CHS nurse
575-769-4350, ext.3813

*"Whatever you do, always give 100%. Unless you're donating blood."
- Bill Murray*

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From: [Laurie Strebeck](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] reg 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:55:12 AM

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Public Education Department,

I am writing to you first, as a mother of three elementary age children in the 4 day week Logan School district. Secondly, as the current Logan Board of Education President. I am highly, highly concerned about the proposed regulation 6.10.5 and its mandated 180 days vs the hour requirement. Logan is a unique community, we have students traveling 50+ miles one way for school. We are a tourism community with many seasonal businesses in operation Friday-Sunday. We are an agriculture community with many students hard at work on family farms and ranches. Four day school week is a pillar of our community. County jobs, local plants, and more work on 4 day work weeks. I have several major concerns with requiring districts to change to 5 day weeks. My children travel to school 10+ miles via dirt road alone (and we are considered close to our school compared to others). Adding an additional day would mean three additional hours of sitting on a school bus for my 3,5, and 8 year old. Currently having Fridays off gives families a day to schedule medical appointments. Our closest medical care is 90 miles away. Orthodontist, optometry, pediatrics all are over a 3 hour round trip. Another major issue I am concerned about is teacher shortage. Schools in our neighboring state of Texas are rapidly changing to 4 day weeks. We WILL lose teachers across the state line if we change to a 5 day week. Losing teachers will NOT help our kids.

I also do not understand why you would look at a district like Logan's with 80% elementary reading proficiency and change our complete 4 day model. Would it not make more sense to use US as a model? Make everyone a 4 day week? Actually, NO that would not make sense because families in places like Albuquerque would most likely have some major issues with a 4 day week. So my question is why would you take families and dynamics in urban areas into consideration, but completely disregard the families and dynamics in rural districts? Another issue, and probably the most crucial is there is no childcare in our community. If a 5 day week is put into place the school day will be shortened. Where are children supposed to go after school? I'm sure you will say "the school should do an after school program". Again, we are a RURAL community with limited staff. Please consider all of the above. Our district has been succeeding in a four day week for over thirty years. Please use common sense. Please do what is best for ALL students (rural included!).

Thank you,
Laurie Strebeck
Logan Board of Education President

From: [Celina Morgan](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Instructional Time Requirements-Proposed Rule change
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:56:02 AM

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

Good morning,

I am strongly opposed to the proposed rule change.

Children need higher quality education and no amount of time in school will substitute for lesser quality. Time in school has equated to increased anxiety and depression in my children who are able to explore, learn and be more confident outside of school. Considering that we are in the middle of a teenage mental crisis--we really need to pause here and reflect on wellness. More time will not make up for the losses and social anxieties created from prolonged school shutdowns during covid. It will only remove the time these students have from their school-life balance and to find activities, supports, self-determination, cultural and community connections that help them grow in confidence and mental health wellness.

I am very strongly opposed to removing the options for free periods for secondary students. My children have productively used these for mental health, or to do things like schedule routine visits to physical therapy, etc. If it weren't for free periods, I know that at least one of my children would NOT have graduated from high school. They barely coped with the demands and the anxiety, exclusion, bullying, etc., in the high school with a reduced time in school. Any more time to their school day, and mental health burdens of the school environment would have been too much.

Additionally, I am strongly opposed to making such far-reaching decisions in a short time as proposed. When school districts are given adequate time to make changes, the poor planning is taken out on the students and teachers. We are in the midst of a teaching crisis. While we must continue to expect much from our teachers, we also need to support them in their roles and give them time for work-life balance and mental health breaks. We cannot afford to keep losing experienced teachers. Finally, poor planning always affects the groups named in Yazzie-Martinez first. These are our vulnerable populations. This is especially true of students with disabilities--*all inclusive meaning those on IEPs , 504s and those not yet identified because of FAILED identification processes in our state. I'll gladly go into detail on that final point if you want to reach out.*

We do need to do better as a state. I believe there are ways to achieve this goal. Simply adding more time is not the way. Let's focus the conversation on quality. Please consider focus groups with parents, students and teachers to help facilitate this conversation. I would gladly join.

Thank you for time,
Celina Morgan



The Academy for Technology & the Classics

74 A Van Nu Po
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87508
www.atcschool.org
505.473.4282

December 18, 2023

Jason Morgan, Principal
The Academy for Technology and the Classics
Santa Fe, NM 87508

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 dismay and concern regarding the proposed rules on instructional time and respectfully request the NMPED revoke these proposals. Simply, these rules far exceed the department's authority granted in statute. I could conclude this letter at this point. However, I would like to expand on some of the proposed rules and why these rules would move our state in a decidedly wrong direction.

First, in terms of fiscal needs, the department is writing checks the legislature has not approved the department to cash. The proposed rules state "all public school calendars shall include at least 180 instructional days per school year, exclusive of teacher professional work hours" and defines an "Instructional day" as "a calendar day designated by the local board for instructional hours with students that meets the length of school day requirements in Subsection D of Section 8 of this rule but shall not include professional work hours." Effectively, this mandates teacher and staff contracts well in excess of 180 days in order to incorporate vital professional development days, family engagement, and professional collaboration time. Has the department secured funding for FY25 to compensate for these additional contract days in advance of the 2024 session? Will that additional compensation more than make up for the additional workload *and* cost of living and medical coverage increases while still constituting an actual *raise* for educators?

Supposing for a moment the answer is yes, next, I would like to consider the educational impact of these proposals. In *No Time to Lose*, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) determined that all states "...must work together with local entities to design efforts that are practical and appropriate" and "reconsider much of what you think you know; abandon many ideas to which you have long been committed; and embrace new ideas, many which come from other countries but also those already implemented in many of our states. Study innovations in the states." These rules are the opposite of those calls to action. They mandate that teachers and students will sit in traditional classrooms, and experience traditional learning for 180 days that are a minimum of 5.5 hours and a



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maximum of 7.5 hours much like they did in the factory-school model of the 20th century. This is the model that has produced the results New Mexico is trying to rectify.

More importantly, *No Time to Lose* recognizes that “High performing countries have redesigned their schools and the overall work environment to maximize the success of teachers and students. For example, teachers are given a lighter teaching load and more time for their own—and their colleagues’—development. In some of these countries, 30 percent to 35 percent of a teacher’s time is spent teaching students, while the rest is spent on activities such as working in teams with other teachers to develop and improve lessons, observing and critiquing classes, and working with struggling students.” These proposed rules, quite explicitly, demand that teachers spend 90% of their days in classrooms for 90% of the work hours. They create educational “hail mary’s” that schools will devise and throw in August in likely fewer days that budgets will allow rather than the on-going, embedded, and connected professional learning that meets the needs of the week to week and day to day dilemmas teachers actually need support to thrive through.

Furthermore, NCSL notes that top performing countries have re-engineered their systems “with a clear vision at the state level, while local entities are responsible for implementation.” What vision for innovative, best practices do these rules illustrate and what opportunities for innovation are afforded to our LEAs? LEAs have had less than one semester to use the new statutory parameters to build systems that meet the needs of their local communities and yet, based on disappointing aggregated data from the year *prior* to the statutory change, we are rushing to make sure we do anything but innovate, listen, and learn.

ATC is a school of excellence. This year, within our calendar, we have implemented an expanded college readiness advisory program with explicit SEL curricula, early release days to create on-going professional learning time, and flexible learning time that gives students and faculty voice, choice, and access to all our co-curricular programs and supports for struggling learners. We have very recently received full budget authority for our newly awarded innovation zones grant to expand our CTE programs and internship opportunities for students. Our vision for these programs to build even better and sustainable opportunities for our students to learn and our teachers to grow is severely inhibited by these proposed rules before we have even seen what we can do in our first year of implementation. The department has invested thousands of hours and millions of dollars designing SEL frameworks, instructional scopes, and MLSS reforms among others. The department has given millions of dollars to private entities like WestEd, Instructure, Learning Lab and others to develop a roadmap for school improvement. All those investments are at cross-purposes to what the department now says a school day, excuse me, an instructional day, should look like. These rules feel knee-jerk, and ill-advised.

In light of these concerns, we urge the PED to reconsider the proposed rule and pursue calendar reform through the legislative process and focus on leading New Mexico’s communities in getting our kids to school on a regular basis. This approach would provide the necessary statutory clarity and allow



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for comprehensive stakeholder engagement to address the diverse needs of our educational community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the PED will carefully consider the implications of the proposed rule and work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop solutions that prioritize the best interests of our students and educators.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Morgan
Principal
The Academy for Technology and the Classics

From: [Leigh Ann Halladay](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:57:57 AM

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Good morning,

I wanted to write to let you know that I absolutely do not agree with the proposed changes that you want to implement. First off, More contact hours does not mean that we will have better outcomes. After Covid, the mental health of children has decreased (I am a nurse at a pediatric office so I have first hand experience with this) and this rule will only increase mental health issues. This is not the right decision for New Mexico students. You will lose more teachers, you will see a higher dropout rate, and you will definitely see greater mental health concerns among staff and students.

You will NOT see higher test scores. You will witness more exhausted students, frustrated parents, and overworked teachers. You need to listen to the families. Listen to the teachers, listen to the students, listen to the parents. They are the ones that are on the front line and know what works best. Please DO NOT enforce this rule!!!!

Leigh Ann Halladay
(mother to three children and a pediatric nurse)

From: [Ashlyn welz](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Changing The Amount of School Time for NM
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:58:59 AM

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New Mexico School Board,

As a scholar who attends a STEM-focused program with a 4-day school week, I am against the 5-day school week. Being able to have time on Fridays to have personal work time with teachers, have a place to go outside of home where it is quiet to complete work and have a set space to make up tests, quizzes, or projects is very valuable. Also, as a STEM-based school many of the scholars that attend have internships or jobs where they are working towards a future, full-time STEM career. We work as a school to push our kids to participate in activities other than school to explore all areas of their personality, we value this time on Friday very much for this reason. Our school also has longer days, starting at 8 am and ending at 4 pm, adding another day to the school week would completely change the way our school operates and the functionality of the people. Parents, teachers, and scholars will need to restructure their time and when and where they plan their activities. Some parents are very appreciative of the longer days and days off at the end, because of their work schedules, making them unable to pick up their kids at an earlier time. Scholars who have jobs will no longer be able to have shifts and earn as much money or as much experience.

For all of the reasons stated above, the state of New Mexico should not adjust the school year to 180 days, with a 5-day school week.

- Ashlyn Welz
Grade 10, 2023

From: [Brian Calder](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:59:52 AM

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I'm sending this as a parent of a Rio Rancho middle school student. I DO NOT agree with forcing schools into a 5 day school week. It's my opinion that each school should be allowed to set days as needed to fulfill the required days/hours put out by the NM school board. More hours and more days is burning our kids out.

You keep lowering the standards yet increasing the amount of time each student spends in school. This is not a productive way to educate or NM students, we place last or near last year in and year out. Why don't we focus in the quality of education we are giving our kids over the quantity. We as NM residents read how the state has this large surplus of money I think it's time to put it back into our schools along with keeping these kids and there families fed.

Sincerely
Brian Calder
Concerned parent

From: [Jennifer Nunz](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] MAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:01:18 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

As both a school employee and a parent of two children, I must say that this new proposal is absolutely ridiculous! As with anything else, quality over quantity is what is best for all that are affected by this decision. Adding more days to the school calendar will simply burn both staff and students out. Therefore, nothing more is being accomplished. Taking Wednesday afternoons from elementary teachers and adding the credits to secondary schools is wrong. The world has been functioning just fine with the requirements they way they have been. Not allowing the students to have a free period when they have already accomplished the current required classes is punishing them. To add insult to injury, we have just made changes to the school calendar. Staff, students, and families are not being given adequate time to adjust before trying to implement anything new. I fear that forcing districts to do this will not only cause a spike in student dropout rates, but also staff quitting when there is already a shortage. There is also a demand that staff must take so many hours of professional development each year, we should be allotted days within the school year to help accomplish this requirement. We should not be forced to do it in our free time or be forced to work additional days that are not counted toward the required hours. There is not enough time in the day to accomplish everything that needs to be done without adding to it.

In short, this new rule will be detrimental to the outcome of students, staff, and families. It will cause burnout where nothing is getting accomplished either way, and could potentially result in poor outcomes that are harmful to the mental and emotional wellbeing of those involved.

--

Jen Nunz
4Y PreK Assistant
Mountain Elementary
(505)663-2325
2280 North Rd.
Los Alamos, NM 87544



 This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Herrera](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:02:54 PM

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To whom it may concern,

As a parent of three attending Los Alamos Public schools, I strongly oppose the proposed rule changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5.

I feel this will have a negative impact on students and staff, and will also result in unintended consequences.

Respectfully,
Stephanie Herrera

From: [Ann Shiells](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Plan to eliminate 4 day weeks in public schools
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:03:04 PM

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12/18/23

Sir/Madam:

I am writing in response to PED terminating 4 day work weeks in public schools. I am from a rural school in New Mexico. We recruit teaching and ancillary personnel from out of town because the 4-day work week is a draw. If we were to go to a 5-day week, we would lose so many employees and our students would be educated by long term subs, a huge loss in my view. I have spoken to some of these employees and they will not return if we go to a 5-day week. Now we have many more certified personnel teaching than in past years because we went to a 4-day work week. It is a huge mistake to move us to change our schedule.

I also wonder why PED is not talking to the people in the trenches. Adding more days to a schedule is NOT a well thought out plan. Connect with your school employees. Develop a plan with good information. Develop a plan with smaller teacher-pupil ratios, with good mental health support, with good input from teachers. You people in Santa Fe only have a part of the story. Encourage the rest of the story to make good choices about education.

Ann Shiells, SLP

From: [Dustin King](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Against Rule 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:04:42 PM

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Hello I would like to voice my concern and stance against continuing to add days and requirements to graduation.

The system has plenty of days and all the requirements it needs. I believe this is a push to get closer to year round school and I am absolutely against that.

Thank You,

Dustin King

Sent from my iPhone

From: GWYNETH JOHNSON
To: Feedback, Rule, PED
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:09:56 PM

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

I would like to start off this message by saying hello, my name is Gwyneth Johnson, I am a graduating senior at Los Alamos High School, and I have friends and younger siblings in varying stages of their education in the Los Alamos Public School District. I have read your proposal for the addition of credit hours to the school calendar and I have some thoughts.

First, did you honestly think this would solve anything? Genuinely, did you take one or two minutes to really think about the implications this would have on the actual students in these schools? Of course not, because if you did, you would know that this will solve nothing, you will not raise graduation rates, you will only take away any remaining willpower at-risk students have. I understand that this is a desperate attempt to raise graduation rates in New Mexico, and I understand why you are so desperate to do so, however I feel that you are going about it entirely the wrong way. In order to encourage students to go to school and graduate I feel it is important to incentivize and advertise the good aspects of getting that far, one of those aspects are the free/unsupervised study periods, which this proposal aims to get rid of, I feel this is a gross misunderstanding of what is stopping students from graduating. There are research papers, and articles all over the internet on why students drop out, the main causes and even some advice on how to prevent this. One of the leading causes of high school dropouts according to [Learning LiftOff](#) is failing grades, why on earth would increasing instructional hours to an almost impractical amount help anyone? I really mean it, why will this work? The simple answer is it won't, all this proposal would do is cut back on any time students have to actually get any missing classwork done, to do homework in an environment that is conducive to asking for help and getting things done. According to [Business Insider](#) one of the leading causes of dropping out is boredom, a disinterest in school in general. Once again I ask you, what would this proposal do to help these students engage more in classes? Absolutely nothing! As I have already stated countless times, this proposal was written without students in mind, without any real research done on why students drop out, made as a desperate attempt to improve graduation rates.


Second, I have already covered why it is clear you never thought of students when writing this proposal, but now I ask, did you think about the teachers? The staff of New Mexico schools are already underpaid and overworked (as all teachers are) I'm not saying that is on you to deal with, but I am saying with this proposal you are adding an immeasurable amount of work onto these already overloaded teachers. By requiring four full periods per day, you leave teachers no time for professional development, no time for them to get anything other than lessons at school, leaving them to do things like lesson planning, grading, and student meetings on their own time. Did you ever take the two minutes to consider how this may affect teachers' willingness to remain in these underpaid, overworked positions? Did you ever take the time to consider that the students aren't the only ones you are affecting if you mess up or miscalculate? According to a [2021 article](#) by American University's School of Education in Washington DC "All too often, schools put teachers in situations they are [inadequately] prepared to handle... Education leaders must ensure teachers get meaningful professional development that prepares them to deal with behavior issues, new education policies, educational technology, and other obstacles." Hearing this, what makes you think that adding more work hours and less professional development will be beneficial for students or their instructors? You must realize that this proposal will have the exact opposite effect of what you are wanting for New Mexico Public Schools, this state already consistently ranks last for education and graduation rates and this proposal will do absolutely nothing to help this states struggling students.

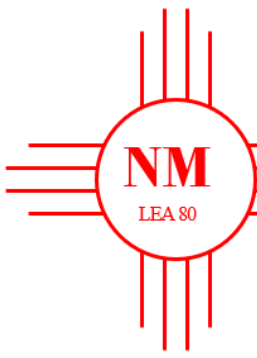
I am imploring you, as a student and older sibling to other students, reconsider these changes to the calendar policy, as I feel, as a student, they will do absolutely nothing to help and encourage students to graduate.

Thank you for your consideration,
Gwyneth Johnson
Class of 2024
gwyneth.johnson@studentlaschools.net
gwyn.johnson0818@gmail.com

Sources, I would ask you to read them when you can, they hold valuable information about what you're trying to do.

<https://dropoutprevention.org/resources/statistics/quick-facts/why-students-drop-out/>
<https://www.lovetoknow.com/parenting/teens/causes-high-school-dropouts#:~:text=Struggling%20in%20school%20on%20a,high%20school%20than%20their%20peers.>
<https://learningliftoff.com/schools/high-school/why-kids-drop-out-of-high-school-and-how-to-prevent-it/>
<https://www.businessinsider.com/most-common-reasons-students-drop-out-of-high-school-2015-10>
<https://scholarworks.lib.csusb.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4199&context=etd-project>
<https://soeonline.american.edu/blog/teacher-burnout/>
<https://www.mckinsey.com/industries/education/our-insights/k-12-teachers-are-quitting-what-would-make-them-stay>
<https://www.kob.com/new-mexico/new-study-projects-new-mexico-will-improve-education-ranking/#:~:text=ALBUQUERQUE%2C%20N.M.%20%E2%80%94%20New%20WalletHub%20education.and%20what%20it%20would%20take.>
<https://wisevoter.com/state-rankings/high-school-graduation-rates-by-state/#:~:text=The%20ten%20states%20with%20the%20lowest%20graduation%20rates%20are%20New.of%20students%20graduating%20high%20school.>

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ESTANCIA MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 68 / Estancia, NM 87016

Cindy L. Sims, PhD
Superintendent

Phone (505) 384-2006
Fax (505) 384-2015

To: Policy and Legislative Affairs Division
New Mexico Public Education Department
300 Don Gaspar Ave., Room 121
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

From: Estancia Municipal School District
Board of Education
Superintendent, Cindy L. Sims, PhD
PreK – 12 and Special Education Staff

Date: December 11, 2023

Topic: Feedback Re: Proposed Rulemaking 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements and 6.19.4 NMAC, Accreditation Procedures

The Estancia Municipal School District Board of Education, Superintendent, and Staff, representing the community of Estancia, stands in opposition of the following proposed rules found in 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements:

C. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year:

- (1) all public-school calendars shall include at least 180 instructional days per school year, exclusive of teacher professional work hours;
- (2) all public schools shall schedule more than fifty percent of school weeks as five-day school weeks; and
- (3) all public schools shall be deemed to operate on five-day school weeks for the purposes of K-12 plus program funding calculations in Section 9 of this rule.

Under the outlined time requirements of 1,140 hours of instructional time annually, duly elected School Boards, staff, and parents are in the best position to develop a school calendar best suited to their community needs while adhering to the required instructional hours. This may mean more instructional minutes per day with fewer calendar days than 180. It could also mean a 4-day work week. For example, the second largest employers in Estancia are Torrance County and the Town of Estancia, both which operate on a four-day work week. This means our parents are off on Friday, and often wish to check their children out (or keep them at home) for camping, family celebrations, etc. While the community when surveyed embraced the idea of a 4-day school week, there has been a moratorium in place on new districts becoming 4-day week districts since 2020. This has created an equity issue – there are those who have been allowed, and those who have not. To be clear, the district is NOT in favor of treating all districts the same in mandating the number of school days in a year; the district IS in favor of lifting the moratorium and allowing more districts to become 4-day per week districts as desired by their communities. Treating districts all the same when they have unique and culturally rich differences that represent their community's individual differences is neither fair nor appropriate.

On a deeper level, the district protests the addition of more instructional days on the basis of “more does not equal better.” Doing more of the same that has not been working in some districts will not improve student learning. Watching the district's ratings bounce up and down from “Spotlight” to “Traditional” to “Additional Targeted Support” to “Comprehensive School Support” has been disheartening. The data do not reflect the hard work the district staff have put into learning and embracing MLSS or Structured Literacy. With 89% of our families

Estancia Municipal Schools Board of Education:
Randol Riley – President, Lee Widner – Vice President, Heather Hedges – Secretary,
Sarah Lucero – Member, Ashley Romero - Member
“Good Schools Make Fine Communities Better”

6.10.5_Exhibit 2522

participating in government programs such as SNAP and TNIF, and with 28% of our students in special ed programs, we have our work cut out for us. The work is intense and exhausting for both staff and students. Coming in for *more* days is not our solution; continuing the good work we have begun with fidelity and enthusiasm is. Respectfully, we request you honor the hard work being done and let us prove we can get our students across the line. Develop criteria to determine what needs to be done differently at the local level for the NM schools in need of More Rigorous Improvement (MRI schools) – if that means more days or 5-day weeks, it will be based upon failing established criteria rather than a blanket one-size fits all approach

In regard to 6.19.4 NMAC, Accreditation Procedures, the district is opposed to the establishment of a rule lacking rubrics for scoring, identified weighted values, or clearly established criteria for success or failure. Existing found in NMSA Section 22 already define rules for public schools regarding assessment, courses of study, credit requirements, instructional materials, etc. Proposing a new rule with threatening consequences for failing to become accredited in the absence of the aforementioned criteria is perceived to be a bullying or intimidation practice. Estancia Schools is confident in the district's ability to pass an accreditation process based on the rigor of our Board's training, the soundness of the district's finances, the improvement over time in our school accountability data, the quality of our students' next step plans, our district's prioritizing low class size with elementary classrooms in the teens and our secondary classrooms in the low 20s, or manageable special ed caseloads for our special ed teachers (all below 1.0) and our counselors (two for elementary and two for secondary giving them caseloads of 1:125), and the strength of our curricular programs (including diplomas of merit, dual credit courses, and certification CTE programs). Our protest is in establishing the rule first without consultation in the development of the criteria.

Of particular concern in the Attendance Improvement component. Our district, like others, have a small percentage of students who are chronically absent. We have rich incentive programs and celebrate attendance weekly in our K-12 schools, yet for a few this is not enough. Having tried Attendance Plans in consultation with parents and students, wake up calls, home visits, and then CYFD and Juvenile Justice Program referrals to no avail, the district would be penalized for the attendance of these few families. When you have a small *N* (total number per school), the absence of a few students makes all the difference. For example, one year we had 25 second graders; there were two families with four students in second grade. Just these four students out with recurring lice issues (which resulted in a CYFD referral) dropped the attendance rate down to 88%, below the required 95%, showing the absence of just a few students effect your percentage when you have a small population. Secondly, our community is one that routinely takes children out of school to go on hunts with the families; this an event with deep cultural roots in our community. Parents ask for and take homework with them on the hunt, and the children stay caught up for the most part. Yet these absences of families out a week at a time impact the district's attendance rate. Compound that by having families with five or more children out (another norm in our community where large families are the norm), and you can see how the attendance rate drops, particularly during hunting season.

The Board, Superintendent, staff, and parents of Estancia Municipal School District stand in opposition of the Accreditation Rule in the absence of established criteria. Furthermore, they ask for consideration in the Attendance for Success Act to recognize and accommodate excused absences. The district is also requesting New Mexico Statutes Chapter 22: Public Schools § 22-13-1.D.3, "In fourth through eighth grades, instruction that meets academic content and performance standards shall be provided in the following subject areas...(3) language other than English" be revisited. While the district stands in support of bilingual programs, most districts do not have the qualified staff to teach a language other than English. Where the student population supports a bilingual program, there *are* certified teachers to teach this. Most districts are already in violation of this statute as it stands lacking bilingual teachers to teach a language other than English in grades 4 – 8 at this time.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and your response in light of the significance of the concerns noted.

Estancia Municipal Schools Board of Education:
Randol Riley – President, Lee Widner – Vice President, Heather Hedges – Secretary,
Sarah Lucero – Member, Ashley Romero - Member
"Good Schools Make Fine Communities Better"

From: [Chris Osburn](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Emily Osburn](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reference: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:15:12 PM

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To the PED Calendar Committee,

My name is Chris Osburn and I am a resident of Rio Rancho, with two students at the ASK Academy. I am writing to you today in opposition to your current proposal to require all schools in the state of New Mexico to require their students to attend school five days a week. Both my children have had highly successful educational experiences while attending the ASK Academy which only requires the students to be on campus four days a week, eight hours a day. On the fifth day that the campus is open students are allowed to go to school and receive one one-on-one instruction from tutors and teachers when necessary.

While I certainly understand why many schools will benefit from an extended calendar year and an expectation of being on campus five days a week; the Ask Academy does not fall into that category.

Thank you for all that you do in support of New Mexico's youth.

Sincerely,
Chris Osburn
(505)514-6170

From: [Jamie Torres](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:17:12 PM

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Secretary Romero and NMPED Leadership,

I would like to comment in strong opposition to the suggested rule changes. Increasing the school calendar and imposing on local decision making is not what New Mexico schools and students need. New Mexico constantly ranking last in education unfortunately is a layered and systematic issue that requires deep dissection and a willingness for true accountability. The education system should not continuously be the New Mexico Public Education Department versus New Mexico Schools, staff, students and school boards. If the tables were turned and we as the public and school staff were demanding more from the public education department this gathering would not be happening. If the rules being enforced on schools were also being enforced on NMPED personnel this situation would look very different. For example, I notice how the rule changes call for school personnel to work 5 day work weeks 50% of the year, but no mention to NMPED personnel also needing to follow the same obligation. This entire rule change enforces multiple policy changes to school personnel, students, families and communities, but gives little to no mention to what changes are also being implemented within NMPED.

As the New Mexico State University: New Mexico Educator Vacancy Report has been indicating for years - we are in a teacher shortage crisis. Like

many others, I fail to understand how increased time in understaffed schools is the solution. Forcing policy changes on educators without fruitful, in depth collaborations with educators is how we continue to push teachers out the door, not how we improve our education system. If this is truly a matter of improving New Mexico's education ranking then we should be focusing how we get quality personnel into the schools, like through the development of housing programs to support school personnel and educators' access to affordable housing and home buying options as many school staff in this very city and across the state constantly stress over housing security.

What New Mexico's schools need is stronger collaboration between policy makers and those the policy impacts. We need leadership that recognizes it starts from the top and uses that point of privilege to empower those they should be working with. Honest partnerships are and making schools a place New Mexicans want to be is how we start improving our education rankings.

Thank you

Jamie Torres

--

Jamie Torres

EdD Candidate Organizational Leadership w/ an emphasis in Special Education
MA Autism Spectrum Disorders, BA ASL-English Interpretation
Returned Peace Corps Volunteer - Namibia, Africa

From: [Michele Varner](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] ref #NMAC6.10.5 school calendar requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:17:21 PM

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I do not support and adamantly disapprove of increasing mandatory school days here in New Mexico.

Educators are burned out, and student learning is not increasing with more days. Our district (WLVSD) has an over 40% absenteeism rate that is **not** being resolved and I note that according to PED data, state-wide, it is in the 30th%.

Focus on **student attendance**, curb the endless and meaningless professional development meetings and PLC's that are only a check in the box. Our district is now attempting to circumvent our CBA and use teacher prep periods for PLC's. Professional development days are "teacher 101" activities without substance. Staff meetings are not team or goal oriented. Many principals and administrators are not problem-solvers and incapable of finding viable solutions under the schedules and constraints imposed on them.

Students here are taking 7 courses per day with 4 min passing periods. Frantic, stress inducing frenetic environments are not conducive to learning. Take a closer look at the source of the issues, additional days is not a one-size fits all solution.

Michele Varner, social studies teacher - WLVSD

From: [Desiree Flores](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to 5 day school weeks at Alice KIng Community School
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:17:48 PM

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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.

Why change what works for our school community?

*Sincerely,
Desiree Flores*

Desiree Flores
Executive Director
SCDC
505-803-2099
☐ ☐ ☐

From: [Michael Boe](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] change to 5 days
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:18:01 PM

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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,

Michael Boe

From: [KELSEY SCHAAP](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule Change: School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:18:08 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to report my concerns with the Proposed Rule change that would impact school calendar requirements.

I would like for it to be known that I am in opposition of the proposed changes to 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements.

Research has consistently shown that increase instructional time alone does not guarantee improved student outcomes.

Please take this into consideration.

Respectfully,

--

Kelsey Schaap M.S. CCC-SLP
Speech Language Pathologist
Student Support Center
Clovis Municipal Schools
Clovis, New Mexico
Email: kelsey.schaap@clovis-schools.org

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From: [Kit Standridge](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Instructional Time Requirements - FEEDBACK
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:18:57 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a public school educator in New Mexico to express deep concern over the proposed rule changes to 6.10.5 NMAC, School Instructional Time Requirements.

I am dismayed that NMPED would consider such drastic changes to a rule that has only been in place for barely one semester. Schools have only had 18 weeks to adjust to the new requirements, and now NMPED would like to add on even more, and more onerous, requirements. The proposed requirements fail to take into account several things which will impact students and schools and school districts in important ways.

I work at a highly successful public charter school. As a public charter, part of our job is to innovate in the best interest of all of our students. A number of the proposed rules will severely inhibit not only our, but all LEAs' ability to innovate, given new calendar parameters.

Our school operates on a modified block schedule, which is proving to be not only effective but popular with our students and faculty. The proposed change would force us to radically change our bell schedule, despite its current effectiveness for our student body. This change seems arbitrary and clearly does NOT take into account any LEAs which are not operating under a traditional secondary schedule where all classes meet every day.

The proposed changes would preclude us from having one early release per month in which teachers may receive important professional development. The proposed changes will necessitate our school to lengthen the school year for teachers, with two possible results - either the district will need to pay teachers more for the extra days OR teachers will be working more days for the same amount of money, effectively lowering salaries. It seems clear to me that LOWERING teacher salaries goes against what Governor Lujan-Grisham would like for New Mexico educators.

Clearly, this rule change has (hopefully) unintended consequences that will

limit critical staff planning time and will be disruptive to our secondary school schedule. I believe the consequences of this change have not been fully considered. LEAs have not had sufficient time to experience the results of the previous change in requirements. NMPED is failing to give districts adequate time to prepare for this change, or even to register the impact of previous changes, changes that will dramatically impact students, teachers and families.

It is apparent to me that NMPED is operating under the false assumption that more hours in school for students and teachers will automatically result in more learning. This is false, and NMPED should know this is unproven! I am personally shocked that, in light of Yazzie-Martinez, NMPED's best response for improving equity in New Mexico is to create a hastily considered increase in school hours, with no creative solutions for the realities that our students face. Our state needs innovation from the best minds we have in order to increase learning and equity for all student populations, and to create positive learning environments so that we have a better chance of keeping effective educators in the profession and in the state.

Together for New Mexico's children,

Kit Standridge

--

Kit Standridge
Spanish teacher/ELD Coordinator
World Language Department Chair
Public Charter Schools of New Mexico Educator of the Year
Academy for Technology and the Classics
Santa Fe, NM

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From: [Sophia Austin](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:19:06 PM

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My name is Sophia Austin, 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,
Sophia Austin

From: [KELLY WINTON](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:20:51 PM

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NM PED, I am opposed to the change of the school calendar. After coming out of COVID and the new challenging behaviors that many kids have I do not believe adding more days will help students or teachers. More teachers are confused and upset about the changing behaviors and are looking for jobs outside of education. In my grade level alone, we lost two teachers last year that did not feel supported about behaviors of students. I think mental health needs to be the focus at the PED level instead of adding days.

With the state only just starting a structured literacy initiative a few years ago and COVID shutdowns, we have not had a full time to implement, practice, and perfect structured literacy to see how our scores will rise. I believe that as more teachers go through LETRS and learn the proper ways to teach students, our students will be set up for a better future.

I believe if you add days to the calendar more certified, structured literacy teachers will quit and in our case, being a border town, will move to Texas to work. Or, they will quit a full time position and sub on occasion to keep insurance.

Teachers need help now more than ever! We need mental health counselors, new ideas for challenging behaviors, and ways to identify ADHD and Autism in schools to get kids support.

--

Kelly Winton
2nd Grade Teacher

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From: [Diego Gallegos](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5 days a week | school rule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:21:29 PM

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My name is Diego Gallegos, 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,
DIEGO GALLEGOS
8th grade
The Ask Academy

From: [Plemon Bates](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DO NOT give us 5 days of school
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:22:11 PM

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My name is Plemon Bates, 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.

Plemon Bates

From: [Kloie Hughes](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PED 180 School Day Rule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:22:12 PM

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

My name is Kloie Hughes, 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,
Kloie Hughes

From: [Natalia Schlachter](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 180 Days Schedule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:22:17 PM

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

My name is Natalia Schlachter, 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,

Natalia Schlachter.

From: [Opie Brandon](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerns Regarding New Rule on 180 Days of School with Required Fridays
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:22:47 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 express my concerns regarding the new rule that requires 180 days of school with all Fridays required. As a student at the ASK Academy School, I strongly believe that this rule will have a negative impact on the students and the school community.

While I understand the importance of ensuring that students receive adequate education, I believe that this rule is not the best approach to achieve that goal. For instance, many students already have other commitments on Fridays, such as extracurricular activities, family responsibilities, or part-time jobs. The ASK Academy also uses Fridays for tutoring and extra help for students who are behind or need more class time for assignments. Therefore, requiring them to attend school on Fridays may not only affect their academic performance but also their mental health and well-being.

Furthermore, I believe that this rule is unfair to the teachers and staff members who also have their commitments and responsibilities outside of school. Requiring them to work on Fridays may cause undue stress and exhaustion, which may ultimately affect their ability to provide quality education to the students.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this new rule and to seek alternative solutions that will not only ensure that students receive adequate education but also take into account their personal circumstances. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Brandon Opie

From: [Dennis Angerosa](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5 day Rule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:22:49 PM

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

My name is Dennis Angerosa, 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,
Dennis Angerosa

From: [Andres Jacquez](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 180 school day rule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:24:30 PM

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

My name is Andres Jacquez, 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,
Andres Jacquez

From: [Daven Harrison](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NM PED
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:24:34 PM

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Dear NM PED,

I hope this letter finds you well, albeit with a tinge of concern that echoes the sentiments of many parents across New Mexico. As a dedicated advocate for our children's education, I feel compelled to shed light on the emotional toll the stringent 180-day requirement is exacting on our young learners.

It's disheartening to witness the exhaustion etched on our children's faces as they navigate the rigidity of this policy. Their once bright eyes, filled with curiosity, are now dimmed by the relentless demands of meeting a seemingly arbitrary number of school days. Are we, as stewards of their education, not responsible for nurturing their intellectual growth with a touch of compassion?

I implore you to reconsider the emotional burden we are placing on these young souls, who, instead of flourishing in an environment of curiosity and creativity, find themselves trapped in a relentless cycle of attendance. The current policy, devoid of understanding the diverse challenges faced by families, feels more like a shackle than a stepping stone toward academic excellence.

Let us not forget that our children are more than mere statistics; they are fragile spirits yearning to thrive in an environment that fosters holistic growth. A reconsideration of the 180-day mandate would not only reflect empathy but also demonstrate a commitment to cultivating a genuine love for learning.

I trust you will weigh the emotional cost of this policy on our children and consider a more compassionate approach to education.

Sincerely, Daven Harrison dharrison2028@theaskacademy.org

From: [Tesla Klaver](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 180 School Day Rule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:25:18 PM

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

My name is Tesla Klaver, 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,
[Tesla Klaver](#)

From: [Ryder Owens](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Steven Cole](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 180 day rule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:26:00 PM

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hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to formally request an exemption from the 180-day rule as stipulated by the New Mexico Public Education Department. I understand the importance of adhering to educational guidelines, and I appreciate the department's commitment to ensuring a comprehensive learning experience for students.

However, our school, The Ask Academy has encountered unforeseen challenges that have significantly impacted our ability to meet the 180-day requirement. These events have created a unique situation beyond our control, severely disrupting the regular academic schedule.

I would like to emphasize that our primary concern is the well-being and education of our students. Granting an exception to the 180-day rule in this instance would allow us to address these challenges without compromising the quality of education our students receive.

In consideration of the exceptional circumstances we are facing, I kindly request the New Mexico Public Education Department to review our case favorably and grant a waiver for the 180-day rule. We are committed to implementing alternative educational strategies and additional instructional support to ensure that our students receive a well-rounded education despite the challenges we have encountered.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter. If needed, we are open to providing any additional documentation or information required to support our request. Thank you for your understanding and consideration.

From: [Lily Adams](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 180 School Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:26:11 PM

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I am a scholar at the ASK academy in Rio Rancho. Making us go 5 days instead of 4 is ridiculous. We use Friday's to get school work done and get extra support as needed. Our school has some of the best test scores in the state. This is partially because of us having Friday's to get the help that we need and get out schoolwork done. According to the U.S News and world Report we are the 12th best school in the state. The students including myself thrive off of not having a traditional school day on Friday. Please take this into consideration.

From: [Katelyn Jensen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 180 school day rule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:27:16 PM

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

Hello NM PED,

I would like to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that would mandate a 5-day school week for students. I am a scholar at a charter school that does 4-day school weeks. Our school is doing well with the school week structure we have. We use our Friday as an intervention, makeup work, and internships. This helps those students who might need some more help on work and can have an extra few hours to do so. As a scholar who goes to this school, there are outside learning activities that take up my Friday, so technically I am still learning something that could be essential for the future. I respectfully oppose this rule change for our students, teachers, and parents in this school community. Thank you so much for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing your thoughts, and any actions that will happen for the students and educators.

Sincerely,
Katelyn Jensen

From: [Laura Klose](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback on Instructional days...
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:27:28 PM

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More "time " added to our instructional days will not improve student outcomes.

Here's what will or will not help

1. Real planning time for teachers- without directives from the administration.
2. Professional development that is redundant, or assigned to cover administrations' bases for "doing something".
3. Curriculum provided BEFORE students arrive.
4. Classroom resources are generously provided BEFORE students arrive
5. Classroom resources that are easily obtained when the teacher needs them.
6. Curriculum training BEFORE the students attend classes
7. Lesson plan templates that reflect a weekly sequence, rather than a synthesis of 3 or more educational philosophies.
8. Less standardized testing- or if it must be done- contract ex-teachers to do it.
9. Additional pay for mandatory training.

Laura Klose
Pojoaque Valley Public Schools
Spanish Teacher



From: [Katrina G](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:28:38 PM

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To whom it may concern,

In regards to the adoption of the proposed rule change I do NOT support the adoption. To my understanding schools and districts will have to inadequately change their schedule with very little time to do so. Also, this impacts the children's schedule and puts more pressure on them to adhere to more credited hours. My main questions are as follows:

Why are these changes being implemented with so little time?

What will these changes to school districts improve or impelent?

What data or research supports these proposed changes?

Why have the children, families, teachers, and community, once again, not been part of these changes?

There are ethical codes (NAEYC) in place for those who participate in child education and I feel these codes are being violated and not respected. If educators and students are not in agreement with this proposal, it is denying their right to varying points of view and is not advocating in their best interests.

Answers and feedback to my concerns and questions would be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to reach out.

Thank you,

Katrina Garcia

From: [Emily Osburn](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Chris Osburn](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reference: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:28:43 PM

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

Dear PED Calendar Committee,

My name is Emily Osburn and I am a resident of Rio Rancho, with two students at the ASK Academy. I am writing to you today in opposition to your current proposal to require all schools in the state of New Mexico to require their students to attend school five days a week. Both my children have had highly successful educational experiences while attending the ASK Academy which only requires the students to be on campus four days a week, eight hours a day. On the fifth day that the campus is open students are allowed to go to school and receive one one-on-one instruction from tutors and teachers when necessary.

While I certainly understand why many schools will benefit from an extended calendar year and an expectation of being on campus five days a week; the Ask Academy does not fall into that category. Education is about quality not quantity.

Thank you for all that you do in support of New Mexico's youth.

Sincerely,
Emily Osburn
(505)610-0611

From: [David B Chester](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:29:35 PM

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Fascinating - who is behind the push to get MORE out of teachers? This is a Democratic administration- who is pulling the strings? It is probably time for the Teachers' Unions to withdraw their support of the Democratic party, because It is apparent that these philosophies come from the very top, and that they are no longer aligned with the rank and file at the bottom (voters). Parents don't want a longer school year. Students don't, educators don't, school administrators don't, even the legislators don't , so WHO does? The Oligarchs? Work on class size limits, and correcting the conditions that have led to the teacher shortage. I could write a book on that.

David Chester
Nonlabel@mac.com
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Deborah Potter](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: opposition to proposed rule changes 6.10.5 NMAC, 6.81.2 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:39:46 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

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I am also opposed to this proposed rule change: 6.19.4 NMAC, Accreditation Procedures

Dr. Deborah Ulinski Potter
1019 Guadalupe Ct. NW
Alameda, NM 87114
505-897-8621
ulinski@unm.edu

From: Deborah Potter <ulinski@unm.edu>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:35 PM
To: Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov <Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov>
Subject: opposition to proposed rule changes 6.10.5 NMAC, 6.81.2 NMAC

To the NM Public Education Department
December 18, 2023

I stand alongside NM teachers and the National Education Association-NM teacher's union in opposition to the NM Public Education Department's proposed rule changes: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements and 6.81.2 NMAC, Requirements for Nonpublic Schools and for Public Education Department Accreditation. These proposed changes should be immediately withdrawn to honor the flexibility that is currently held and needed by NM teachers, especially in rural areas. These changes are not good for students and will not help improve our quality of education. Today's hearing will be inadequate to address the concerns that have already been raised and will not allow adequate time for in person public testimony that is largely in opposition.

My opposition to the PED rule changes has also been communicated to Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham with a request for a reply.

Sincerely,

Dr. Deborah Ulinski Potter
1019 Guadalupe Ct. NW
Alameda, NM 87114
505-897-8621
ulinski@unm.edu

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Address

The Office of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham is located on the 4th floor of the New Mexico State Capitol in Room 400.

Issue *
Education

Message *

I stand alongside NM teachers and the National Education Association-NM teacher's union in opposition to the NM Public Education Department's proposed rule changes: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements and 6.81.2 NMAC, Requirements for Nonpublic Schools and for Public Education Department Accreditation. These changes should be immediately withdrawn to honor the flexibility that is currently held and needed by NM teachers, especially in rural areas. These changes are not good for students, and will not help improve our quality of education. Today's hearing will be inadequate to address the concerns that have already been raised, and will not allow adequate time for public testimony that is largely in opposition.

Would you like a response? *
Yes, please contact me

SUBMIT

From: [Owen petersen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on the Proposed Rule Change for School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:40:18 PM

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

Hello,

My name is Owen Petersen and I am a sophomore at the ASK Academy (a 4-day school) in Rio Rancho. I believe that the proposed rule change that would end 4 day school weeks in NM is among the worst possible policies to fix our state's education system. While I recognize that our education is failing NM's students, and I can see the logic behind extending the school year, it does not address the causes of our issues. Rather than addressing COVID learning loss alone for problems that existed long before COVID, the PED must recognize that the gen Z/gen Alpha mental health crisis is the source of most of them. The 4 day week has been one of the only things protecting mental health among students at my school and to strip it now would be not only cruel and but also harmful. It has also helped my school and many more rural schools keep costs low, which is especially important given the government's refusal (both state and federal) to properly fund schooling. Research has proven that four day weeks have only small impacts on overall achievement (especially in districts like ASK which have 8+ hour school days) but incredibly positive impacts on sleep and bullying rates. Rather than attempting rule changes like this that would be unhelpful and detrimental for students' mental health, the PED should add supports for students. These include adding to health curricula units on how to stay safe when doing drugs, how to quit drugs, a restructuring of how PED/CYFD address mental health crises (i.e. suicidal students & self harm), and even an expansion of the four day school week. The state of NM should also increase funding for school programs such as free lunches (\$4/day is NOT enough, especially for small schools like mine that don't have a kitchen) and CTE in addition to increasing teacher pay to attract more and better teachers and paying for better/newer educational resources.

From: [Jerald King](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:41:05 PM

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I am against the implementation of this rule which seems to be an effort to correct the mistakes made by this administration during the covid panic. Instead of following the example of the failed California education administration, should we not take the time to look at the states where the schools are working for the students and not for the teacher's unions?

From: [Julie Frazee](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:41:33 PM

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

I am against Rule 6.10.5 NMAC.

I am fervently asking you to please allow local school boards to make decisions that are best for the students in their community. These people are elected locally and in touch with the needs of the students they represent. Each community is unique, from the tribal schools, to the very historical hispanic schools that have been a part of New Mexico culture for many generations, to the large schools in Albuquerque & Las Cruces, to the small ranching communities that require many miles of travel, to the schools near Los Alamos national laboratories, military communities, and every one in between. We are a diverse population with many different student needs.

With the recent lawsuits we've experienced in this state, it is evident that each individual student should be given the opportunity to learn and thrive in their school. A state committee cannot monitor the needs of students as a local entity can. As I've state above, New Mexico is diverse. Communities are very different as you travel across our great state. One large, overarching decision will not serve what is best for all students.

Please consider our kids. Please consider our families. Please consider the fact that local board members are elected to represent and address the best interests of the people who trust them for decisions that affect their most precious and valuable assets; their children. If they do not serve that purpose well, the local people will replace them with a suitable representative. The State of New Mexico is not that person.

Respectfully,
Julie Frazee

From: [E.Romero](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposal 6.10.5 NMAC Calendar days
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:42:54 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 in regards to the proposal in the change of calendar days for the Clovis school district.

I am **vehemently against** this proposal for one main reason: Giving students more time in school will NOT help anything in regards to enrollment, attendance or learning capabilities on *most* students.

Now, this proposal was probably thought up as a response to poor test scores and individuals passing; declining enrollment; and attendance issues in New Mexico.

Well, I could write a tome in regards to why I think why all mentioned above is poor in this state, but it would NOT be because the kids aren't in school long enough in the year. That wouldn't even make the list. What WOULD make the list is as follows:

--The reason is that society is degrading, and RESPECT and ACCOUNTABILITY is no longer practiced nor regarded (let alone demanded) as important in today's society.

--Because people aren't held accountable, then their actions are not only allowed, but even rewarded at times (and NM is horrible about that).

--Because there is no accountability, there are no consequences, and people are carried regardless of how much effort they put forth, so why work?

--Because laziness is actually rewarded, the state decided to allow a mild altering substance to be the forefront of their lives with EXCEPTIONALLY easy access, so that is all they care about. School gets put on the back burner. Because why not? They get free stuff anyway, so they can spend all day high. (and although you may say marijuana is illegal for minors, do you REALLY think that is keeping them from it?!)

--The students that do work hard, and/or have parents that care, will still exist. Students have been succeeding in the Clovis school system for decades. My mother, my brother, my husband, my child and myself are all proof of this. (with my child being CURRENTLY in the Clovis School system). She will be graduating within six months so this doesn't even affect her, but I still feel strongly about it.

--Some students DO need extra help, extra tutoring but those services ARE ALREADY OFFERED! For Free!!! Remember what I said about accountability? Why does it all fall on the school system? It shouldn't.

Making the school year longer will not only NOT help the situation, it will be detrimental to the smaller, rural schools we have. There is a very good system currently in regards to the three rural schools of Curry county and the Clovis High school. It is working. The smaller schools have MUCH BETTER OVERALL GRADES anyway! With four day weeks!

Are things broken with the New Mexico public school system? ABSOLUTELY. But making the students stay in school for a longer part of the year will not help that. At all.

Teachers are already inappropriately required to help raise people's kids for very low pay. Don't add insult to injury. Make parents more accountable.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Erica Romero
Clovis NM

From: [Tobi Cornell](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Calendar Rule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:43:39 PM

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

I am writing to express concerns regarding the proposed rule on instructional time requirements (6.10.5 NMAC) and respectfully request the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) revoke the aforementioned proposal. Calendar reform was only recently debated by the legislature and has been implemented in schools for six months. There was great debate on the calendar reform legislation in the 2023 legislative session. That debate led to compromise on legislation that was signed by the Governor. We acknowledge the department's commitment to enhancing educational outcomes.

However, given the recency of the new legislation and Department's lack of statutory authority to execute this rule as proposed, we request that PED revoke this proposed rule and go through the legislative process to meet these requirements.

State law clearly states that rule cannot run further than statute: 14-4-5.7(A) "No rule is valid or enforceable if it conflicts with statute. A conflict between a rule and a statute is resolved in favor of the

statute." Within the proposed rule, there are several new policies that lack statutory authority for PED to provide the mandates in the proposed rule:

a. Statute clearly allows for school districts to meet statutory hourly requirements without regard to school days. In fact, NMSA 22-2-8 only allows for the Secretary to waive minimum requirements associated with school hours in certain circumstances. It's unclear where the authority for a maximum number of hours is allowed in law. The law does not provide for the Secretary to make mandates in our analysis either. Statute is silent on the length of school week except for language surrounding K-12 Plus funding (NMSA 22-8-23.14), which states that schools

operating on a 4-day school week must have more than 156 school days to qualify for K12 Plus programming. This clearly provides for 4-day school weeks in law without any explicit authority for the secretary to mandate a length of school week. The proposed rule oversteps New Mexico school law by prescribing more than 50% of weeks to be five-day weeks. Further, the proposed rule mandates that schools must have 180 days to qualify for K-12 Plus funding, which directly contradicts statute. It is essential to align the rule with statutory provisions on flexible scheduling for districts and charter schools. Revisiting the law to provide authority for the Secretary is necessary to implement the policy.

b. The proposed rule introduces a maximum number of hours in a school day without explicit statutory authorization. It is imperative to identify the specific statutory provisions granting the Secretary the authority to establish such limits. Further, this section of the proposed rule would not apply to charter schools that exercise a nondiscretionary waiver associated with "Length of School Day" NMSA22-8B-5(c).

c. The rule mandates a 30-minute lunch period, which directly contradicts the 20-minute lunch period stipulated in statute (NMSA 22-13c-10). It is crucial to adhere to statutory limitations and

recognize the bounds of PED's authority in prescribing lunch periods.

Best, Tobi Cornell

Parent and Educator

From: [Westley Christensen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School changes
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:44:13 PM

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

NMPED,

I strongly oppose the proposed changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements".

Our teachers, staff and students do not need more hours in school. They need more support and resources available to them without strings attached.

The proposed rule changes will increase current burn out and frustration for students and staff.

I feel that the individual districts have the best interests of their communities at heart and understand what will best meet their needs. It is not required of the state to impose such strict requirements on the schools. These rules will add a strain to our teachers whom already have so much responsibility, allowing their professional development to count as school hours is beneficial for the staff and the students as those teachers will be better prepared to educate and support their students. The rules requiring more credits for High School graduation are also detrimental to our students and staff. As students prepare for their next chapter the real-life skills of employment are key to help students transition this becomes a more difficult goal if they are not given the option to have free periods to find employment.

Please do not implement these changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5

Thank you for your time.

From a concerned, Parent

Sent from Gmail Mobile

From: [Guha Hari](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Five Day Week Objection
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:47:04 PM

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

My name is Guha Hari, 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,
Guha Hari

From: [Anita Odell](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback on 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:47:23 PM

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

Good morning,

As a teacher in New Mexico's public school system, I strongly object to the proposed rule change and wish to express my concerns regarding the 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements.

This rule change aims to mandate 180 days of instruction, overruling House Bill 130. It's crucial to recognize that an increased number of school days does not necessarily correlate with improved test scores or serve as a guaranteed method to elevate New Mexico from its 50th position in education. Consider Alaska, which has 180 instructional days but is ranked 49th, and West Virginia, also with 180 instructional days, yet ranked 47th. Instead of extending our instructional calendar with the hope of transforming New Mexico's education system, it is imperative that we engage in a dialogue addressing the root issues impeding progress—overcrowded classrooms, chronic absenteeism, and the practice of promoting students to the next grade despite not meeting proficiency standards. What measures are being taken to address these critical challenges?

I vehemently object to this proposed change and advocate for a focus on rectifying the foundational problems within New Mexico's educational framework.

References: https://nces.ed.gov/programs/statereform/tab5_14.asp

Anita Odell

From: [Amy Gilbert](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED; aftnmaction@gmail.com](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:48:26 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 4th 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 are half days, starting at 8:30 and ending at 12:00. 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.

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 unintended but significant 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 Wednesday afternoons are currently designated as teacher prep time and the only time that our district can fit in the allotted average of 300 minutes of prep time that our collective bargaining agreement guarantees. If we lose our early release Wednesdays as a result of NMAC Rule 6.10.5 passing, 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.

[Additionally, the groundwork for the successful education of students in New Mexico](#)

extends well beyond the walls of our school buildings. It begins in homes with parents. New Mexico is 50th in child wellbeing!! (See <https://datacenter.aecf.org/rankings>) When children have a difficult start at home in the areas of economic status, poor health/wellness, and lack of strong and safe family/community, the effects will just trickle directly into the realm of education. If you want to see change in New Mexico, start with PARENTS! After that, commit to smaller class sizes in our classrooms (no more than 15-17 students in Elementary classrooms, and no more than 20-22 students in Middle School and High school classes). Commit to allowing K-3 teachers to focus solely on Math, Reading, and Writing. Teachers have a lot more ideas of how to make improvements, feel free to ask. In the meantime, more days and more time are not better... Better is better.

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

Thank you for your consideration,
Amy Gilbert

4th Grade Teacher
Aspen Elementary School
Los Alamos Public Schools

From: [Destiny Estrada](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:54:00 PM

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I really think you shouldn't do a 5 week as i went to public school and see it for all the way up to now your going to have kids cause problems as if you hold them up in school for a full week will make problems as they won't focus and break school stuff. With friday off comes help on friday this gives any kids that need help or didn't finish work or have question they have, this help teachers to help kids that really need to help to focus on it instead of focus on kids that don't need help at all.

Now if you do school on friday you'll get a lot problems then you think this comes with

1. trashing the school
2. teachers not having time to help kids who need it
3. kids wanting to cause problems to shower their anger
4. lower grades
5. stress
6. no time to do what they need to do without being left behind
7. giving more work that kids already have
8. less time to relax

with this gives kid so much stress and with this makes grades drop as kids don't have time to ask for help or ask questions without the whole class doing something they shouldn't, from hearing from a teacher he said "if they add fridays to come in everyday he will quiet and leave the school. Showing that he will leave because this give him time to grade and help kids to pass

this also give kids to get more energy to focus more when coming back on monday

so please keep it how it is

From: [Brady R. Jones](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:54:59 PM

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Greetings,

I am a concerned parent with children attending the Los Alamos Public School district in Los Alamos NM.

I want the following three points noted in your feedback collection.

1. Not enough time has passed since the last New Mexico school calendar changed to properly understand its impact; schools only implemented the last rule change this year.
2. The rules do not take into account district performance. Making blanket changes state wide will negatively impact districts that are already exceeding state standards.
3. The rules do not take into consideration the mental health impact on students and teachers. The current proposal leaves no room for teacher planning and professional development, and forces students into an unhealthy, unsustainable schedule at every level of education.

--

Brady R. Jones
C: (505) 257-8489
jones.brady.r@gmail.com

From: [K.L](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule allowing 4 day school schedule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:57:13 PM

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,
Kathleen Larese

From: [Louise Menking](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:59:54 PM

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

I'm busy. So i will be blunt. Adding more days to the school year will have the opposite effect than what is intended. Teachers are burnt out, students are burnt out and angry, and frankly asking the teachers to do more is a load of crap. Give us back our mental break over summer. Keep Winter Break short. Students don't have heat at their homes in January, nor food, and keeping them away from warm classes and school lunches is just mean. You're punishing the students because their parents are poor.

Use the money to fund mental health support and school counselors. We all know we have not mentally recovered from a world wide pandemic. Pretending that more days in a place that students dislike is going to change the outcome is just burying your head in the sand. Have courage. Do the right thing. Hire emotional support for the students and quit screwing over the teachers.

From: [Djj1224](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:00:18 PM

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/Voter and I think it will negatively impact my child specifically and our teaching community as a whole.

Dora Kliesen
357 Grand Canyon Drive
White Rock 87547

From: [Karina Archuleta](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Why there shouldn't be 5 days for our school week/ extension.
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:00:31 PM

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

:

My name is Karina Archuleta, 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.

P.S. If you consider doing this and go forward with adding our Friday as a school day, you will be putting many scholars AND teachers at risk with anxiety, and stress. Please look at this from our side of the situation, This is very unfair to our facility members, and scholars. Putting excessive stress on scholars and teachers is NOT needed.

From: [Jeremy Wekesa](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5 Day Schedule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:01:14 PM

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

My name is [Your Full Name], 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,
Jeremy Wekesa

From: [Roman Felix](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep Fridays free!
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:01:16 PM

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

My name is Roman Evan Felix, 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,
Roman Felix

P.S,
I don't understand the point of you doing this. This serves no purpose to you or my community. All this does is make an unnecessary extension to the curriculum and will make Project Managers, Scholars, and other faculty more fatigued causing a noticeable decline in GPA in all grades, which may cause more scholars to cheat and use AI tools such as ChatGPT. Consider our side of this situation before acting. Sorry about any grammatical errors. I wrote this in a hurry.

From: [Minale Liya](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:06:17 PM

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

My name is Liya Minale, 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,
Liya Minale

From: [Trista](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:06:36 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 writing to let you know I STRONGLY OPPOSE the new requirements being considered for the changes in the upcoming school year. As a family with one child getting ready to graduate and 2 others also in high school, this is going to completely disrupt the plans they already have in place working towards graduation. We do have the pleasure in being in the Los Alamos School District, one that is already doing phenomenal compared to other schools in the state. Why is your answer more instructional time when studies have shown time and time again that it is not the answer. We already have a very rigorous academic program, without your new requirements. You will push some of these kids over the edge and cause many more drop outs than the schools see already. Your one size fits all approach is not feasible for the entire state. Our state already is lacking educators across all districts, where are you planning on finding them to fill the extra instruction time? The new changes would force our entire district to completely change everything about how our schools run, from start and end times, to bus schedules, not to mention the impact that this is going to have on full time working parents. Our unique location and the fact that numerous people travel in and out of Los Alamos daily, makes these impacts travel much farther than just through the school districts. This is a poorly thought out plan, and should be immediately disregarded. Children do not need more time away from family just for you to bolster numbers in education.

Sincerely a very upset parent,
Trista Arnett

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Zoe Robles](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:07:41 PM

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Hello,

I'm a mother of a Los Alamos County 7th grader. I am sure you're getting lots of feedback and complaints about the proposed changes for the next academic year. I always have trouble understanding the intricacies and minutiae of government documents, so I cannot say I understood everything I have read. Still I wonder why would these changes be immediate? It is already December and most School Boards already have a draft of the calendar for 2024-2025 so families can plan ahead be it for daycare options or quick in-state vacations and so on.

More pressing though is the fact these changes will undoubtedly put pressure on hiring enough teachers, instructional assistants and so on in order to make the academic requirements work. This brings the responsibility of hiring the right people up front and center. Are there enough people in the state ready to be hired and trained in the variety of positions needed?

Since I am here already, I would like to ask for a very simple thing: an emphasis on social skills.

During the pandemic I was delighted that the first 10 minutes of instruction were to check how kids were doing, their announcements and the like. They were prompted to ask things of each other. Now that my child is older this is not a priority. Homeroom time is not really used to touch base with each other. This is how people become acquaintances, not friends. Most of life after school is spent at work, and most jobs require teamwork, so to learn how to relate to others is the most basic and important skill we could desire our students to learn.

If an increase in contact hours is warranted, can part of it be used to develop the soft social skills needed through life; the executive functions that are so necessary to have a successful existence after these initial academic years.

Thank you very much for reading my lengthy letter,
Zoe Robles

From: [Robinson Elliana](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5-day schedule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:11:25 PM

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

My name is Elliana Robinson, 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 understands and values the importance of good 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.

At my school, I believe that if we have a 5-day schedule, grades will drop and students will be less-motivated. And, the teachers will not want to teach a bunch of unmotivated students.

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.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Elliana Robinson

From: [BRENDA BENFIELD](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerns - Proposed School Calendar Changes
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:12:52 PM

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

12/18/23

Subject: Concerns - Proposed School Calendar Changes

Thank you for giving New Mexico educators an opportunity to share concerns about the Proposed School Calendar Changes. I work in one of the best school districts in New Mexico. Employees of Clovis Schools work hard to ensure that our students are getting the best education possible. However, we are faced with some of the same challenges as many New Mexico school districts face.

Adding additional days to our calendar is not the answer for increasing student performance when we are faced daily with student behavior and attendance. It is very difficult to actively engage students in lessons when they are not at school or when they are disrupting classes. Clovis schools have many supports in place to help with both of these issues. However, until parents are held accountable for getting their children to school as well as taking responsibility for their children's behavior, our efforts are not always successful. Teachers cannot teach an absent or unwilling student. Adding additional days to the calendar will not solve these problems. Please consider putting stronger mandates in place to hold parents accountable for student attendance and behavior instead of more days on the calendar.

Like other school districts we have challenges with a shortage of qualified teaching staff and must rely on long term substitutes to fill positions. Adding additional days to the calendar will not solve this problem. Until New Mexico recognizes that there is a problem with hiring and keeping qualified teaching staff we will continue to face challenges with increasing student performance. As we are about 10 miles from the Texas border I ask you to please consider the impact that adding additional days to our calendar will have on our already stressed teachers who would rather cross that Texas border instead of staying in New Mexico with added school days.

Again, I appreciate this opportunity to share my thoughts on adding additional days to our calendar.

Sincerely,

Brenda Benfield
Dean of the Instructional Center for Affective Needs
Clovis Municipal Schools

--

Brenda Benfield
Dean
ICAN
575-769-4859 Ext. 1950
brenda.benfield@clovis-schools.org

"In every dream journey there comes a moment when you have to quit living as if the purpose of life is to arrive safely at death".
Mark Batterson, Chase the Lion

From: [Rudd, Kylee](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Vote
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:14:59 PM

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Dear:Public Education Department

My name is Kylee Rudd and I would like to place my vote.

I think that we should not have school five days a week.I think that that would be unfair because we already have days longer than the other schools so we would be working harder and longer than all other schools.Also many of the people that I know will leave this school because the only reason that they are coming to ask is to either study on those days or they are unavailable to go to school on fridays because they have other things on their plate than just plain old school.

I also think that one of the options that we should have to vote on is recess.Because many of the kids are really energetic and need some time to get energy out.This would also be a wonderful time to have clubs because many people would rather eat their lunch than go to a club.

Will you please accept me and my friendly scholars' opinions because one vote comes from a lot more than you realize.

Sincerely Kylee,Rudd (and the others among us)

From: [Adrienne Blackburn](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule Regarding School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:15:22 PM

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In regard to:

6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements

Type of Rule Change: Repeal and Replace

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed rule change regarding the extension of the school calendar that has been presented by the New Mexico Public Education Department. The reasoning for this extension is based on the need to ensure that our students receive the high-quality education that New Mexico can provide; but in all reality, this would have the opposite effect on students, teachers, administrators, counselors, and parents. Adding more school days to a calendar is not going to fix an educational system that has been broken for many years.

The New Mexico education system has been broken for some time and adding days is just putting a patch on a leak that has *never* been properly fixed from the beginning. The issue that needs to be addressed is chronic absenteeism due to the Compulsory School Attendance Law that was put in place does not hold parents or students accountable for being absent. In taking away local control of attendance policies parents and students have been able to choose when and if they will be attending school. This has affected the morale of teachers and administrators to the point that many highly qualified teachers have left the teaching profession. In addition to low school morale students and staff are struggling with their mental and emotional well-being. The demands for teachers are astronomical and adding days to a school year that is already stressful will result in losing amazing and effective teachers, thus adding to the teacher shortage in New Mexico. Students are expected to perform under an immense amount of pressure because teachers are asked to bridge the gap. In this day and age, students can barely cope with everyday life, much less the pressure of making the grade. This adds to mental and emotional turmoil and kids will never be successful until their unmet needs are taken care of first. Adding more stressful school days will only add to their mental and emotional distress.

As if there was not already a gap in education, students missing is furthering that gap and the local schools are the ones who are being blamed. Holding students and parents accountable just as you do the professionals who work in the local schools is just as important to the student's academic success. Until the attendance issues are addressed students' achievement

gaps will continue to grow and New Mexico will still be considered last in education. The New Mexico Public Education Department needs to start listening to their teachers, administrators, and school boards who are trusted in making decisions that are appropriate for their district to ensure that the gaps in education are fixed. These local schools know their student populations and communities and know what is best for them. *Adding more days is adding more fuel to the fire of chronic absenteeism and therefore making the gap in education in New Mexico bigger.* Giving back local control will allow districts to make decisions that are in the BEST INTEREST of THEIR KIDS.

Best,

Adrienne Blackburn

Class of 2026 Counselor

ablackburn@bulldogs.org

575-746-9816 x1509

From: [Ashley Bustos](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerns
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:16:15 PM

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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 in order to create an environment where we see positive outcomes with increased contact hours.

“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.”

As an incoming teacher this rule change makes me not want to teach! This rule will burn out many teachers causing them to quit or be grumpy and not give their students the best education.

To whoever this may concern, you are currently not in a classroom with students everyday so what makes you think you know what teachers and other staff go through? Behaviors are already up the wall and adding more school days will definitely cause more behaviors. I can barely get my daughter motivated to attend school regularly much less for 180 days!!

Giving High Schools more credit hours I believe will cause more drop outs. What are your plans for current high schoolers who will not be graduating this year? Have you thought that through?

This new rule will be the biggest mistake in New Mexico's education system and I believe students will not be motivated and will drop out which will continue New Mexico's trend on not having a good education system!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Danielle Gutierrez](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [ACT ATF](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 180 Day Rule Change
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:16:20 PM

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

To Whom it may Concern:

- 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.
- Educators 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.
- This proposal is a disruption of educators' and students' lives.
- 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.
- 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 is a false solution to a complex problem. Students need more than additional seat time to succeed.
- 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.

Please take these concerns into account before making changes.

Thank you,

--

Danielle R. Gutierrez, M.A., NBCT (she/her/they)
AVID Elective & English Language Development
Truman Middle School
Room 404
505-836-3030 ex. 58168



"May you always remember to enjoy the road, especially when it's a hard one." "Dedication makes dreams come true."~Kobe Bryant

From: [Dorothy Arquero](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:16:33 PM

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

I have been working as a first grade teacher for 20 plus years in our state. It is very concerning that the solution to student achievement and or academic progress is to add additional school days which in turn adds to teacher time being added as well. . This remedy was already implemented 5 months ago. The needs are much greater than adding more days to our school year, and continuing to do what is not working. Teachers are frustrated and tired of hearing lack of accountability on our part? The challenges and added demands/requirements from PED and leadership requires added support and clarification for teachers. Simply because we are working extremely hard to support and meet the needs of all our students each day. It is disheartening to continuously feel like we are not doing enough. As a state, our population of students is very diverse and the majority of the students in our school district are from rich cultural and linguistic backgrounds. We are not serving the needs of these students in the best possible way and the results you are seeing is attributed to the need for additional instruction??

We should be addressing the needs of the whole child and how we can support their academic learning by valuing who they are and where they come from through a culturally rich curriculum. I love my students and love teaching.

This possibility questions if we will ever be given the value we deserve.

From: [Audra Crisp](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Calendar rule change
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:24:44 PM

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Please consider keeping our options open for hours/ instructional days as they are for small school districts.

Des Moines has always been a high performing district as well as neighboring small schools. Flexibility with our calendar gives us the ability to have professional development to help keep teachers up to date on the most current mandates and new methods of teaching.

Remote days for our students have expanded their ability to get real life experience through work and learning by doing. Examples of that : a large percentage of our students live on a ranch or hold a job on weekends where they get hands-on experience that goes along with what they are learning in school. At the same time, they are able to complete meaningful work at their pace on the weekends. Des Moines schools test scores have remained high with instruction of our remote Fridays. Also, remote Fridays are very beneficial for families financially. Many of our students drive from 40 to 100 miles daily to go to school.

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. Students in our community have very supportive families who value a meaningful home life. Where more time in schools is viewed as a negative for many families.

Des Moines has always outperformed all other districts in the state despite the number of days they attend school. Even with the large enrollment increase we have been afforded the last couple of years, we have been able to maintain nearly double proficiency rates as the state in reading, math and science. We will never be satisfied until 100% of students are proficient, but more instructional time doesn't automatically result in higher test scores. A factor for our increased enrollment has been families who have come from homeschooling and have chosen to put their children back in the public school system. I am concerned that with increased days/ hours we will lose the gained enrollment from those families. We believe several factors go into that equation including high-quality teachers, strong family support, high expectations of all students, positive school culture, and consistent school leadership in administration and school board.

Please consider these factors as they heavily impact a valued way of life that is very different from the needs of the large school districts. Allow us to keep our enrollment up and allow small school districts to continue to thrive with high proficiency rates in the state in reading, math, and science. We have always exceeded expectations with a reasonable amount of instructional days. Please show support for the very different needs in a diverse state that varies from large school districts to small districts.

More is not better.

Thank you for your consideration,

Audra Crisp
DMS Schools

From: [Kirk Crandall](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please! keep friday!
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:25:56 PM

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

Students at the Ask Academy need Fridays off I don't see why people find it so hard to understand that more is better there has been shown time and time again that the problem with the system isn't that students need more time to learn it the opposite students rarely have times for breaks, especially in New Mexico students have 8 hour days every day you want to know how long it is in Massachusetts 3 hours! we have overdoubled the time and are still one of the worst-educated states in the U.S! The problem is students never have time to think or relax and you think 5 day weeks will help please I'm begging you from the bottom of my heart keep Fridays off!

From: [ILYANA GARCIA](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Say No To The Proposed Rule change.
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:28:16 PM

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

Dear legislators,

My name is Ilyana Garcia. I am a junior at Los Alamos Highschool and I wanted to share my thoughts on why I think these new rule changes are terrible for our district. Adding extra hours and class periods to our schedule isn't going to magically make us smarter. Los Alamos is already a really competitive school that has extremely high expectations for students, by adding these extra hours you are gonna create kids with even more anxiety and stress than what we already have. We are one of the top highschools in the state and I think our academic levels are through the roof, what is the need for these extra hours? I feel like I should have a say, especially me being a junior. Next year when this rule is in place I will be a senior. Ever since I got into highschool I have been looking forward to having the freedom of being a senior only having to come to school half day. Students work hard to keep their grades up, just because they know they will get rewarded with free periods their junior and senior year. Not only that, but what about the kids who are working jobs? It will be extremely hard for students to juggle work without being able to go in during those free periods. I could go farther in depth and start talking about how this will even affect the teachers, but I'm sure you've heard plenty from them, because they are also not in favour of this. Overall, these new rules in place are doing more harm than good for all of us. Maybe for once think about how we feel about these changes and do what's best for the students and our mental health.

Sincerely, Ilyana Garcia



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Bernice M. Jones](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:28:30 PM

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Greetings,

I am a concerned parent with children attending the Los Alamos Public School district in Los Alamos NM.

I want the following three points noted in your feedback collection.

1. Not enough time has passed since the last New Mexico school calendar changed to properly understand its impact; schools only implemented the last rule change this year.
2. The rules do not take into account district performance. Making blanket changes state wide will negatively impact districts that are already exceeding state standards.
3. The rules do not take into consideration the mental health impact on students and teachers. The current proposal leaves no room for teacher planning and professional development, and forces students into an unhealthy, unsustainable schedule at every level of education.

--

Bernice M. Jones
C: (505) 257-8490
jones.bernice.m@gmail.com

From: [Jonathan Bowles](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback on change to mandatory 5 day week
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:28:52 PM

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My name is Jonathan Bowles, 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 is very clear. 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,
Jonathan Bowles

From: [Lori Lamb](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regulation 6.10.5 revision
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:29:13 PM

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

December 7, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in response to the revision of Regulation 6.10.5 that would end the option for school districts to choose a four-day week.

I am in full support of the local school districts. Each district should be allowed to set their scheduled instructional hours to best fit their community. The four-day week makes more sense for many rural districts where students are traveling over an hour one way. A four-day school week cuts the time spent on the bus or in personal vehicles along with the savings on fuel, due to fewer trips. This option also saves the schools on heating and electrical costs. In rural areas the four-day week also allows parents to schedule appointments on Friday, this minimizes the numbers of absences. Living rurally, it takes a full day to go to the doctor/dentist because of the miles needed to simply get to the health professionals. In many cases we travel two and a half to three hours (100 to 150 miles) just to get to medical facilities. The time spent in appointments and travel time there and back. We have used 1 instructional day. If we are forced to a five-day week the number of student absences will increase. Teachers/staff needing to go to appointments will miss more time teaching/working, not to mention the increased cost spent on hiring substitute teachers. In the classroom the five-day week will cut the continued teaching time, students can cover more areas of content without interruptions during a four-day week.

I am an employee for the school district. Having a four-day week has allowed me to fulfill a part-time elected position without interruption to duties at school. I am therefore able to support my school and my county. If we are forced to a five-day school week I will most likely have to resign my elected position. This is not fair to me or my community. The county will then have to appoint a new official and that person will have to seek training.

All in all, it falls back to the local government needing to have control of the issues in their communities. Someone in Santa Fe, who doesn't know what it is like to live in a RURAL area (**50 miles to a small grocery store or gas station; no fast food or restaurants and no medical facilities for a 100 to 150 miles**) SHOULD NOT make decisions for us.

I oppose the revision of Regulation 6.10.5. I support school districts having a voice, a choice to serve their communities to the best of their abilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori Lamb

From: [CALVIN MARKSTEINER](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:29:49 PM

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

I, along with many others in Los Alamos Public Schools, believe that this proposed rule change is not in the best interests of the district as a whole. It would be a serious disruption for secondary schools especially, because students have already made plans with the requirement of 24 credits in mind. Most people believe that no change is necessary, and the current system of graduation requirements is adequate already.

Sincerely,
Calvin Marksteiner
Los Alamos Public Schools



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Brandy Marler](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback:6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:31:09 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 this email in response to the possible changes the NMPED is trying to make to school calanders across the state. I am 100% OPPOSED to this. The 4 day school week is an absolute blessing. My children have better grades, better attendance and less stress, all in part to the 4 day school week. They have more time to spend with their family and friends, more time to relax, and more time to enjoy just being kids. My children are also active in travel sports, and because of the 4 day school week, they never miss school in order to attend tournaments. This means that my children have perfect attendance, never have to make up work and can enjoy their sporting event without the stress of missing a school day.

The 4 day school week not only benefits the students, but the teachers and staff as well. The schools are able to save money, and in turn that money can be put towards the betterment of the schools and the tools needed to educate the students.

The benefits of a 4 day school week are numerous, and I have named just a few. This new rule will NOT benefit our students. As a concerned parent, I hope and pray that you do not pass this rule.

Thank you

From: [Skye Sandborgh](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:32:17 PM

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I disagree with this rule change.

This rule change will be detrimental to my family, as it will decrease the time to have as a family, summer job possibilities, and breaks from school. We disagree with the state requirement proposal to force 180 instructional days, rather than just the hours required by the legislative rule change that was created last year.

Please DO NOT require more days, if hours are being met.

From: [Anessa Golden](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Eric Greer](#); [Mark McAlister](#); [Rhea Lynn Kaufman](#); [Jaramillo, Darian](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements.
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:33:10 PM

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

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed rule change regarding the extension of the school calendar that has been presented by the New Mexico Public Education Department. The reasoning for this extension is based on the need to ensure that our students receive that high-quality education that New Mexico can provide; but in all reality, this would have the opposite effect on students, teachers, administrators, counselors, and parents. Adding more school days to a calendar is not going to fix an educational system that has been broken for many years.

The New Mexico education system has been broken for some time and adding days is just putting a patch on a leak that has never been properly fixed from the beginning. The issue that needs to be addressed is the chronic absenteeism due to the Compulsory School Attendance Law that was put in place does not hold parents or students accountable for being absent. In taking away local control of attendance policies parents and students have been able to choose when and if they will be attending school. This has affected the morale of teachers and administrators to the point that many highly qualified teachers have left the teaching profession. In addition to low school morale students and staff are struggling with their mental and emotional well-being. The demands for teachers are astronomical and adding days to a school year that is already stressful will result in losing amazing and effective teachers, thus adding to the teacher shortage in New Mexico. Students are expected to perform under an immense amount of pressure all because teachers are asked to bridge the gap. In this day and age, students can barely cope with everyday life, much less the pressure of making the grade. This adds to mental and emotional turmoil and kids will never be successful until their unmet needs are taken care of first. Adding more stressful school days will only add to their mental and emotional distress.

As if there was not already a gap in education students missing is furthering that gap and the local schools are the ones who are being blamed for this gap. Holding students and parents accountable just as you do to the professionals who work in the local schools is just as important to the student's academic success. Until the attendance issues are addressed students' achievement gaps will continue to grow and New Mexico will still be considered last in education. The New Mexico Public Education Department needs to start listening to their teachers, administrators, and school boards who are trusted in making decisions that are appropriate for their district to ensure that the gaps in education are fixed. These local schools know their student populations and communities and know what is best for them. Adding more days is adding more fuel to the fire of chronic absenteeism and therefore making the gap in education in New Mexico bigger. Giving back local control will allow districts to make decisions that are in the BEST INTEREST of THEIR KIDS.

Anessa Golden
Artesia High School
Class of 2024 Counselor
575-746-9816 ext. 1568
agolden@bulldogs.org

From: [John Dyrz](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Whitney Holland](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:36:19 PM
Attachments: [12.7.23 PED School Instructional Time Requirements .pdf](#)

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

NM PED Policy Division:

Re: "6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements"

Please accept the attached comments on the proposed new administrative "6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements."

AFT New Mexico is submitting this letter in strong opposition of the proposed revisions to the New Mexico Public Schools School Calendar Requirements.

Best,
John Dyrz
AFT New Mexico

--

John Dyrz || State Affiliate Political Organizer, AFT New Mexico
505-554-8679 || 530 Jefferson Street NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87108

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AFT New Mexico
AFL-CIO
A Union of Professionals

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of Teachers, AFL-CIO

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Teachers

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nm.aft.org

December 7, 2023

Policy Division
New Mexico Public Education Department, Room 101
300 Don Gaspar Avenue,
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Re: "6.10.5 NMAC, Instructional Time Requirements"

NM PED Policy Division:

Please accept the below comments on the proposed new administrative "6.10.5 NMAC, Instructional Time Requirements":

AFT New Mexico is submitting this letter in strong opposition of the proposed revisions to the New Mexico Public Schools Instructional Time Requirements.

House Bill 130 and Increased Instructional Time

During the 2023 Legislative Session, *less than nine months ago*, significant debate, collaboration, and compromise centered on the extension of New Mexico's school instructional calendars through increases to instructional time. New Mexico educational stakeholders, including our union, our partners at NEA-NM, the Coalition of Educational Leaders, the New Mexico School Boards Association, parents, educators, and other community voices resoundingly agreed that New Mexico educational outcomes required additional instructional time to best serve our students and communities.

This shared value led to the adoption of House Bill 130, which increased the minimum number of instructional hours to 1140 statewide, but further incentivized local school districts to add additional instructional hours, based on community and district needs. The legislation also preserved the ability for local school districts to structure their school calendars to meet local community needs, i.e., a 4-day school week.

House Bill 130 also acknowledged the well-researched importance of professional collaboration among educators and the longitudinal evidence that this use of time improves not only student outcomes, but also teaching practice and growth. The legislation also acknowledged the benefits of professional development, parent-teacher conferences, and other efforts to enrich instructional time in our schools.

House Bill 130 represented a compromise among educational stakeholders, including the Lujan Grisham administration, to achieve our collective goal of improving student outcomes while preserving local control and decision-making for all New Mexico districts and communities.

Opposition to Proposed Amendments

Our union's opposition to the proposed amendments center on two sections of the draft rule, specifically 6.10.5.8 C.1-3 and 6.10.5.8 H.

6.10.5.8 C.1-3:

The proposed amendments in these sections undermine the flexibility for districts to compose school calendars which meet the unique needs of their community's values and goals. By returning to a focus on instructional days as opposed to instructional hours reverts our progress backwards and away from local flexibility and control.



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Additionally, these amendments penalize districts and communities who have opted to institute a four-day school week.

This change, if implemented, will disproportionately impact our rural schools and students, resulting in higher educator turnover, longer ride times for student transportation, and increased district costs, while simultaneously overriding locally created calendars which are a product of parental surveys, deep calendar committee work, and the balancing of educational needs.

6.10.5.8 H:

The proposed amendments in *Section H* also undermine local decision making and are in contravention to data supporting professional collaboration as a method to improve student outcomes and hone educator skills. By removing professional work hours from the total calculation of 1140 instructional hours, the New Mexico Public Education Department is disincentivizing districts from incorporating this powerful tool into their overall professional development plan. Requiring opportunities for professional development and professional work hours to exist outside of the minimum instructional hour requirements unnecessarily lengthens the school year for educators, exacerbates already tight operational budgets, and does not acknowledge the value of continuing education and professional skill development for our educator workforce.

Both cited amendments are in direct conflict with the plain reading and spirit of House Bill 130, which was passed unanimously in the New Mexico House of Representatives, passed by the New Mexico State Senate (34-6), and signed into law by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham on March 16, 2023.

Transparency of Proposed Rulemaking

We have deep concerns about the willingness of the New Mexico Public Education Department to radically attempt to alter state statute through administrative rule making less than a year after the adoption of House Bill 130. Setting aside the legalities of this scenario, which we question, we are concerned about the reversion to a centralized, rote, one-size-fits-all approach to public education.

New Mexico's educational stakeholders and practitioners saw the opportunity in House Bill 130 because it represented local control, best educational practices, the recognition of unique district needs, and importantly compromise, including amendments suggested by the Lujan Grisham Administration.

A Step Backwards

We urge the New Mexico Public Education Department to withdraw these proposed changes, or at a minimum remove amendments 6.10.5.8 C.1-3 and 6.10.5.8 H so that this proposal conforms to state law, as established by House Bill 130.

Ultimately, our profession and our union will always advocate for a public education system which supports our students' needs, community values, and our member educators. We believe these amendments are an end-run around the legislative process and would encourage the Department to seek these changes through a normal process, debated in open sessions, and evaluated by our elected lawmakers, many of whom are experts themselves in education.



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Finally, as we consistently noted during the Martinez Administration, the scheduling of in-person rule-making hearings during the school day disenfranchises thousands of educators from having a say in the governance of their profession and their ability to best serve their students.

We encourage the Lujan Grisham Administration against reversing course and undercutting the many positive changes we have made together in the last six years and keep our collective focus on best serving our students, families, and New Mexico communities by honoring the practitioners and experts in our educational system.

Sincerely,

Whitney Holland
President, AFT New Mexico

Rachael Sonia, AFT NM Vice President (K-12 Certified)
Teacher, Albuquerque Public Schools

Nicole Keeney, AFT NM Secretary
Teacher, Socorro Independent Schools

Dr. Ellen Bernstein, President
Albuquerque Teachers Federation, Local #1420

Stacey Martens, Co-President
Los Alamos Federation of United School Employees, Local #3902

Trey Pereyra, Co-President
Los Alamos Federation of United School Employees, Local #3902

Deanna Crask, President
McKinley Federation of United School Employees, Local #3313

Billie Helean, President
Rio Rancho School Employees Union, Local #4933

Marisa Sanchez, Co-President
Zuni Federation of United School Employees, Local #4905

Francis Hahn, President
Taos Federation of United School Employees, Local #1450

Anne Pierce-Jones, President
AFT NM-Retirees, Local #8029

From: [RILEIGH ARNETT](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposed schedule.
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:37:12 PM

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

I heavily oppose this schedule you are trying to apply. Going into high school next year, your students are supposed to look into going to school, with you making the high school year harder more students under this district will not be looking forward into going to school. Some students struggle with keeping their schedule under their control but implying this new schedule will make their work a lot harder. Some students already have a hard time in high school and doing this will make it worse. Making the high school have no free period, how long is that when they will continue to work and work without getting a break? We are all human and if there's something to understand about us is that under a lot of pressure and stress our bodies tend to shut down, and putting this much stress and pressure under children will only make it more difficult for us following us into our adult life. And it's not only just students being effectee but also teachers. This is definitely blown over proportion.



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [David Ferry](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Alice King Community School, students attend 4 days a week
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:44:15 PM

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

To Whom It May Concern:

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.

***Thanks for your help,
David N Ferry Sr.***

From: [Amanda Ferry](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Alice King Community School, students attend 4 days/week.
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:45:54 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.

*Thank you for reading this,
Amanda Ferry*

From: [Angela & Jacob AlderseBaes](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:48:42 PM

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

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today against proposed NMAC Rule 6.10.5 regarding School Instructional Time Requirements. As a parent with students in 5th grade and 7th grade, these proposed changes will significantly impact my children for the entirety of their high school careers. Compared to other parts of the state, which may require additional educational instruction time to assist students in their learning goals, Los Alamos Public Schools have consistently been an outlier, excelling academically. School instructional time requirements should be addressed on an individual school, district, or county level, instead of unnecessarily applying changes through blanket rulings. The proposed changes to academic time are not a one size fits all proposal and will put further undo stress on our students and community.

I was fortunate enough to go through the school system in Los Alamos myself and, while it was some time ago, remember the pressure put on students in Los Alamos to succeed. In the years leading up to my children entering high school, I have taken note that the pressure I remember from my youth is still everpresent, if not more-so. Another issue that has remained consistent over time and is directly linked to academic pressures is mental health. I am concerned that adding additional requirements to an already rigorous standard will negatively impact the mental health of our students to an even greater extent. Many of the Los Alamos middle and high school students work very hard to get good grades in a difficult school system. Compounding with extracurricular activities, after school jobs, and familial obligations, the proposed instructional time requirements will degrade Los Alamos Public School students' quality of life.

In addition to the negative impact on the students, the proposed changes will also significantly impact Los Alamos teachers, who are already overworked and hard to retain. By taking away/limiting planning time, while requiring teachers to create more academic content, I fear more teachers will seek teaching positions outside of New Mexico.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration. I acknowledge that some schools/districts may need these sorts of changes for their students, but Los Alamos Public Schools is not one of those locations.

Very Respectfully,

Angela AlderseBaes

From: [Alexzandra Dominguez](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:52:51 PM

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

My name is Alexzandra Dominguez 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,
Alex Dominguez

From: [Monica Van De Water](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:54:43 PM

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

To Whom it May Concern

Our family is very disappointed to hear about this new rule.

Our daughter was excited about her junior year with spares so she could focus on her first time taking AP classes. She's an honors student and has worked hard for this and now is disappointed that AP classes will be too difficult with filling her semesters with general classes.

We hope this rule doesn't pass. Thank you for taking the time to read.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bernice Christensen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NM Rule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:54:43 PM

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

NMPED,

Kinda tired of seeing more "red-tape" trying to help our failing school system!

I strongly oppose the proposed changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements".

I have lived in Los Alamos for 32 years and have raised 4 children in the district and currently have 8 grandchildren here. I have seen many changes that the State has mandated and from experiences I can see that more rules and regulations is not the answer.

Our teachers, staff and students do not need more hours in school. They need more support and resources available to them without strings attached.

The proposed rule changes will increase current burn out and frustration for students and staff.

It is not required of the state to impose such strict requirements on the schools. These rules will add a strain to our teachers whom already have so much responsibility, allowing their professional development to count as school hours is beneficial for the staff and the students as those teachers will be better prepared to educate and support their students.

The rules requiring more credits for High School graduation are also detrimental to our students and staff. As students prepare for their next chapter the real-life skills of employment are key to help students transition. This becomes a more difficult goal if they are not given the option to have free periods to find employment.

Please do not implement these changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5

I hope that you will take into consideration ALL the emails you may have received.

Sincerely,
B. Christensen
White Rock, NM

From: [Lindsay Gibson](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:57:37 PM

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

Hello,

I am opposed to many aspects of the new rule change, both as a teacher and a parent, for various reasons. The biggest challenge I see is for secondary schedules and having an excess of unnecessary credits at graduation. I also think it's ridiculous that these changes would be implemented so quickly. It's not enough time for districts to plan and prepare for these changes. I believe the saying "quality over quantity" best applies to this scenario. We need better quality education, not more of the same education.

Thank you.

From: [Nicolette Holmberg](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:57:38 PM

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

My name is Nicolette Holmberg, and 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.

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. oppose this proposed rule change on behalf of students, teachers, and parents across our community. 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. 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,
Nicolette Holmberg

From: [Angela Montgomery](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule Regarding School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:58:08 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 strong opposition to the proposed rule change regarding the extension of the school calendar.

The importance of local control in education, especially in the need to tailor the academic schedule to best serve the needs of their students, cannot be overlooked or undervalued. Each community has different variables to consider when choosing a 4-day school week.

My children were able to attend an elementary school that served our rural community that was on a 4-day week. If it were not for this school, my children would have either ridden a bus 65 miles (one way) to school or we would have had to home-school them. This elementary school is still serving this rural ranching community that has been multi-generational. Our wonderful state is full of these types of schools and communities.

Imposing a standardized, extended school calendar fails these communities and the students they serve. Local control is essential to reaching and serving those families in our rural communities.

Performance and accountability should be a consideration. If a school is meeting and exceeding benchmarks and goals, why is there a need to extend the school calendar? Education as a whole cannot be a one-size-fits-all institution.

I urge the New Mexico Public Education Department to reconsider the proposed rule and engage in a collaborative process with local communities and educators, to consider and develop solutions that benefit all students.

Thank you!

Angela Montgomery
Artesia High School

From: [David Ferry Jr.](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 4 Day Week
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:58:44 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. If this passes, we will have no choice but to pull our kids from APS.

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

*Sincerely,
David Ferry Jr.*

From: [Eric Dominguez](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5 day workweek
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:05:23 PM

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

My name is Eric Dominguez, 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,
Eric Dominguez

My name is Zariah Medina, 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,
Zariah Medina

From: [Giovanna Garofalo](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO MORE CHANGES/ NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:10:52 PM

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

To all this may concern,

I write to you as a parent and as an educator, I urge you to stop with the changes, please stop! NM schools have been on a cycle of perpetual change and quite frankly, it is exhausting for everybody involved. During the academic year 20/21 A proposal was put out to the districts, to add additional days and get more funding. For our district, if we agreed to add 10 days the district would receive 2 million dollars, add 25 days and that number goes up to 4.7 million dollars. Parents and educators overwhelmingly voted NO! So needless to say, the district would not receive 4.7 million or as I refer to it, the money in the sky., I couldn't help but think how 4.7 million dollars could truly make a difference if used for more targeted interventions using evidence-based programs.

In Academic year 21/22, legislation passed that gave teachers raises (Thank you), almost immediately after there was another push for an extended school year. Surveys were sent out, and educators and parents were overwhelmingly against an extended school year.

Then, in the academic year 22/23, legislation was passed that increased the required instructional hours for students, but time could be added to each day rather than additional days. Now you want to modify the rules to that bill?!? This seems awfully manipulative.

In addition to calendar changes, teachers have to incorporate a new curriculum, to implement a new intervention program (MLSS), and elementary teachers are required to train in LETRS.

What exactly is your reasoning behind the rule changes you are proposing? What is the evidence-based research that supports your reasoning? Keep in mind that all factors must be considered when arguing for more instructional hours, such as class sizes and teacher pay. What data is THE PED collecting to measure the benefits of these changes?

Second of all, instructional time is not the issue here. Again, TIME IS NOT THE ISSUE! More time in a broken system does not equate to better outcomes. So what is the problem? Why is NM Public Education consistently at the bottom of the Nation? Here are some of the reasons I believe we are at the bottom:

- Not enough resources or staff to support struggling students (The number of students on IEPs is increasing every year)
- Poverty (New Mexico has a 19% poverty rate)-If children are hungry they cannot learn.
- Teaching as a profession is not sustainable- The goalpost for teachers is constantly moving and the demands are increasing. The amount of work teachers must take home takes away from their time with their families, their hobbies, and their self-care.
- Beaurocracy- There are so many boxes to check off which becomes the focus taking away from meaningful instruction.
- Lack of Parent involvement
- Few opportunities to apply new skills (we seem to be going backward and relying more on textbooks and worksheets. Haven't we learned that not all students can learn that way?)

Teachers don't become teachers because of the money, most often it's a calling. However, teachers continue to be overworked and micromanaged, affecting their classroom efficiency. It also makes the prospect of becoming an educator undesirable.

Please stop swinging aimlessly, hoping one of these many changes will benefit NM students. Be intentional. Gather a team of experienced educators to help determine how to engage students better. Start with small pilot programs and record the data before implementing anything statewide.

I am all for meaningful interventions, but increasing school days and Professional development hours is not it. NO MORE RULE CHANGES!!!!

Giovanna Garofalo
giogarofalo40@gmail.com

From: [damnboi gyatt](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] no school on friday
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:10:58 PM

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no school this is why I went to this school because we have no Fridays!!

SO please stop this tomfoolery

From: [Lindsay Gibson](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:13:38 PM

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

Hello,

I am opposed to many aspects of the new rule change, both as a teacher and a parent, for various reasons. The biggest challenge I see is for secondary schedules and having an excess of credits at graduation. Why? I also think it's ridiculous that these changes would be implemented so quickly. It's not enough time for districts to plan and prepare for these changes. I believe the saying "quality over quantity" best applies to this scenario. We need better quality education, not more of the same education.

Thank you.

Lindsay Gibson
3rd Grade
Mountain Elementary
663-3222
[Mrs. Gibson's Class Site](#)



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

From: [Leigh Ann Thomas](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule, 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:15:21 PM

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

Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Proposed Rule, 6.10.5, NMAC School Calendar Requirements, regarding the extension of the school calendar, as presented by the New Mexico Public Education Department. While I understand the importance of ensuring quality education for our students, I believe that the proposed changes may have adverse effects on both students and educators.

I have serious concerns about extending the school year as a parent and working in the school system. Absenteeism is a prevalent issue in our schools and extending the school calendar will exacerbate this problem. Longer school years contribute to increased burnout among students and staff, leading to higher rates of absenteeism and decreased engagement. It is hard to get students here when they need to be here that adding days would only increase this problem. As an example, we had 42% of our student body absent the last day before finals of the fall semester. This is a common occurrence before school breaks.

The New Mexico education system has been broken for some time and adding days is just putting a patch on a leak that has never been properly fixed from the beginning. The issue that needs to be addressed is chronic absenteeism due to the Compulsory School Attendance Law that was put in place does not hold parent or students accountable for being absent. Students can have 20+ missed days and still receive credit upon completing the final exam. This does not encourage students to attend if they can still pass the class with excessive absenteeism.

In taking away local control of attendance policies, parents and students have been able to choose when and if they will be attending school. This has affected the morale of teachers and administrators to the point that many highly qualified teachers have left the teaching profession. In addition to low school morale, students and staff are struggling with mental and emotional well-being. The demands for teachers are astronomical and adding days to a school year that is already stressful will result in losing amazing and effective teachers, thus adding to the teacher shortage in New Mexico. The students of this generation can barely cope with everyday life, much less the pressure of making grades and attending school. This adds to mental and emotional turmoil and kids will never be successful until their unmet needs are taken care of first. Adding more stressful days will only add to their mental and emotional distress.

Furthermore, absenteeism is already a prevalent issue in our schools, and extending the school calendar may exacerbate this problem. Longer school years can contribute to increased burnout among students, leading to higher rates of absenteeism and decreased engagement. Rather than focusing on the quantity of instructional days, it is crucial to address the quality of education and find innovative ways to engage students in the learning process.

Another item to consider is the financial burden that this will place on every district, especially smaller districts. Where are the additional dollars that it will take to extend the school calendar going to come from? Will the budget include allocated money to help districts with the additional cost? Where is the financial study that was conducted to account for the additional cost to extend the school calendar? Schools, especially smaller districts, cannot incur the cost that it will take to extend the school calendar.

Highly qualified educators are becoming more and more difficult to find. Extending the school calendar will only make it more difficult to ensure our classrooms have highly qualified staff educating our students.

Lastly, accountability should be directed towards making the most of the existing structure rather than introducing additional demands. Instead of extending the school calendar, efforts should be concentrated on improving the effectiveness of current instructional hours and ensuring that students are held accountable for the material covered within the established timeframe.

As if there was not already a gap in education students missing is furthering that gap and the local schools are the ones who are being blamed for this gap. Holding students and parents accountable just as you do the professionals that work in the local schools is just as important to the student's academic success. Until the attendance issues are addressed, students' achievement gaps will continue to grow, and New Mexico will still be considered last in education. The New Mexico Public Education Department needs to start listening to their teachers, administrators and school boards who are trusted in making decisions that are appropriate for their district to ensure that the gaps in education are fixed. The local schools know their student populations and communities and know what is best for them. By adding more days, it is adding more fuel to the fire of chronic absenteeism and therefore making the gap in education in New Mexico bigger. Giving back local control will allow districts to make decisions that are in the BEST INTEREST of THEIR KIDS.

In conclusion, I urge the New Mexico Public Education Department to reconsider the proposed rule and engage in a collaborative process with local communities, educators, and stakeholders to develop solutions that are responsive to the unique needs of our students. Together, we can create an educational system that prioritizes quality, flexibility, and accountability without compromising the well-being of students and educators.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I look forward to seeing an educational system that truly reflects the needs and values of our community.

Leigh Ann Thomas
Registrar
Artesia High School
1002 W Richardson
Artesia, NM 88210
575-746-9816
Fax 575-746-4365
lthomas@bulldogs.org

From: [Bethany Boyack](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Response to Amendment 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:16:43 PM

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

Hello,

My daughter is enrolled in the 80% program at Desert Willow Family School, meaning she is homeschooled on Monday and on campus all day Tuesday-Thursday then a half day on Friday, with additional homeschooling over the weekend and weeknights.

Today is Monday meaning my daughter did not attend school at Desert Willow. However, today we watched a video about different states of matter and wrote down definitions and came up with real life examples of different types of matter. Today she also attended a "Music and Movement" class at the library. Today she also wrote a story draft for a story she'll write later at school this week. And lastly, today she worked on two math worksheets about rounding to the nearest tenth.

Our Mondays are not a day off. They are a day of instruction. I am more than confident that even though my daughter is not physically on a school campus five days a week, she is receiving the required 1,140 hours of instruction per year as required by the PED.

Thank you!

Bethany Boyack

From: [Jason Allen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback on NMAC Rule 6.10.5 -School Instructional Time Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:16:51 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 grave concern with the proposed NMAC RULE 6.10.5. As a parent of three children in the Los Alamos County School District I cannot overstate the negative impact this rule would have on not only our school district but the entire state. I am surprised and disappointed with the speed at which NMPED is trying to implement this rule--rushing it through during the height of the holiday season with the hopes of having it take effect this spring. This comes on the heels of House bill 130 and 194 which already impacted our calendar just earlier this year. With this in mind, I would like to offer the following thoughts for your consideration.

1. The proposed rule mandates a "one size fits all" approach to school instruction, offering little ability for districts to build a program which suits their locale.
2. How would current high school students be affected? With a Junior in High School, I am concerned NM PED would put his graduation in jeopardy and/or greatly increase stress during his senior year.
3. Has NM PED considered the impact to High Schools losing the ability to offer upperclassman free periods? In my experience, these free periods are used to complete projects for difficult AP courses, study for exams, take college courses, prepare essays for college entrance, and/or take trade courses to prepare for a post high school career. I can guarantee requiring a full schedule will lead to mandatory old school "study hall" which has proven to be worthless.
4. Has NM PED considered the impact to teachers? This will require a renegotiation of contracts and more state funding. Not to mention the fact that teachers are already over worked and stressed; taking away instructional prep time will further disenfranchise teachers and hurt recruitment/retention.
5. This will have a major impact on rural school districts, many of which still rely on kids helping work on farms and ranches. Although this may not be apparent sitting in Santa Fe, the vast majority of the state relies on agricultural as a major industry, and like it or not, kids are part of that process. This provides opportunities to strengthen families and build life skills for future careers in agriculture.
6. This seems like a poorly considered rule change, badly timed, and with no scientific basis on how this rule change will fix NM's education problems. Our kids have been constantly jerked around since COVID, please do not add to their stress and damage their mental health by implementing yet another longer school year.

Best Regards,

Jason Allen
270 Kilby Ave,
White Rock NM 85755 703-999-5210

From: [Jazmyn Montoya](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New rules
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:19:23 PM

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I think the school we are in right now is in a good place where we don't need changes like extending school and taking away free periods. As a student, free periods are good. You can use them to get whatever you need to get done. It gives kids who are on track with their credits time to chill out and take a break. The time we have school right now is good because its not really long or really short so we have enough time for all of our classes but they don't keep us here so long to the point we get so mentally tired.



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Shayline Stacy](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] rule 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:19:26 PM

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I am completely opposed the state trying to pass this new law trying to extend the school calendar. I feel like this is a bandaid for a broader problem, and kids that are struggling are still going to struggle, despite the amount of time in school. It should be up to communities, not the state, to decide what is best for the students, parents and educators.

From: [debbie tigner](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback 6.10.5 NMAC school calendar requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:21:21 PM

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Note: When submitting feedback, we kindly request that you specify which rule(s) you are submitting feedback for. This is especially helpful when the Department is accepting feedback for multiple proposed rules at the same time. I would like to object to this change. Our rural children spend hours on a buss every day going to and from school. This is a drain on them physically and emotionally . They don't need additional days added. Also., many districts would lose teachers if this was added. We already have a teacher shortage! And it would add more cost to theses schools. Lease allow the school boards to make these decisions for their districts. These children do not belong to the state, they serous! Thank you, Deborah Tigner, Magdalena, NM
Sent from my iPhone

From: [WILSON WHITE](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Say no to the proposal
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:22:16 PM

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Dear whomever this may concern,

The new bill about the changes to the school hours that you are trying to pass should be reconsidered. I think that your bill should be reconsidered because it is going to make school that much worse for everybody, not only the students but also the teachers. It makes it so that the school day is longer so people will start to give up in multiple classes and also another class means even more work. This would even be worse for teachers having to work more hours and getting more teachers that you already have a shortage for. If you are trying to make school a better place to be and have a better education than you can change different things. But changing the purposed items you will make things worse not better,

Thank you for your time,

Wilson White



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Tara Hughes](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 180 days forum
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:23:06 PM

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Good Afternoon NMPED leadership,

While the intention behind this proposal is undoubtedly geared towards improving student outcomes, it appears to be a temporary solution to a more profound and systemic issue.

The existing challenges in our educational landscape are multifaceted. Rather than emphasizing on the number of days in the academic calendar, we should be directing our attention towards the underlying issues that impact student engagement and achievement such as teacher recruitment, preparation programs, and retention efforts.

It's essential to recognize that educational success is not solely contingent on the amount of time spent in classrooms but also on the effectiveness of addressing broader issues like teacher shortages. The proposed extension may inadvertently escalate existing challenges, particularly the teacher shortage crisis. Educators, who are the backbone of our educational system, are already grappling with heavy workloads and challenging circumstances.

To navigate these challenges successfully, education policymakers must delve deeper into the root causes of issues like absenteeism and teacher retention. This calls for developing targeted strategies that address these challenges at their core, rather than resorting to a solution that may not yield the desired outcomes.

I trust you'll heed our voices today. The collective insights of those involved can shape well-intentioned, effective, and sustainable policies. Reevaluating teacher workloads and addressing shortages form a foundation to alleviate recruitment and retention issues, fostering an environment that enhances the well-being of our educators and elevates our education system.

The educators and the children of New Mexico deserve more than a interim solution. They deserve a holistic and transformative approach that ensures their success by tackling the root causes of educational challenges. Let us work together to build a resilient and adaptive educational system that prepares our children for the complexities of the future.

Thank you,
Tara Hughes
2023 New Mexico State Teacher of the Year

--

Tara Hughes
2023 New Mexico Teacher Of the Year
Early Childhood/Special Education Teacher
Nye Early Childhood Center
505-467-4600
505-603-3696

From: [Sophie Lundqvist](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED; aftnmaction@gmail.com](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:24:32 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 special education at Mountain Elementary School in Los Alamos. 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 engage in extracurricular activities and rejuvenate themselves for the rest of the week. On these Wednesday afternoons, teachers are given time for professional responsibilities like grading, planning, meeting, and collaborating without taking away from students' instructional time. 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 unintended but significant 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 Wednesday afternoons are currently designated as teacher prep time and the only time that our district can fit in the allotted average of 300 minutes of prep time that our collective bargaining agreement guarantees. If we lose our early release Wednesdays as a result of NMAC Rule 6.10.5, 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. This could reduce educational quality since it takes time to prepare these lessons for the best outcome. Yes, our district can reformat our elementary schedule, but how would that be beneficial for students when our current schedule works for our students, families, and staff? Quality is being produced with

the current schedule as evidenced by the fact that our students' math and reading proficiency scores are increasing and are currently some of the highest scores in the state.

In summary, more school hours could reduce the high quality education our students are currently receiving because teachers will not have the time or ability to prepare lessons to the best of their ability without Wednesday afternoons to do so. I ask NM PED to reconsider the NMAC Rule 6.10.5 and its potential to negatively impact our teachers, students, and families.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ann-Sophie Meuret (formally Lundqvist)

Special education teacher
Mountain Elementary School
Los Alamos

From: [ANNA LOPEZ-VALDEZ](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [Hanako Brown](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Education Requirement Changes
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:25:48 PM

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PED,

After reading the proposal for the 24/25 school year I have very strong feelings about it. As an upcoming senior I do not believe that the change in school days would be beneficial. There is no research behind the fact that longer school years benefits the student population. As of right now I am on track to graduate as well as many other students. For us we have all been looking forward to free periods because we've been working hard to get our 24 credits. Many students use these free periods to get work done for classes, to get jobs, or to take some much needed rest. Taking these opportunities away and increasing the school day would mean that students would have to stay up later to do these same things as well as maybe give up the weekend. For me right now I have no free periods and work everyday. I spend more time outside of my home for school and work and go home and continue to do schoolwork with a small amount of time to spend with my family. Think about the students who also have longer commutes to school. This would mean they would be getting home later and have even less time to enjoy themselves. Also there may be some kids who have to get jobs to help provide for their families. These students not only would have the stress of working but adding on more time taken from their day for school and still having to complete homework. There are so many other reasons why increasing the school would not be beneficial from bullying to mental health issues. I understand that the state wants better education in NM but there are better ways to do it. Think about the teachers while you're at it. They are unpaid for incredibly difficult jobs that are already understaffed. Teachers from Pre-K to highschool do not get enough credit for how hard their jobs are. By increasing the school day teachers lose much of their planning time and the time needed for grading. This means that teachers would lose personal time with their family. I even know teachers who are currently working two jobs because they do not make enough money and they would be losing time to work those jobs. It would take a lot to convince people that the extended requirements would be a good thing for education.

Thank you for your consideration.



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

From: [Kristen Ferguson](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:27:34 PM

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Hello,

This is a public comment to the new 6.10.5 NMAC legislation. As a parent to a student in the public school system in New Mexico, I cannot stand behind the new proposed legislation and request for it to be decline in favor of the current legislation for the requirement of school days within the school year.

Thank you,

Kristen Gray

From: [Matthew Mitchell](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5 day school week
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:28:44 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Matthew Mitchell. I live in Angel Fire, where two of my children attend Eagle Nest Elementary and my oldest attends Taos Academy Charter School. I write to express my concern with the PED's proposed rule to require all schools in the state to shift to a 5-day schedule.

As I understand it, recently passed legislation (HB 130) obliges schools to increase their minimum hours of instruction to 1,140 hours per year. I have no concern with this requirement. I've taught at both the college and graduate school level for 20 years and I understand the value of face-to-face instruction. What concerns me is the PED's belief that this legislation obliges all schools to conform to the 5-day school week.

A five day schedule may be perfectly well-suited to the dense urban environment of my hometown of Albuquerque. But it does not work in the sprawling rural communities of northern New Mexico.

My two youngest children attend a school that is 35.3 miles from my house. My oldest attends a school that is 29.7 miles from my house. This means that they each spend about 2 hours a day in commute.

The four-day schedule permits one day's respite from this torturous commute. It allows our family to eliminate about 3,000 lbs. of unnecessary carbon emissions per school year. It permits students to attend athletic events and to make doctor's appointments without missing school. And it allows the district to recruit top talent.

Finally, it allows the district to save money on gas, heating, and other expenses. Our district believes that the move to five-days a week would cost approximately \$1.6 million in additional expenditures.

There is neither a pedagogical nor practical reason for this mandate and I encourage you to reconsider. I also encourage you to visit our schools, talk to the principals and staff, and speak with the parents. I think you'll find their stories compelling and convincing.

I'd be happy to discuss this matter with you further.

Best regards,
Matthew D. Mitchell, Ph.D.
Angel Fire, NM 87710

From: [Roman Romero](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Proposal 6.10.5 NMAC Calendar Days
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:37:12 PM

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

Greetings.

I am writing in opposition to the increase of instructional time which would affect many of the schools in Curry County. I have a 17 year old student enrolled in the Clovis Schools, so I have skin in the game.

Adding hours in hopes that it would make for a better student and better scoring schools lacks significant forethought on the part of the Public Education Department. Imposing a "one size fits all" approach to education is an error. Any decision of this magnitude should only be made at the local level.

I don't believe our schools are failing our children. The teachers and school administrators I commonly interact with have been the most caring, creative, and attentive people I have had the privilege to engage. The main weakness of a child's education is outside of the school's control; the individual families of the students. If the parents, parent, or guardians take no interest in their child's education, then the child sees no benefit. Couple this failure with being unable to remove the "disruptor" from a classroom as a means to leave no child "behind," and you set yourself up for failure.

Arguments have been made that not all children learn the same way. True, but at what cost? This tends to hold back the student who "wants" to be in class, who "wants" to learn. Some of those failing students may be better served by enrollment in more tactile instruction (auto shop, shop, the trades) that the communities they will eventually live in will need. These tactile skills are not easy, and though a book education may allow for an understanding of how a job is done, it doesn't mean an overly educated person can do it.

As for the basics, the "Three R's," reading, writing and arithmetic (not sure why it was ever called that), the scores could be better. Teaching children, who are not held accountable to any large degree, is like herding cats. Not much will be accomplished, except aggravation. Our children have been given so much without an equal expectation of requiring a return on that investment. They are guided by silly things like fame and much of their focus is limited to the length of a Tik-Tok video. The Teacher cannot fix this, it's the family's duty to be a parent, not a friend.

I am a product of the Clovis Municipal Schools educational system, having graduated in 1987. The "disruptors" I was friends with most often failed in life, ending up in prison or worse. My other friends mostly became teachers and business owners. We all had the same beginning, and at a certain point we choose if the story ends there or becomes more. Some of my friends came back home to help, most did not. It is a problem, if you don't believe me, drive I-40 and look at the billboards that ask we not lose our children to different states. We tend to only lose the best and brightest, not the group that will help continue the cycle of failure.

Being a teacher is hard. Earlier, I mentioned I commonly interacted with them. I am a Captain in the Clovis Police Department. I don't believe I could do their job. By increasing hours, demanding a higher score count (because as bean counters the statistics matter), taking away their time (one of the few perks of being a teacher), your decision will severely impact education as a whole.

Thank you for your attention. I oppose this change.

From: [Elaine Acosta](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [MANUEL ACOSTA](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:37:58 PM

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New Mexico Public Education Department,

We are writing to express our concerns about proposed rule changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements". We have two children enrolled in Los Alamos Public Schools and believe that if enacted these changes would have deleterious impacts on our schools. No objective data has been presented to support these changes and, in fact, research suggests that improving student outcomes is not as simple as merely increasing the required number of hours in the classroom or days on campus (Gettinger & Seibert, 2002). Of more importance are elements such as *quality of instruction, the engagement of the student in the classroom, preparation time for teachers, teacher training, competence and satisfaction*. These proposed rule changes threaten all of the above and will likely lead to greater dissatisfaction amongst teachers, worsening an already serious teacher and staff shortage.

New Mexico public schools need continued work and refinement, but this is not the way forward. Please work with your stakeholder communities of interest to make data driven decisions.

Signed,

Elaine Willerton Acosta, PhD & Manuel Acosta, PhD

Gettinger, M., & Seibert, J. K. (2002). Best Practices in Increasing Academic Learning Time. In A. Thomas & J. Grimes (Eds.), *Best practices in school psychology IV* (pp. 773–787). National Association of School Psychologists.

From: [Elizabeth Silva](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:44:14 PM

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As a parent, tax payer and employee of APS, I think mandating more of the same is a terrible idea. What we need are smaller class sizes, more teachers and support for our striving students. More of the same would only be a waste of taxpayer dollars without having smaller classes, no combo classes and an actual teacher in the every classroom.

I work at a title one school and I know what we need. More time with the same conditions is a big waste of time and money! Please, give teachers and students what they need to succeed.

From: [Melanie Luna](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:45:28 PM

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Hello,

My name is Melanie King and I am against rule 6.10.5 as I have two kids and this schedule would affect both of them and my family for many years to come. Children are already stressed to the max with school and are being sent home with additional homework, so they do not need additional school days. This would limit them from having a healthy home life to school balance and my kids will dread going to school. Lastly, I am not convinced that more school days is a solution as the teachers will be increasingly tired as well and this will cause burn out all around. Kids are kids once and they deserve a great education, but it should not consume their whole lives. I urge you, please do not pass this rule. Thank you.

Melanie King
505.400.1060
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Erin Sintay](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:45:34 PM

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I do not support this rule change. I am a Los Alamos Public School Parent and I think it will negatively impact my family.

More hours in school with less teacher preparation time will not improve children's education, mental health or test scores. It will make all these problems worse.

Please do not enact this rule change.

Sincerely,
Erin Sintay

DEMING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"Growing Champions, Every Student, Every Day!"

December 18, 2023

Page 1 of 2

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for allowing public comment on proposed rules. After staff and community input meetings, Deming Public Schools is going on record as opposing the proposed rule changes to 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements.

Deming Public Schools (DPS) has long been an early adopter of programs offered by NM-PED. As the first DPS school principal applying for and implementing K-3, the school board and district administration have supported district and school site innovation that meets the needs of our local students. ***The key being local decisions, based on local input, and local needs.*** With the proposed rule change, the State is implying that a one-size-fits-all is the 'silver bullet' for improving education in New Mexico. Additionally, this proposed rule by-passes the duly *elected* local and legislative body.

Specifically, HB130 was passed during the 2023 Regular Legislative Session, in a bi-partisan manner, signed by the Governor, and defines the minimum requirement as "students shall be in school programs for one thousand one hundred forty instructional hours per year." HB130 increased time in school by 150 hours, for elementary students. Under the proposed rule changes in Section C.1 under Requirements, the Education Department is mandating all districts "to include at least 180 instructional days per school year, exclusive of teacher professional work hours." This action by a single state department is not supported by the New Mexico State Constitution, undermines the democratic process, and removes local authority. This attempt to by-pass the process is greatly disturbing, but a larger concern is the lack of time for implementation of the additional hours in HB130. Since this was just passed, we haven't finished a full year with the increased time and, therefore, can't determine if the additional hours will impact student results. Research is clear about ensuring adequate time allowed to isolate factors to validate impact.

While the overreach is concerning, the evidence that supports the idea of increased face to face time resulting in higher student outcomes is sparse and thin. We can, however, point to research that shows student and teacher burnout negatively affects student achievement. Increasing the number of days will increase this burnout. Currently, New Mexico also has a high chronic absenteeism rate. Expanding the number of days will only exasperate absenteeism. Many of our 4-day a week schools are in small, rural, agriculture communities who have made local decisions to support their children and their family values. Most of them are meeting or exceeding state education results and should not be forced to conform to this 'one-size-fits-all' approach.

If we want to be serious about shifting outcomes for students, then funding to reduce class size, especially in kindergarten through 3rd grade, should be at the forefront of any proposal. Expand funding to support additional mental health staff at EVERY school. Schools are facing unprecedented and violent behaviors from students. We need smaller class sizes so that teachers can build strong personal relationships and spend quality time with each child in their class. Research is CLEAR about the importance of relationship before learning can occur, but building those relationships can be extremely challenging when class sizes are 20 plus.

Another research supported practice includes increasing professional time. We have a record number of teachers who are alternatively licensed and/or have limited experience. To grow them and ensure they create high performing classrooms, they need mentoring, coaching, and time. ***Time to learn, time to engage with colleagues, time to practice, time to reflect, and time to plan.*** Education is the only profession, where we are expected to be top-notch every minute of every day, while our customers (the students) are present 95% or more of the time. Educators should be provided and paid for the actual time it takes to be a high-quality professional educator.

While we recognize the state's ranking as 50th in the nation for kids, and share in the urgency to change this, adding additional days does not guarantee an increase in achievement. We acknowledge that we have not achieved proficiency on the State's academic assessments, however, we are moving in the right direction and continue to push over the barriers that were created by isolation during the pandemic. As a district, we are focused on high expectations, student and staff well-being, rigorous lesson design, strong instructional and engagement practices, relevant experiences, and diverse modalities for students to demonstrate their learning. This type of focus requires a local partnership with our staff, our students, and our community. How we design this cannot be dictated by a State Agency over 200 miles away. Authoritarian control stifles innovation and creates hostile and oppressive environments.

Please reconsider this proposed rule change and partner with us to develop broad policy that supports education in the state, while respecting and valuing local authority. We share the same outcome goals for our kids, our communities, and our state. Please treat us as the professional educators we are and invite us to the table.

Respectfully,



Vicki K. Chávez
Superintendent
Deming Public Schools

From: [Brian Kliesen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:51:52 PM

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 Schools parent and I think this will negatively impact my students and their teachers. It is already difficult to impossible to get good, qualified instructors at all levels. You are now asking them to do more with the same pay and no increase in benefits.

Brian Kliesen
357 Grand Canyon Drive
White Rock, NM 87547

From: [Gene Strickland](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment / Feedback
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:58:17 PM

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6.10.5 - School Instructional Time Requirements

As Superintendent of Hobbs Municipal Schools I am writing to provide public comment on the proposed rule relative to School Instructional Time Requirements. See below the following bulleted comments:

- 6.10.5.6 - Objective
 - The broad inclusion of professional work hours for teachers is a function of the contract between the district and the teacher and not to be defined by the NMPED.
 - Establishing a school calendar for the school year is a function of the School Board and not to be defined by the NMPED
- 6.10.5.8 - Requirements
 - C - This is defined in state statute as hours and not days. The requirements as drafted are an overreach of PED to further interpret the days to be different that the intent of legislators
 - D - This should be a “may” requirement as per the needs of the LEA and Board of Education
- 6.10.5.9 - K-12 Plus Program
 - C - A district projecting numbers on October 15 for a subsequent school year is early in the planning process and projects that a decision has been made. A more appropriate time frame would be with the board approved calendar for the subsequent school year.

Gene Strickland
Superintendent
Hobbs Municipal Schools
575.433.0100

GO EAGLES!
#theHobbsWay
#theGoldStandard

From: [Ezekiel Crawford](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:00:50 PM

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

My name is Ezekiel Crawford, 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,
Ezekiel C.

From: [Heidi Laughlin](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to the 180 Rule - Reference: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:02:18 PM

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Hello,

I hope this email finds you in good health and high spirits. My name is Heidi Laughlin, and I am writing to share my concerns and express my opposition to the implementation of a traditional 5-day school week. I understand the significance of a quality education and appreciate the hard work our educators put into shaping the future of our children. However, I would like to bring to your attention a few considerations that lead me to advocate for a change in the current school week structure for my children who are currently attending a school with a four-day school week:

Student Well-Being: The demands of a full week of school, combined with homework and extracurricular activities, can lead to burnout and increased stress among students. A 4-day school week may provide students with an additional day for rest and relaxation, contributing to their overall well-being and mental health.

Quality Family Time: With the fast-paced nature of our lives, finding quality family time has become increasingly challenging. A 4-day school week offer families an extra day to spend together, fostering stronger relationships and creating a supportive home environment for our children.

Flexibility for Enrichment: A shorter school week allows students more flexibility to pursue enrichment activities, such as internships, community service, or specialized skill development programs. This flexibility can better prepare students for the diverse challenges they will face in the future.

Teacher and Staff Morale: A condensed school week leads to improved teacher and staff morale. It provides educators with more time for professional development, collaborative planning, and self-care, ultimately enhancing the quality of instruction and support they provide to our children.

Our students do very well with a four-day school schedule, and I hope that you will consider a more personalize learning experience and allow the school to choose the schedule that is deemed appropriate for their own students.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that, as a dedicated representative of our

community, you will carefully weigh the potential advantages of allowing each school to make their own decisions, and accepting the possibility that a shorter school week has many benefits and does not lessen the quality of education in our case.

Sincerely,

Heidi Laughlin

From: [Byrne Larsen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Extended learning plan
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:05:03 PM

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

The extension of school hours is a not only a bad idea, but it extends out of the same lack of imagination and dullard mental continuum that has spawned the current crisis. "What we are doing isn't working, and so by all means, let's do more of it," is exactly the lazy totalitarian answer to be expected from those perpetually demanding of others, while seeking to avoid their own much needed reforms and to ensure their own complete lack of accountability; all while symbolically decorating a problem they are all too happy to let continue.

Massachusetts, the top performing state in the nation has 900 student hours per year, Colorado, within the top 5, has much fewer at around 700.

The problem doesn't lie in the quantity time spent in the class, it is the quality of the time spent in classrooms. This requires leadership, planning, and any anyone with an iota of actual management skills; the problem lies in unorganized curricular approaches, non standardization of programs, inability to enforce its own rules, lack of vision and institutionalized cowardice. The PED maintains the bluntest of hierarchical structures that would be at home in the current Russian Military administration: top down, accountability dodging, one-way feedback, and singular careerism that cannot maintain a staff for long enough to implement its constant capricious initiatives.

We don't have to become a Massachusetts, nor god forbid a Colorado, but somewhere within that range would be greatly preferable to our constant flirtation with Mississippi. School performance is not a mystery, it has been solved, there is no reason to go about not solving it in a new way, particularly at the cost to those with the least institutional and political influence, but then, that is the real consistency isn't it?

Byrne Larsen

Sent from my Device

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From: [EMMELINE WEAVER](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposition
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:06:46 PM

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

To Whom this may Concern,

As a 10th Grade student of the Los Alamos Public schools in New Mexico I see no reason for this rule. What is the goal of this rule to decrease the number of people in the public school system? Increase stress in school? Some studies have shown positive effects but only under certain situations or requirements. There is no guarantee or insurance that this will improve academic score at all. And most schools don't have the resources to get new teachers or even pay them. Not enough people are coming out of teaching school to support this. What is the study you used to determine what would be "Best" for the state where this research comes from? Throwing more schools at the problem will not solve it. It actually could cause more problems. Some people have to travel several hours just to get to school. Adding a 5th day for those people will affect you negatively in several different ways. You will have to increase pay for bus drivers, Some students will become homeschoolers, You will have to also pay the teachers for this 5th day along with getting new ones to help support this. And what are you to gain by removing a free period? Also why increase the credit requirements? In order for Sophomores and up to graduate you would have to inflate their credit hours. I don't see any logic behind this at all. If the state is struggling so much, maybe try something new. Our school system is flawed enough as it is maybe based on the school structure based on a successful country not Prussia. I have made my opinion very in this matter and will answer any question you send in response or defend any flaws in my argument.

Respectfully,
Emmeline Weaver



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Leslie Lewis](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Leslie Lewis](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule Regarding School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:07:38 PM

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

Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the Proposed Rule regarding the extension of the school calendar, as presented by the New Mexico Public Education Department. I believe that quality education is important for our students, however, I do not believe adding to the quantity ensures or addresses the quality of education students receive. In fact, I believe it would have quit the opposite effect, and may adversely affect both students and educators.

I think that a much more respectable approach by the New Mexico Public Education Department, in an effort to improve education, would be to address the absenteeism that is a prevalent issue in our schools. Extending the school calendar could only exacerbate this problem. Longer school years can contribute to increased burnout among students, leading to higher rates of absenteeism and decreased engagement. Rather than focusing on the quantity of instructional days, it is crucial to address the quality of education and find innovative ways to engage students in the learning process.

I would like to emphasize the importance of local control in education. Communities are unique and have different needs and priorities. Imposing a standardized, extended school calendar fails to acknowledge these differences and inhibits the ability of local educators and administrators to tailor the academic schedule to best serve the needs of their students. Local control is essential for fostering a responsive and effective educational environment.

In conclusion, accountability should be directed towards making the most of the existing structure rather than introducing additional demands. Instead of extending the school calendar, efforts should be concentrated on improving the effectiveness of current instructional hours and ensuring that students are held accountable for the material covered within the established timeframe.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I look forward to seeing an educational system that truly reflects the needs and values of our community.

Sincerely,

Leslie Lewis
Science, Health, and SPED Teacher
Artesia High School
1002 W. Richardson
Artesia, NM 88210
Phone: 575-746-9816 Ext. 1545
Fax: 575-746-4365
Email: llewis@bulldogs.org

From: [Shane Allen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:08:42 PM

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

My name is Shane Allen, 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,
Shane

From: [Michael Famiglietta](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); [Michael Famiglietta](#); [Michael Famiglietta, Jr.](#); [Famiglietta, Jessica](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:10:10 PM

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

My name is Michael Famiglietta, 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,

--

- Michael Famiglietta
mfamiglietta2026@theaskacademy.org

From: [Selena Hernandez-Morris](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:10:58 PM

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

My name is Selena Hernandez-Morris, 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,
Selena Hernandez-Morris

Please make sure to have your voice heard, as a student, it holds a lot of value.

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[Advocacy @ ASK](#)

Amplify. Advocate. Act: Together for Change @ ASK

From: [Ann Shiells](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 4-day weeks
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:11:00 PM

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12/18/23

One more point, if you go to the mandatory 5-day week for schools, we lose certified teachers and ancillary. Then we hire long term subs to educate our children. You will see test scores plummet. You will not have done what is in the best interests of children in our state.

Ann Shiells, SLP

From: [Ted Trujillo](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for:
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:11:08 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.

Greetings,

My name is Ted Trujillo. I am a home grown native New Mexican. There are 3 proposed changes that I am against due to these proposals do not make the education system better in New Mexico. This increased micromanagement makes the NM education system worse than it currently is.

Please do not implement these rule changes!

-6.81.2 NMAC, Requirements for Nonpublic Schools and for PED Accreditation

-6.19.4 NMAC, Accreditation Procedures

-6.10.5 NMAC, School Calender Requirements

Especially regarding 6.81.2 NMAC, this is the most disturbing. This is government overreach in dealing with private schools especially regarding Christian schools. The state has no business regulating Christian school due to their emphasis of these schools teaching the Bible and growing in their Christian beliefs while at the same time teaching the needed academics. This will also step on the 1st Amendments parental rights regarding school choices.

Please do not approve these proposed rule changes.

Thank you,

Ted Trujillo

6601 Honeylocust Ave NW
Albuquerque, NM 87121

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Slocum, Leann Renee](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:12:42 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

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

Good afternoon,

I am writing today to let you know the reasons why I am **against** the proposed new rule for increased time in school and graduation credits. Even though my children are in 3rd and 6th grade.

Some kids have parents and other family out of state that they can only see during long breaks. My daughter's father is out of state, and he gets her for Winter, Spring and Summer break. Before you say you will add more time off during the year if the school year is longer that cost too much in flying back and forth. We could not afford to fly her out for the new fall break this year.

High schoolers have a lot of homework and need downtime to get it completed. I know of many kids that use their free period to do homework before sports and clubs or going to a parttime job.

Will sport and clubs be impacted by kids having so many classes to attend? Many kids use those same sports and clubs to help them get into college.

The community will suffer from the Seniors not having those free periods to have those parttime jobs. Many small restaurants are staffed by those same kids with half days. Those kids are also learning a valuable lesson in balancing work and school and work ethic before they are off to college.

What about kids that do not pass all their classes? With the new required credits, you are not leaving much time for them to make up any class that they have failed. Or will that be done during the extremely short summer break where they should be able to take a break and see family and friends?

Will the Juniors and Seniors still be allowed to get internships with Los Alamos National Laboratory and other internships? Many kids use those as steppingstones to help them get into college.

You are working our teachers to death, you keep expecting them to do more, work more, have less time to plan and grade. When will it be too much and they start leaving the state, or the profession? They certainly do not get paid enough to deal with that stress.

Lastly is kids' mental health. My daughter suffers from anxiety, and I know having to think about graduating with that many credits will cause her more anxiety or even cause her to drop out due to the stress. How many kids do you think will suffer more suicidal ideation, anxiety and depression from less time off and more credit hours needed for graduation? How many kids will just give up and drop out due to feeling defeated?

I feel like this plan was written for a kid that has perfect grades, passes all classes, does not want a parttime job, does not worry about homework with sports and clubs, a kid that does not have any mental health or family issues. A child with the perfect home life and the perfect ability to do well in school. Nothing is going to get fixed by extending the school year and adding more credits for graduation. I would bet you will see more kids dropping out of school, more kids hating school, more kids with mental health crisis, communities suffering from lack for parttime employees, kids with less sports and clubs on collages applications, and more teachers quitting. You are messing with peoples lives for what I bet is a dollar sign. Please keep the kids, families, and teachers in mind when you make huge decisions like this. Remember that they are human and need downtime.



Leann R. Slocum

Security Specialist, SEC-PS
Security Awareness

Mobile: 505-479-1556
Los Alamos National Laboratory

From: [Beth Fair](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed School Week
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:13:36 PM

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

Dear Madam or Sir,

On behalf of an employee of a 4-day school week, I would like to oppose the proposed 5-day school week. I am the food service director/ kitchen manager of Elida Municipal Schools. We currently run over 150 students. Food options for these students are the school cafeteria or an Allsup's convince store. On any given day during the meal times, we feed 95% or more of those kids. By adding more school days will pose a problem in our food storage spaces. Our school kitchen was built back in the late 1970's and has outgrown our storage capacity; by adding another school day to the week would have to add more cases to orders and not have the storage space to properly store them. Another issue we will have is, the storage space for milk. Currently when an order is placed the milk ordered fills the milk box, adding another day will pose storage problem, our refrigerator will not hold enough extra milk, juice, produce, and space to thaw frozen foods for day-to-day meal preparation. To accommodate this the school district would have to do major construction to the kitchen and purchase more freezer and fridgerator units. Our budgets cannot support this major of project, we simply don't have the funds for this type of major construction as well as to upgrade the electrical system to support new units. Several costs would be higher such as, food costs, all utilities including electricity, propane, water, bus drivers, also the entire school staff for all 4-day schools. Thank you for taking time to read this response. I would be glad to answer any questions or visit further with anyone.

Sincerely,

Beth Fair, FSD

Elida Municipal Schools

From: [Analia Leyba](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:14:39 PM

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To whom it may concern,

When I first heard of the new proposal, I was disheartened. I have been a special education teacher for 7 years, before, during and after COVID. With that being said, we as a country are still adjusting to new routines. As a special education teacher, data is what drives programs and instruction. Therefore, it is my question as to what data has been looked at and analyzed long enough to make a proposal of this kind. I know we have not been back in school long enough post COVID to analyze any data. What is our end goal when teaching these students? Isn't it to build productive citizens of society? Teachers are already overworked and underpaid, and clearly underappreciated with this proposal even being a consideration. I am sure more than 85% of teachers work after their contracted hours to create amazing lessons to empower their students in every aspect of education both academically and non academically, but expecting them to is taking advantage of them. We are short staffed as it is. No one wants to be a teacher because of this reason. Not only that, there are other essential employees and positions that are short staffed such as bus drivers, IA's, custodians, etc. We lose instructional time as it is because we have to worry about staff coverage and maintaining safety of students and staff, but it has been proposed to add more hours to the day? Student's have grown to hate school, if you have taken a second to be in or observe the classroom Mrs. Lujan, you would understand that forcing more time onto a student to be in the class is going to create behaviors, dysregulation, and disconnect. MLSS has recently been adopted, and as a team member I believe in this change in foundation wholeheartedly. THAT IS WHAT YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON, and how to support districts in that way. Support students and staff on their well being. Students need a break, educators and support staff need a break. Students need to be respected. Educators and support staff need to be respected. EDUCATION NEEDS TO BE RESPECTED.

Analia Leyba
B.S. Education
Special Education Teacher LAHS, Work Study Coordinator

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This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Carol Schrader](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:16:04 PM

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

Hello I am a teacher in Santa Fe, writing to protest the misguided extension of the school year.

There are many more important ways to improve school outcomes.

Small class sizes and immediate options for students who have chronic issues with self-regulation or behavior are top of the list.

In addition, increasing the school year puts more burden on teachers who are already overburdened.

Teachers are asked to address so many problems, yet we are not given the time or training to address these mandates.

Extending the school year will hurt teacher recruitment and retention, making the teacher shortage worse.

Please address all these issues before extending the school year.

More of what is not working well is not better.



Carol Schrader
505 660-4246

From: [Brian Whalley](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School schedule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:17:44 PM

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

I'm opposed to requiring a 5 day school week. The optional day for intervention/makeup is a fantastic model

Sincerely
Brian Whalley

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to the proposed extension of the school year in New Mexico. As a high school science teacher in the Clovis Municipal Schools - public school district, I am already stretched thin trying to meet the demands of our current 180-day calendar. I have two children of my own and I teach two classes at Clovis High School.

The majority of my students have an excessive amount of absences and are failing. They do not come to school and they do not make up for missing work. Students do not have a legitimate reason for missing school. They are not sick. They have transportation. They simply do not value education and neither do their parents.

Providing quality instruction for these students requires extensive preparation and effort within our current schedule. Adding more instructional days will only exacerbate the intense pressure and stress that educators like myself face daily.

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

Additionally, many of my ELL students struggle with chronic truancy issues, missing school days regularly. These students who are already at risk of underachievement will not benefit from an extended school year when attendance is their primary obstacle. Resources should be allocated to attendance support and outreach to get these students to school every day. As an educator and a parent, I also rely on the summer break to reconnect with my own children and be the mother they deserve. The school year requires so much of my time and energy that summertime is precious for catching up on quality family time. Extending the school calendar imposes on that valued time with my family.

I urge you to reconsider this proposed calendar change, and instead explore avenues to reduce class sizes, upgrade materials, expand student access to essential services, provide bilingual resources, and support attendance outreach. Our students deserve a school environment focused on quality over quantity.

Can we hold parents accountable? We used to be able to report to the District Attorney students who had an excessive amount of absences. Parents are responsible for sending their children to school. Why are they not doing so?

Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Respectfully,

Señora Laura Sigala Mondragon, M.Ed, MAM
Spanish Teacher
Clovis High School
laura.mondragon@clovis-schools.org
(575) 769- 4350 X 1917

From: [Galen Craven](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:20:08 PM

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

I am writing to strongly oppose NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements.

This change would have a strong negative impact on students. New Mexico students do not need more time in school to be more successful, they need more quality time in school. Adding more time in school will limit the student's abilities to be mentally focused and engaged in a learning environment, leading to burned-out and disinterested students. This change will have a counter-productive effect on educational outcomes. I strongly oppose it.

Sincerely,
Galen Craven
Los Alamos

From: [Matthew Pacheco](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:20:32 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 Matthew Pacheco and I teach middle school science here in Santa Fe. I am writing you in opposition to your potential rule change forcing kids to attend more school with 6.10.5 NMAC. More time in school does not equal better results. Quality time in the classroom equals better results. I'm not sure when any of you were last in the classroom but speaking as a teacher who is in the classroom everyday, I see firsthand how burnt out these kids are. We ask our students to go to school from 8:35 in the morning to 4:00 pm in the afternoon with a 34 minute lunch/recess five days a week. That's 7 hours a day and 35 hours a week of sitting in a desk with little to no time for them to be kids. Adding more days to their already extended school year from HB 130 (which was passed by our ELECTED officials, not someone who was appointed or hired) is only going to hurt them, not help them like you all think. You are doing more harm than good with this rule. Lastly, I know you all at the PED say you are "here for the kids" but in all reality, are you? If so, you would reconsider this rule change. Are you in the classroom everyday? No, you're not so you don't see what we teachers see. Listen to the teachers who are in the classroom. I hope that you reconsider this rule change.

Thank you.

Matthew Pacheco

From: [Megan Fox](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:25:25 PM

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

NM PED,

Please hear loud and clear that families are against this proposed change. NM education could use an overhaul, but THIS is not the answer. Increasing required hours and days is NOT the answer. Required minimum hours per day (eliminating the possibility of alternative schedules) is NOT the answer.

NM families have endured multiple years of major last minute changes by the powers that be that have caused enormous impacts on families. These changes have not been well planned or implemented and have had negative consequences.

Slow down, do the hard work. Increase the QUALITY of training and educators. Vet quality curriculum. Allow for incentives for retention, and for advanced training for all staff. Provide legally mandated IEP services. Let's slow down and do this right.

Megan Fox

Los Alamos resident, 2 children in public school

From: [MADISON ROSS](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] My comments on the new changes you would like to make
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:27:38 PM

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

Hello, my name is Madison Ross and I am a 10th grader at Los Alamos High School. I have looked over your proposal rule change 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements and to say I am unhappy is an understatement.

My first issue is raising the graduation requirements and raising how many classes students have to take each day. I don't see a problem with Los Alamos High School's graduation requirements. We have to take core credits that include math, history, science, and ela. We also need 2 different art credits, one technology credit, a language/career cluster, PE, health, AP or honors and electives. What kind of classes are you wanting us to take? If you want to just fill students' schedules with classes that they don't like or enjoy, students will not go. Having classes that you don't have an interest in is very boring and students don't care what their grade is, what they learn, or what the class is even about. With the new graduation requirements, students will have 4 classes per day instead of 3.5 classes. Having 3.5 classes is already stressful enough and adding another class will not get you the benefit you want to see.

My second issue is students not allowed free periods. Free periods are very helpful and give students a time to relax, do homework, or even start work early. Taking away students' free periods is a very stupidest decision. If students are not allowed free periods, you need a teacher and a place to put them. Classes are already full as they are, adding students will have no benefits. You will need to come up with more classes and to do so you need more teachers. Needing more teachers is a problem because there are none. There are no subs, teachers, or even people wanting to be teachers. Where will you guys find these new teachers? Will you start paying the teachers you already have enough money to support themselves? Where will these new teachers and classes go? Schools don't have the money and resources to add more classrooms. Are you going to just stick students and a teacher in a storage closet? Have you guys also thought about how extending the school day will affect everything else? It will affect club sports, school sports, and students' jobs. Also adding more hours will force the school district to add more days. We have already added more days as is, how many more are you going to add? With extending the school year you are messing up summer jobs and camps, teachers summer jobs, students jobs, family vacations, and so much more. I also don't believe that changing our school schedule to year round will benefit in any way.

My third issue is not allowing professional development days to count as part of the instructional hours. My mother is a teacher and I can see how professional development and the Wednesday half days are beneficial. Teachers need days to prepare and they should not be allowed to use their personal time without pay. Professional development days are something that every teacher benefits from. You will also need to extend teacher contact's to accommodate these professional development days that don't count as part of the instructional hours. You will be spending even more money than you are now and you will make your teachers jobs and life very unhappy.

I want you to take into account students', teachers', and parents' opinions on decisions. These are decisions that will affect everyone but you. I would love to be able to actually enjoy my

summer and my classes. The new requirement will take away students' enjoyment of school and you will see a rise in absences. You will also see a downfall in students and teachers' mental health. If you truly care about the mental health of the citizens of New Mexico, like you say, you will listen to what the citizens really want.

From,
Madison Ross



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Miel Rim](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST - NMAC Rule 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:28:10 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 strongly against increasing days/classes/time to the school calendar. I am a mother of a 1st grader and an 8th grader. I am also a current NM teacher with 15 years of experience.

We were forced to add 5 school days this school year. We have not even seen the results of the added 5 days. And you now want to add more days without even seeing if the 5 days made any difference.

You will have teachers who will be even more tired than right now. What we need are smaller class sizes and more SPED support, not more time in school.

How are you going to fund extra money for staff and maintenance? What funds will you take away to make this happen? And when those programs lose funding, how would that impact other entities?

The greatest merit that keeps me in this profession is the summer. When you continuously take that merit away, why would I keep teaching? If I have to be working year round like any other profession, then why would any teacher stay? Many of us will start seeking other jobs that pay better or provide better benefits.

There is no research that says more school time creates better test scores or happier students. If there is no positive outcome, what is the reason for the change?

If you force this policy, the outcome will not be in your favor. I want to reiterate that I am strongly against increasing instructional time/day/classes.

Sincerely,

Miel Rim

--

From: [Grace Onsurez](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Loving Schools
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:29:01 PM

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We received this notification the State wanting to change our hours to 5 days a week. We go 4 days out of the week and are wanting to change it to 5. We are in compliance with the hours and you are wanting to change it by days. I work at the school district it is mostly attended by lower income families. They have accommodated their lives with the 4-day week. They can barely afford to buy school clothes for the year as set 4 days. We get good turn outs at school with the 4-day week. The students enjoy going to school. The staff is highly motivated to help with the extra curriculum activities. I have seen a big difference in the Loving School District compared to the Carlsbad School District. Where they go 5 days a week. You get a better outcome of the students. They don't get bored or dislike school. It will be an awful mistake to change the School District again. The outcome wouldn't be good. Thank you

From: [Scott Brixen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Reference: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:31:20 PM

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Hello,

My name is Scott Brixen, and I'm the father of four boys who attend the ASK Academy.

I'm writing in opposition to the proposed requirement to require 180 days of schooling/ 5 days a week at every school:

1. If it is a question of hours, I see no functional difference between 4 days X 8 hours and 5 days X 7 hours.
2. Friday is not really a "day off" for my boys. They often go to Friday tutoring at ASK, and even when they do stay at home, we've structured Friday as a day to work on longer-term projects, catch up on homework etc.
3. I like that the 4-day school week forces them to be more responsible with their time on Friday, as teachers often give large homework assignments on Thursday.
4. My boys are all doing great in their grades, and on state standardized testing, so they don't appear to be missing out on anything.
5. As long as standards are being met (at the school level) charter schools should maintain the flexibility to adjust/experiment with hours/days of attendance.

The truth is that we should be focussed on the quality of education, not the # of days or # of hours attended. Good teachers should be recognized and rewarded; bad/lazy teachers weeded out. All kids should have access to textbooks/computers, and parents should not be asked to buy school supplies (paper, ink etc.) because the district "can't afford them." Kids who need help should get it, and kids who don't need help should be given new challenges.

Thank you very much indeed,

Scott Brixen

From: [Leonard Moore](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:31:27 PM

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

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 a parent of a student at Mountain Elementary School. Our teachers are currently contracted for 195 days, with 188 of those days being instructional days with our students. They 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. 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 collective bargaining 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 unintended but significant 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 Wednesday afternoons are currently designated as teacher prep time and the only time that our district can fit in the allotted average of 300 minutes of prep time that our collective bargaining agreement guarantees. 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 voting **no** on NMAC Rule 6.10.5.

Thank you for your consideration,

Leonard Moore, Concerned Constituent

Leonard Moore

moore.leonardj@gmail.com

505-551-2836

From: [Mara Nunez](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, SCHOOL CALENDAR REQUIREMENTS
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:34:32 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am opposed to the possible extension of the upcoming school year. As a parent, I cannot imagine having to send my child to school for extra days. Students are overwhelmed by the high expectations and rigorous curriculum they receive and are involved in after school activities such as part-time jobs to help out with their yearly expenses. Adding days to their schooling will keep them from being involved in such activities and will add even more responsibilities to their adolescent life. Let them have a decent childhood free from the stresses of everyday school life.

Furthermore, teachers are also overwhelmed, overworked, and underpaid! As it is, there is a shortage of teachers everywhere. Those extra days may cause even more teachers to leave the profession. Teachers need those extra days off in order to be more effective in the classroom. Educators give it their all, so that students may experience academic success and have a bright future. Do not add extra teaching days to their calendar- especially without compensation!

From: [Lorynn Guerrero](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Time Ruling
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:43:20 PM

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Hello Legislatures,

I am not supportive of the proposed 180-day school calendar as it appears to be in contradiction with existing state law. The suggested changes raise concerns about compliance with the established regulations. I believe it is crucial to adhere to the current New Mexico state law to ensure the proper functioning and legality of the school calendar. Additional days will not help to make up for the learning loss from COVID. It will add more stress to both students and educators.

--



From: [SARAH SENA](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed school calendar day concerns
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:49:13 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you so much for considering the input of teachers regarding the proposed school calendar changes. I am greatly appreciative that you are taking into consideration our thoughts since we are on the front lines of education and have an opinion that is formed by our daily experiences.

I have some concerns regarding these proposed changes that I wanted to share with you. One of the biggest battles we are fighting daily is attendance. School is no longer to be considered as important as it once was by both students and parents. Failing rates are directly related to this as students are missing out on instruction, failing to turn in assignments and get buried so that it's impossible for them to catch up and pass. Graduation rates are going to be directly affected by this. Adding more days to the school year just adds more days for students to miss, more assignments to not turn in and more would-be graduates who drop out because they just couldn't catch up.

Another issue regarding attendance rates is that parents are not being held accountable for their child's attendance, and adding more days to the calendar won't solve the problem. We need to focus on providing stronger social support 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. More school days is only going to compound this problem.

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 additional days to the calendar will exacerbate this issue, as current teachers will look at positions across state lines, and people considering going into education will see New Mexico as a less desirable option.

Thank you again for considering my perspective on these matters.

Regards,

--

Sarah Sena, M.Mus.
Assistant Choir Director
Piano / Music Theory Instructor
Clovis High School

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From: [BILL BRINSON](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST nmac rule 6.10.5 school calendar requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:49:15 PM

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Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Mary Jean Rains](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:51:52 PM
Attachments: [SKM_C450i23121816430.pdf](#)

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

Please see my attached letter in opposition to HB 130. I am an employee, community member and employee of the Magdalena School district and do not agree with this proposition to change our 4 day school week. This district has participated in a 4 day school week for 30 plus years.

--

Mary Jean Rains

Magdalena Schools

Business Office Assistant

Main:5758542241

Direct:5758548008

Cell: 5052886628

Fax:5758542531



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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I am writing on behalf of the Magdalena Municipal School District in Magdalena, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email/letter to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing state law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school weeks on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than in 5, again published by you, the NMPED in the most recent NM Vistas Report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico Districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico you are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day school week for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be better-rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

A Concerned (parent, student, educator, staff member, community member)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary J. Rains". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

From: [mrjames](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:54:42 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I wish to register my concern about recent changes to the NM School Education Requirements. I do not feel these proposed changes strengthen the educational system in New Mexico.

Take as a whole, the increase in hours and changes to the requirements address only the quantity of time a student would spend in the educational system without addressing the needs of the quality of the instruction provided. I fear that reducing the flexibility of students, educators and administrators would only increase the frustration of those that already unhappy with opportunities in the current system.

I also worry the current proposal would overload those ambitious students who would like to take accelerated classes by, in essence, trying to cram 4 years of classroom requirements into 3 years. Why is this necessary?

I would urge the NM PED to reconsider these proposals.
Thank you for your attention.

Michael R. James, Ph.D.

From: [Davis Christensen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:57:09 PM

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NMPED,

I strongly oppose the proposed changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements".

Our teachers, staff and students do not need more hours in school. They need more support and resources available to them without strings attached.

The proposed rule changes will increase current burn out and frustration for students and staff.

I feel that the individual districts have the best interests of their communities at heart and understand what will best meet their needs. It is not required of the state to impose such strict requirements on the schools. These rules will add a strain to our teachers whom already have so much responsibility, allowing their professional development to count as school hours is beneficial for the staff and the students as those teachers will be better prepared to educated and support their students. The rules requiring more credits for High School graduation are also detrimental to our students and staff. As students prepare for their next chapter the real-life skills of employment are key to help students transition this becomes a more difficult goal if they are not given the option to have free periods to find employment. Please do not implement these changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5

Thank you for your time.

From a concerned, Parent, Youth Leader, Educator and Community Member.

Davis Christensen

From: [Alice Allen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request to Revoke Proposed Rule on Calendar Reform
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:57:21 PM

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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 our concerns regarding the proposed rule on instructional time requirements (6.10.5 NMAC) and respectfully request the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) revoke the proposal as mentioned above. The legislature recently debated calendar reform, which has been implemented in schools for six months. There was significant debate on the calendar reform legislation in the 2023 legislative session. That debate led to a compromise on legislation that the Governor signed. We acknowledge the department's commitment to enhancing educational outcomes. However, given the recency of the new legislation and the Department's lack of statutory authority to execute this rule as proposed, we request that PED revoke this proposed rule and go through the legislative process to meet these requirements.

Direct Impacts to Our School

Roots and Wing Community School (RWCS), a K-8th grade, state-authorized charter school, is considered a 4-day/week school for calendaring purposes. This year, with the mandated calendar change last year, we are currently operating with 54% of our weeks as 5-day weeks with 171 student contact days meeting the required 1140 contact hour mandate. The majority of our students use a rural transportation system bus for transportation, and parents drive the rest. Our school hours are dictated by the bus schedule, which provides us with a fixed 6.5-hour school day. In addition to all the concerns that this rule proposes for all schools, we will be additionally penalized by enacting this rule as it currently reads.

- We will lose over \$92,000 (approximately 9% of our operating budget) in K-12 Plus funding. We will have to add nine (9) days to our calendar just to make 180 days, eliminating us from participating in the K-12+ program again. This will take us to 1,199 hours! So we are adding nine (9) days and 58.5 instructional hours to our calendar AND having our budget REDUCED.
- With this proposal, unless we significantly cut the limited number of PD days the teachers have, we will again have to pay the teachers a stipend for extra days with little or no K-12

Plus funding. Cutting teacher PD days is not an answer to improving student achievement or training high-quality teachers. If we don't offer the stipend, teachers will likely leave as we would ask them to work more days with no salary increase from the previous year.

Remote Days Issue

Our school is located in the Foothills of the Sangre de Cristo mountains at 8,200 ft. in northern Taos county, where we get a lot of snow. Since most of our students use the RTD public transportation to come to school and parents drive the rest, we can not do delayed openings as no bus is scheduled at those times. Therefore, we must cancel school if the surrounding districts call for a delay, or we would have to require parents to drive all students to school during unsafe driving conditions. The pandemic taught us that we can effectively learn remotely on days otherwise lost. By restricting us from using remote learning days instead of canceling school and due to the increased number of school days required by this rule, we would have to add days at the end of the year instead of continuing our instruction. Students and parents will NOT send their students to school at the end of the year to do make-up days, causing them to be wasted and increasing our absenteeism rate. Please allow us to use this remote learning tool without restrictions for weather and unexpected shutdowns.

Loss of Local Control and Staffing Issues

We have been a 4-day school since the school's beginnings over 20 years ago. We participated in the ELTP program and used the extra funding to provide more student contact time, teacher PD time, and enrichment programs to benefit our students. We were a Spotlight school in 2022 and are currently ranked as Traditional, and we have not been on any corrective action plans. Additionally, we received a 5-year contract renewal and continue to score very high on our annual site reviews by CSD/PEC. But last year, due to the increased contact hours, we eliminated most of our teacher PD days, and because of state rules/mandates, we were forced to eliminate a robust after-school enrichment program for our students. We know what works for our students and want what is best for them, but the continued implementation of these one-size-fits-all regulations is detrimental to the students and staff you are trying to help. Allow us to be innovative and successful, and stop handcuffing us with rules and mandates that prevent us from best serving our students and staff. Increasing staff workloads and decreasing professional development time are not ways to retain staff. This is especially true in rural areas where staff must travel hours to receive medical or basic life needs services.

The proposed rule does not seem to recognize the diversity of school performance across the state regardless of the school calendar. Students will face unnecessary disruptions by modifying their calendars without a clear risk-based justification. Acknowledging the success of existing calendar structures and avoiding unnecessary changes that may adversely affect student outcomes is imperative.

In light of these concerns, we urge the PED to reconsider the proposed rule, pursue calendar reform through the legislative process, and focus on leading New Mexico's communities in regularly getting our kids to school. This approach would provide the necessary statutory clarity and allow for comprehensive stakeholder engagement to address the diverse needs of our educational community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the PED will carefully consider the implications of the proposed rule and work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop solutions that prioritize the best interests of our students and educators.

Yours sincerely,

Alice Allen, MA

Lead Special Education Teacher
Roots & Wings Community School
Physical: 35 La Lama Rd.
Questa, New Mexico 87556
575.586.2076

Kind regards,

Alice Allen, MA
Lead Special Education Teacher
Roots & Wings Community School
Physical: 35 La Lama Rd.
Questa, New Mexico 87556
575.586.2076

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From: [Erika Stupka](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:58:28 PM

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

To NM PED:

I am writing to express concern and opposition to the proposed rule change for school calendar requirements, NMAC Rule 6.10.5.

I am a parent of three children, two of whom are in elementary school in Los Alamos County, one not yet in school.

I am having a hard time finding information about the WHY - why is NM PED proposing these changes? From a family member who is also a teacher, I am told that the proposed rule change is because NM as a whole is not meeting standards for reading, and possibly other assessment areas.

I do not think requiring yet more changes as proposed is the solution to much of NM children falling behind/not meeting standards. The following points are those I'd like to make to my opposition/objection.

1. We have had to adjust to so many changes over the last few years. partly due to COVID but also due to the required calendar changes to the schools starting this school year. I was already opposed to those, as it seems the PED is slowly stripping away more and more of our kids' ability to just be kids and enjoy childhood. The summer vacation is now shorter, and it feels like they're being gradually more and more turned into "workers" than being able to enjoy things outside of school.

2. Sure, kids are adaptable, but when they are having to adjust to changes in school so often, it's hard on them mentally and emotionally. That carries out into home life. My oldest daughter already experiences stress and anxiety because of homework. It's hard for her to enjoy her other activities (dance, etc) because it's easy to fall behind with homework.

3. While I don't have a middle or high schooler yet, I feel strongly that kids in secondary school that earn a free period should absolutely be granted a free period. That means that keep the graduation requirements the same as they are. Teens work so hard and we have already seen a drastic increase in mental health problems among youth and teens over the past years (see the CDC's report [here](#) . High schoolers are already working so hard to meet their graduation requirements. Why force additional hours when many are prepared for college or work out of high school? This seems like it just be part of the optional K-12 Plus program, or additional school for those that demonstrate a real need, and proof that additional credit hours would benefit them individually.

4. Teachers are burning out, or already there. Schools are losing teachers to other jobs because they cannot handle the increasing pressures and burdens PED and other entities are placing on them. Requiring more changes is just going to lead to even more difficulty retaining teachers.

What do I propose instead?

1. Doing a deep assessment of why kids are falling behind and find ways to change the public school system so that the time they are already in school is more beneficial than it is. I wish I had a specific solution, but I do not. PED should have the ability to find out what actually will benefit those kids that need it most, and use trial systems for small populations or groups that voluntarily utilize it.
2. Implementing more homework periods or study class periods for secondary schools for kids that need it - during school hours. I know some kids struggle to complete homework at home, so a period dedicated to catching up and doing work while at school could really help.
3. Implementing a rule against most homework, or strictly limiting how much homework a kid, from elementary through high school can get. The more the years go by, the more I am opposed to homework in general, except for maybe long-term projects a kid can be working on, or studying for an exam. Most adults would prefer to do their "work" when it's actually work hours...why should we force kids to continue to do school outside of school hours? It's unfair and devalues their free time as children and teens. It makes them less able to participate in other things that benefit their mental health - sports, the arts, clubs, and yes, "do nothing" time.
4. Compensating teachers more than they are. They do so much for our newest generations and they are simply not being paid enough in many districts and counties.
5. I admit I am not well-versed in the K-6 or K-12 Plus programs as of now (and plan to read more about it after this email), but it seems like it has a lot of potential for helping districts or individual students that are not up to standard to bring them back up. Please find ways to get this program more involved with students that need extra hours.

In sum, I get more and more frustrated with NM PED each year and how much teachers', students' and families' needs are ignored. I do not think the overall problem (not meeting standards) should be ignored, but pushing additional changes without lessening the burdens of all involved in other meaningful, measurable ways is irresponsible and seems to devalue all in the school community. Please consider teachers and kids (and their short childhoods) more carefully and consider more beneficial ways to fix a problem that won't lead to more burnout and mental health problems.

Sincerely,
Erika Stupka
emstupka@gmail.com

From: [BRAYDEN ALLEN](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:07:28 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing today against proposed NMAC Rule 6.10.5 regarding School Instructional Time Requirements. As a parent with students from 3rd grade to 11th grade these proposed changes would affect my family for quite some time. Being members of Los Alamos Public Schools, a community that has always excelled academically, these changes are unnecessary. I understand that there are parts of the state that may require additional help with further educational instruction time, however, this needs to be addressed on a county by county, or school by school basis. The proposed changes to academic time are not a one size fits all proposal and will put further undo stress on our students and community.

Growing up in Los Alamos myself I have personally been part of and seen the level of pressure put on students to succeed in this community. Adding additional requirements to an already difficult standard is unnecessary and will significantly have a negative impact on the mental health of our students, something that is already a struggle. As a parent of a Junior this year, and one that carries a course load with multiple AP courses, having a free period has helped him by allowing extra study time that he may not have otherwise. Many of our high school students work very hard to get good grades in a difficult school system, carry a job, take classes at the local college campus and participate in extracurricular activities. The proposed changes would have an impact on all of these.

Aside from the students' well being, these proposed changes additionally affect our teachers that are already overworked and in high demand. Limiting essential planning time for our teachers will put additional undue strain on them. We are already fighting to keep the teachers we have. Straining them further will not be good for our community, or the state as a whole.

I ask that you please consider my thoughts on the matter and if you feel changes need to be made, that it be done on an individual school/county basis, and not as a rushed decision. Not all education in the state is broken. All students, teachers and families should not be punished when help is only needed in parts.

Thank you for your time,

Brayden Allen



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Braeden Bauman](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Five Day School Schedule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:08:14 PM

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

Hello PED,

I am a current student at The Ask Academy a school that has a 4 day week schedule. 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.

From: [Alisa Cooper de Uribe](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback with Opposition to NMAC 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:10:00 PM

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

Dear members of the Policy and Legislative Affairs Division of the Public Education Department:

My name is Alisa Cooper de Uribe, and I am a first grade bilingual teacher at New Mexico International School, a charter school in Albuquerque. I am writing with feedback for the proposed NMAC 6.10.5. I would like to share **three points of opposition**, and I would like to express one suggested course of action.

- The legislature continues to allow charter schools and districts to create a calendar of any number of days, so long as the instructional hour requirement has been met. The PED does not have authority to override the actions of the legislature.
- Defining the length of an instructional day is not necessary. It is also contrary to many best practices currently in use around the State. For example, many schools (such as New Mexico International School), that are “schools of excellence” by the PED’s own measure, have alternative calendars that use shortened days or weeks. For example, NMIS has ‘early release Wednesdays’ where students are released early and teachers spend the balance of the work day in collaborative work about students, student progress, and the adaptation of our program based on student need. Rather than de-incentivizing schools for ‘early release days’ by making such days “not count for full day”, it seems to be more beneficial to look at the schools who have calendars with shortened days and/or weeks yet maintain high student performance in hopes of replicating their successes.
- The PED does not have authority to create additional times of the school day to be excluded from the instructional hour count. The proposed language in section 8.E seeks to exclude certain times of the day from the instructional hour calculation. In 2023 when the legislature passed HB130 (amending NMSA 22-2-8.1), it kept the language that excluded “lunch” from counting instructional hours to meet the newly increased instructional hour minimums. Notably, the legislature did not add additional times to be excluded from this total, such as “lunch recess” or “passing periods.” Furthermore, the legislature did not grant the PED authority to add additional times of the school day to be excluded from the instructional hour total. Lastly, the proposals to add these additional exclusions to instructional hour calculations seem both arbitrary and contradictory. For example, a morning recess is considered “instructional” but a recess that happens immediately after lunch is considered “non-instructional.” Similarly, there are contradictory interpretations of passing periods, all of which make it increasingly difficult for schools to create calendars that truly meet student needs.

Suggested course of action: The current statute is sufficient and needs no additional rule promulgation. I propose that the entire text of NMAC 6.10.5 be repealed and have schools rely on the text of the law for requirements for instructional

calendars.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Alisa

--

Alisa (Alēsa) Cooper de Uribe (she/her/ella)

2021 New Mexico Teacher of the Year

2022 Teach Plus NM Fellow of the Year

Cell: (214) 551-2635

From: [Kodi Sumpter](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:11:00 PM

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

To whom it concerns:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Rule 6.10.5, which mandates a 180-day calendar for educational institutions in the state of New Mexico. While I understand the importance of ensuring an adequate amount of instructional time, I believe that a one-size-fits-all approach may not be the most effective solution for all schools and districts.

Firstly, it is crucial to recognize the diverse needs and circumstances of different educational institutions across the state. Some schools may have unique scheduling requirements, such as those involved in specialized programs, alternative education models, or other extracurricular activities. Forcing all schools to adhere strictly to a 180-day calendar may limit their ability to address these specific needs and provide a well-rounded education to their students.

Moreover, the rigidity of a fixed 180-day calendar does not necessarily guarantee improved educational outcomes. Quality should be prioritized over quantity when it comes to instructional time. Des Moines has ranked at the top of New Mexico for several decades because of highly trained teachers, dedicated students, and supportive families. We have had the autonomy to meet the needs of our students and community when determining our calendar. Although we are considered a five-day-a-week school, we have implemented 12 virtual Fridays to capitalize on some of the learning from COVID-19. Our families and students appreciated the opportunity for online learning once a month to prepare for college courses as well as the flexibility to schedule doctor appointments reducing absenteeism for students and teachers. We also utilized those virtual Fridays to pilot a WBL program. Mandating a strict 180-day calendar may hinder the flexibility needed to implement such initiatives.

*I recommend that the New Mexico Public Education Department consider a more flexible approach that takes into account the unique circumstances and needs of individual schools and districts. **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 DMMS to flourish, ensuring that decisions about our school calendar remain in the hands of those who know our community best—us.***

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.

I appreciate the efforts of the New Mexico Public Education Department in seeking to improve the education system in our state. However, I believe that a collaborative and flexible approach will lead to better outcomes for all stakeholders involved. I urge you to reconsider and modify Rule 6.10.5 to allow for greater flexibility in the determination of instructional calendars.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. I look forward to seeing an education system that values innovation and adapts to the diverse needs of our students.

Sincerely,

Kodi Sumpter

Superintendent- Des Moines Municipal Schools

Kodi Sumpter
Superintendent
Des Moines Schools
500 Des Moines Ave; PO bx 38
Des Moines, NM 88418
575-278-2611

From: [Darlene Oliver](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Please regard facts
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:14:44 PM

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

I am writing to oppose the 180 instructional day proposal. I urge you to observe the facts and the lives affected in rural communities. The students excel in school and also excel in higher education and military when they enter. The graduation rate in Logan school is 97%. Students work on their family ranches and farms and the productivity far surpasses students who do not work in their family businesses.

I have been in this school 6 years and I have not seen one student fight or altercation between students. The manners and politeness of the students is exemplary and speaks volumes for the current staff and educational environment. Students are able to travel to participate in sports on Fridays but with 180-day plan, they would miss more classroom time, perhaps lowering grades. The students in Logan go longer hours on the 4 days they are in school.

There is a very colloquial quote that speaks volumes regarding this situation: Don't mess with success.

Please know that I oppose the proposed changes and increase in instructional time.

S. Darlene Oliver, RN, WOCRN

<><

To Judge a person by their weakest link or deed
Is like judging the power of the ocean by ONE wave!

From: [Anthony Alaniz](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regarding 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:17:46 PM

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

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today to voice my opposition the proposed rule change 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements. I am a parent of a teenager that has grown up in the Las Cruces public school district. I am also a parent of two young children in the Los Alamos public school district.

As a parent and an informed voter, there are several concerns I have with this rule change and how it will impact our schools.

The new rule would require districts to provide 1140 hours of instruction AND a minimum of 180 days each school year. House Bill 130 does not state a minimum number of days, it only counts hours. Professional development time is not allowed to be counted as part of instructional time. Not counting hours or professional development time could require additional days to be added to teacher contracts. This increase of days could cause increased stress on employees' personal schedule, resulting in increased burnout and decreased employee retention.

The requirement that students are in school 5 days a week must have a minimum of 5.5 hours at elementary and 6.5 hours at secondary could greatly disrupt scheduling. One example is that half days that allowed for professional development time to take place in our district would not be viable under the new rule change. The new law that went into effect for the 2023-24 school year already caused quite an impact to all districts across the state. Massive changes had to be made to school hours and number of days. The rule change will again cause changes for the 2024-25 school year. One year is not enough to see the effect that changed many, if not all, of the state's school schedules had on students and employees. The schedule changes have the potential to not only affect the school, but county services (such as bus routes/times), and after school programs as well.

In conclusion, I am concerned that the new law and this rule change are not based on evidence that shows a benefit for our students and I oppose the proposed rule change 6.10.5 NMAC.

From: [Jessica Freer](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:22:08 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I hope that you will take the time to hear the concerns of those speaking up. The proposed changes are drastic, and seriously potentially harmful to students AND staff. More contact hours does not = better outcomes. And in many cases is detrimental to the mental health in our students and teacher. 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. 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. PLEASE STOP and listen to these concerns. Listen to teachers. Listen to students. Please take into account their concerns.

Sincerely,

An EXTREMELY concerned parent of two already stressed and anxiety driven high school and middle school students.

PLEASE DO NOT ADD ANY MORE UNNECESSARY STRESS!

From: [Joe Guillen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements and 6.19.4 NMAC, Accreditation Procedures
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:22:15 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[NMSBA Letter to Secretary Romero Re School Calendar and Accreditation Rules.pdf](#)

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NMPED Officials

Attached please find official comments from the New Mexico School Boards Association on the following proposed rules:

6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
6.19.4 NMAC, Accreditation Procedures

Joe Guillen
Executive Director
New Mexico School Boards Association
(505) 983-5041 office
(505) 470-3967 cell
jguillen@nmsba.org



450 Strong!

New Mexico School Boards Association

Joe Guillen, Executive Director

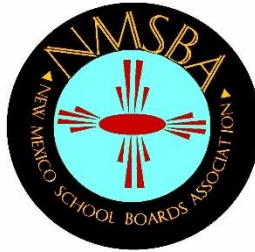
Email: jguillen@nmsba.org

Carolyn Mole, Finance Director

Email: cmole@nmsba.org

Lorraine Vigil, Program Director

Email: lvigil@nmsba.org



300 Galisteo Street, Suite 204

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Phone: (505) 983-5041

Fax: (505) 983-2450

Webpage: www.nmsba.org

Email: nmsba@nmsba.org

December 14, 2023

Dr. Arsenio Romero, Secretary of Education

c/o Policy and Legislative Affairs Division

New Mexico Public Education Department

300 Don Gaspar Ave., Room 121

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Subject: Comments on 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
and 6.19.4 NMAC, Accreditation Procedures

Dear Secretary Romero,

The New Mexico School Boards Association has served as a leader in New Mexico's public education system for over six decades. The Association was born out of a simple premise of visionary school board members, to advocate for local control of public education and to offer programs and assistance to local boards of education.

The Association serves as the statewide voice of 89 boards of education. The collective influence of close to 450 school board members enables the Association to work toward the benefit of the elementary and secondary public school system in New Mexico. The Association provides current information and advice on matters affecting school boards and cooperates with other educational and related organizations including the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) in promoting excellence in education.

School boards are not an accidental creation. Elected school board members serve their communities in several important ways.

- First and foremost, school boards look out for students. Education is not a line item on the school board's agenda—it is the only item.
- When making decisions about school programs, school boards incorporate their community's view of what students should know and be able to do.
- School boards are accessible to the public and accountable for the performance of their schools.
- School boards are the education watchdog for their communities, ensuring that students get the best education for the tax dollars spent.

Christine Ludi
President

Pauline Jaramillo
President-Elect

Marvyn Jaramillo
Vice-President

Kevin Mitchell
Secretary-Treasurer

Dymorie Maker
Past-President

NMSBA Comments on Proposed Rule 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements

Lack of Partnership/Consultation

Governance must be a balanced partnership between state and local officials responsible for public education in New Mexico. There should be no surprises in public education. NMPED, school superintendents and school board members should be constantly communicating and sharing ideas and concepts, problems and solutions. The proposed rules were brought upon local public schools with no warning by the NMPED or input from any of our education stakeholders. This lack of consultation with local school leaders is a direct violation of this balanced partnership.

Timing of Release

The timing and release of the proposed rule in the middle of the school year, not even five months into the new school year, fails to consider the existing workload of our school superintendents, administrators, principals, teachers and students. Nor does it consider the tremendous time and energy and funding resources expended this year to implement school hours legislation passed by the 2023 State Legislature. School officials should be allowed to determine the effectiveness and results of existing mandates before being forced to go through the calendar revision process again.

Regulatory Overreach/Legislative Intent

While NMPED has broad authority to promulgate administrative code, some of the provisions of the proposed rules appear to be directly in contradiction of statutory learning time provisions and legislative intent. The proposed rule requires over 50% of school weeks to consist of five days, thereby directly disregarding the legislature's intended flexibility in implementing the required 1,140 instructional hours annually, as mandated by House Bill 130. 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. These changes threaten to disrupt successfully established school calendars in 43 of our 89 school districts in New Mexico.

Local Decision Making

School boards and superintendents in 43 school districts have listened to their constituents and effectively established and operated a full-time 4-day per week schedule for many years. There is a profound concern that changes in these rules may lead to a loss of local control over educational decisions and undermine the unique needs and successful practices of our school

districts, especially in rural areas. We urge you 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 our school districts.

K-12 Plus Funding

The Legislature created the K-12 plus program during the 2023 legislative session. The statute provides thresholds for instructional days above which school districts and charter schools are eligible for additional funding. The law specifically calls out thresholds for four-day school weeks, signaling intent that there is no requirement for a five-day week to be eligible for funding, as long as school districts and charter schools are meeting statutory instructional hour requirements. NMPED's proposal that requires a minimum of 180 days to be eligible for funding appears contradictory to statutory provisions and legislative intent.

NMPED's proposal requires secondary students to 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, work study program, or employment. The requirement exists regardless of a school's schedule or the number of credits a student is lacking for graduation.

NMSBA Comments on Proposed Rule 6.19.4 NMAC, Accreditation Procedures

Statutory Authorization

NMPED accreditation proposal consolidates many statutory and regulatory requirements into one process by which the department uses its statutory authority to review whether school districts meet those requirements and would now tie these requirements for a new purpose, accreditation, without statutory amendment or review.

Directing Use of Discretionary Funding

The proposed rule also directs school districts to budget at least as much money on specific programs – those aimed at special education, gifted education, and at-risk services – as is generated by corresponding units in the funding formula. As with the department's proposed instructional time, this proposal is contradictory to current statute, which specifically designates funds generated by the Public School Finance Act as "discretionary" to school boards and governing bodies of charter schools.

Consequences of Public School Disapproval Accreditation Status

The proposal rule specifies that a local school district or public school that is not accredited by the department would subject to several punitive actions including the suspension of the school board, superintendent and principal. We are concerned that there is no process outlined or included in the rule that would ensure this is a last step in a graduated collaborative process. Suspending local elected school board members, superintendents and principals for a purpose (accreditation) not included in statute is concerning.

Conclusion

In light of these serious concerns, school board members from across New Mexico stand united with school superintendents in opposition to the rules as published and request that we have collaborative dialogue on the proposed changes, considering the importance of local control over educational practices and the preservation of educational models that have been effective in our districts.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and for your continued support of education in New Mexico.

Sincerely,



Christine Ludi
State President



Joe Guillen
Executive Director

From: [Ian Kirkes](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] About NMAC Rule 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:24:14 PM

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

My first and greatest concern is the change of required credits for graduation. Currently, The LAHS runs off of a block schedule that provides 3.5 classes a grade. This schedule is beneficial for both my fellow students and me, as many students have after-school classes and activities that are often highly important to us. I am currently enrolled in an honors class and am planning to do AP classes, which I can mainly take due to the flexible schedule that LAHS provides. The 6.10.5 rule change would remove two important parts of the current schedule that would powerfully impact the Los Alamos community. By requiring that students take 4 credit-bearing classes a semester, the school would get out at a time that has at least two problems that could affect me, and possibly more students. Firstly, the proposed school time does not allow students to travel to other activities and even after school employment in a timely manner, leading to possible dischargement from part time occupations and activities. Secondly, the proposed school time would mean that upperclassmen would lose their ability to have free periods at school, which could mean the loss of crucial study time for more difficult classes. LAHS is known for the strong community of AP classes that students succeed in, but by removing the spare time that students may rely on to do so would cripple the AP community. My third concern relates to the change of credits required for graduation. Currently, LAHS requires 24 credits to graduate, and allows for many opportunities beneficial to the students. The first of these opportunities is the freedom to choose many different extracurricular classes and hone individual skills. Increasing the credit requirement from 24 to 32 would mean that instead of being able to focus on individual interests and career paths, students would be forced to meet the requirements and all graduate with less freedom and creative decisions. The advantage that comes with a 24 credit graduation is the presence of free periods which are highly beneficial in taking on internships and out of school educational classes such as dual credit. By losing these free periods, some students will be unable to complete their desired goals. My fourth concern is with elementary schools being required to meet 5.5 hours a day of educational time. In Los Alamos, elementary schools have early release on wednesdays that serves multiple purposes. Firstly, the early releases allow for elementary students to have extra time free on Wednesdays to connect with family, friends, and their activities. Secondly, on Wednesdays, elementary school teachers use the early release to have time to be able to plan and prep lessons and educational plans. This time is important for teachers to be able to review lesson plans and be able to meet their students' needs and education. By removing the ability to have this time, teachers may become overworked and be unable to prepare especially beneficial lessons, and students will lose important time that they need to develop and spend time away from computer screens and learn core standards.

 This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [陈怡然](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:25:45 PM

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

To whom it may concern,

More contact hours does not equal better outcomes and in many cases it is harmful to mental health of 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 effortless.

My family are strongly against NMAC Rule 6.10.5 and believe this is NOT the right decision for New Mexico students. This will lead to a decrease in number of teachers, a higher dropout rate, and even greater mental health concerns among staff and students, instead of higher test scores, happier students, more balanced students, or families that can maintain this ridiculous schedule. PLEASE STOP and listen to families! Listen to teachers! Listen to students!

Thanks,
Yiran

From: [ZOE BENT](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:26:46 PM

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

Hello, my name is Zoe B and I am currently enrolled in Los Alamos High School.

While I recognize the urgent need to improve public education in the state of New Mexico I would also like to bring up some concerns I have with the proposed changes

First of all, under section A of the requirements it is required that all students must attend a minimum of 4 instructional class periods per day. This would in effect be preventing students from "free" or "study hall" periods. While student education is important, free periods also have benefits. For example, for many students enrolled in a large number of AP classes or other classes with a high workload, free periods are a good time to work on homework and study for that class without having to do it all as homework. When students have substantial amounts of homework they are less likely to participate in extracurriculars or to stay up late into the night. Free periods are also useful to seniors who are often loaded with college and scholarship applications. A free period once again serves as a vital resource to give these students the time they need to get some work done.

The removal of free periods also takes students who had free periods and places them back in instructional settings. This has two possible impacts. One is an increase in class size, reducing the ability of teachers to give students more attention. This will likely have a negative impact on student performance and engagement within such classes. The second is that schools would need to hire more teachers, something that could prove to be a challenge during a time when schools already struggle to hire teachers.

Every school in New Mexico exists under different circumstances. For more rural schools, where students have long commutes to school, a 4-day school week may work better. Different circumstances can cause a lower amount of longer school days to be more effective, or the opposite could be true. The determination calendar structure is much more effective when it can be adapted based on the needs of a district.

In my observations, the cause of New Mexico's educational hardships does not stem from how long we are in school. It instead occurs due to lack of resources and absenteeism. Not every person in the state is able to have resources to study and learn outside of school. Not every person is able to get to school every day, be it a lack of transportation, household funds, or some other reason. Because of this, extending the school year is unlikely to make the needed impact on the education of New Mexico teens.

While I appreciate the work being done to improve the schools in our state, I feel that a "one size fits all" approach will not have the desired effect.

Thank You, Zoe B

--

Zoe B
Los Alamos High School

From: [Tenzin Moe](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements Comments.
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:29:59 PM

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

Hello and good day to whomever this message concerns. I am sending in my comments on the proposed rule change 6.10.5 NMAC to share my opinion of the change as a student of Los Alamos High School.

My first and greatest concern is the change of required credits for graduation. Currently, The LAHS runs off of a block schedule that provides 3.5 classes a grade. This schedule is beneficial for both my fellow students and I, as many students have after school classes and activities that are often highly important to us. I am currently enrolled in dual credit classes, of which I can mainly take due to the flexible schedule that LAHS provides. The 6.10.5 rule change would remove two important parts of the current schedule that would powerfully impact the Los Alamos community. By requiring that students take 4 credit bearing classes a semester, school would get out at a time that has at least two problems that could affect myself, and possibly more for other students. Firstly, the proposed school time does not allow students to travel to other activities and even after school employment in a timely manner, leading to possible dischargement from part time occupations and activities. Secondly, the proposed school time would mean that upperclassmen would lose their ability to have free periods at school, which could mean the loss of crucial study time for more difficult classes. LAHS is known for the strong community of AP classes that students succeed in, but by removing the spare time that students may rely on to do so would cripple the AP community.

My second concern relates to the change of credits required for graduation. Currently, LAHS requires 24 credits to graduate, and allows for many opportunities beneficial to the students. The first of these opportunities is the freedom to choose many different extracurricular classes and hone individual skills. Increasing the credit requirement from 24 to 32 would mean that instead of being able to focus on individual interests and career paths, students would be forced to meet the requirements and all graduate with less freedom and creative decisions. The second opportunity that comes with a 24 credit graduation is the presence of free periods which are highly beneficial in taking on internships and out of school educational classes such as dual credit. By losing these free periods, some students will be unable to complete their desired goals.

My third concern is with elementary schools being required to meet 5.5 hours a day of educational time. In Los Alamos, elementary schools have early release on wednesdays that serves multiple purposes. Firstly, the early releases allow for elementary students to have extra time free on Wednesdays to connect with family, friends, and their activities. Secondly, on Wednesdays, elementary school teachers use the early release to have time to be able to plan and prep lessons and educational plans. This time is important for teachers to be able to review lesson plans and be able to meet their students' needs and education. By removing the ability to have this time, teachers may become overworked and be unable to prepare especially beneficial lessons, and students will lose important time that they need to develop and spend time away from computer screens and play outside.

To conclude this message, I would like to thank you for reading and considering my

comments and concerns. I feel that this rule change would have overall negative impacts on the schools of Los Alamos and the community as a whole, and believe that this proposal should not be passed.

Thank you again for your time,
An LAHS student.



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Warniment, Gwen](#)
To: [Romero, Arsenio, PED](#); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Rule 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:30:18 PM
Attachments: [LESC Opposition to 180 Day Rule Final Version 12.18.23.pdf](#)

Dear Public Education Department, Policy and Legislative Affairs Division:

Please review the attached letter on behalf of several members of the New Mexico Legislative Education Study Committee.

The signed members of the committee would like to convey their opposition to proposed rule 6.10.5 as a collective.

Cordially,
Gwen Perea Warniment
Director, LESC

Gwen Perea Warniment, PhD
Director | [Legislative Education Study Committee](#)
Cell: 505.699.1571



LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

REPRESENTATIVES

G. Andrés Romero, Chair
Brian G. Baca
Joy Garratt
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325 Don Gaspar, Suite 100
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Phone: (505) 986-4591
Gwen Perea Warniment, Ph.D.
Director

SENATORS

William P. Soules, Vice Chair
Craig W. Brandt
Harold Pope
Mimi Stewart

December 15, 2023

Dear Secretary Romero,

The undersigned members of the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) strongly oppose the Public Education Department's proposed adoption of 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements.

House Bill 130 (HB130) was intended to address three critical educational issues: increased learning time for students, increased and embedded professional development for educators, and local flexibility so school boards and school officials could tailor school time for local needs.

The provisions of that legislation made the Legislature's intentions clear. School districts and charter schools should provide the minimum 1,140 hours of instructional time. Professional work time, 60 hours for elementary schools and 30 hours for secondary schools, can and should count toward those instructional hour requirements. The Legislature was clear and intentional in the omission of school day requirements. Local decision-making should be maintained.

School districts and charter schools that chose to offer more than 155 days, for four-day school week school districts, and 180 days, for five-day school week schools, would generate additional K-12 funding units. The Legislature has repeatedly elected to allow the continuation of four-day school weeks.

The provisions of HB130 were not arbitrary or decided upon haphazardly. They are the product of bipartisan discussions that culminated during the 2022 legislative interim and included input from educational stakeholders across the state, including school boards, superintendents, educators, and labor unions.

The proposals included in 6.10.5 NMAC fly in the face of legislative intent and betray the trust of those education stakeholders.

The following is a list of specific committee concerns with the proposed rule.

- The mandate of 180 instructional days for all school districts and charter schools does not align with the Legislature's clear intention allow local flexibility while still requiring 1,140 instructional hours with no requirement for a specific number of days.
- The requirement that at least 50 percent of school weeks be five-day weeks effectively eliminates four-day school weeks. While four-day school weeks might be technically possible under this provision, the practical implications of this provision would be make four-day schools weeks practically impossible to implement.
- The requirement of 180 days to be eligible for K-12 Plus funding is clearly contradictory to statutory provisions making four-day week school districts eligible for such funding.

- The requirement that professional work take place “before, after, or on a day other than the required minimum 180 instructional days,” is not aligned with the Legislature’s intent to allow professional work to be embedded within the school day.
- The requirement that secondary students attend at least four class periods per day fails to account for many school districts’ and charter schools’ current schedules and may actually stifle school innovation.

LESC is committed to improving education for New Mexico’s students. Its work and the work of the larger Legislature to increase school funding, improve educator training and salaries, and provide innovative strategies for student engagement and school improvement are proof of that commitment.

We continue to be willing to partner with the Public Education Department and the executive to do what’s right for New Mexico’s children. We do not believe the proposed provisions of 6.10.5 NMAC are that right thing, and we remain in firm opposition.

Respectfully,

Rep. G. Andres Romero, LESC Chair

Rep. Brian G. Baca

Sen. Craig W. Brandt

Rep. Joy Garratt

Rep. Susan Herrera

Rep. Raymundo Lara

Rep. Tanya Mirabal Moya

Sen. Harold Pope

Rep. John Block

Rep. Ambrose Castellano

Rep. Yanira Gurrola

Rep. Jenifer Jones

Sen. Shannon Pinto

From: [Dalynn Dowling](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Extension...
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:30:21 PM

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

To whom it concerns:

As a parent and an educator I feel the need to speak out against adding more school calendar days and hours as current research does not in fact support or guarantee improved academics. Things that do however support improved academics are regular attendance, student engagement, smaller class sizes, rigorous learning, highly trained and qualified teachers, access to quality learning materials/manipulatives as well as support within our local families and communities.

- Sincerely, Dalynn M. Dowling

From: [Nalani Kimball](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re changes to school year
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:30:47 PM

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

Good afternoon,

I am writing to you to tell you how much I disagree with your new proposed changes to NM education. I disagree with the addition of hours, and credits to graduate. I currently have a high school student who has worked hard taking French in the middle school and summer PE in order to have a free period his senior year because he knows he will have some burnout by then since he is also doing dual credit. It is unfair for you to spring these changes on the kids, teachers, staff and families. It's about quality of education not quantity just throwing more hours and credits at kids is not a solution. A

Where will the \$ come from to pay for additional teachers, staff and bus drivers to accommodate this, assuming you can find people to do the jobs.

Do better PED

Sent from my iPhone

From: [LISA MICHAUD](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Keep the schedule with the districts!
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:30:49 PM

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

There are so many remote areas in our state and each district should have the opportunity to serve their students in a way they know is best. Please don't take that away and make it a universal schedule dictated by the state. We are not a one size fits all! We need to remember our communities, families, students and teachers!!

Lisa Michaud

--

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: [Elijah Hounshel](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule change feedback
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:31:16 PM

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Dear New Mexico Public Education Department:

Hello, I am a 11th grade Los Alamos High School student, and I am writing this email to inform you as to my opinion on the proposed amendments to 6.10.5 NMAC, and how they are, while well intentioned, ridiculous, and problematic.

The changes to school schedule requirements will mean that schools will, A, not be able to have a four day week, or any other weekly schedule than the 'normal' 4 period 5 day. B, it would also mean there would be no free periods, something many students use to work, and study. C, this is anecdotal, however, the budgets take in the ballpark of 8 months meaning there isn't enough time to fix the schedule, *period*, not including that it follows after redoing the schedule. D, the additional school hours, classes, and lack of free time will worsen the already horrifying depression and drug use problem our state has.

To elaborate on the above points:

I brought up point A, as four day weeks, while not preferred by every school, allow schools to save money, improve student attendance, and in cases like Barranca Mesa it improves teacher preparedness.

B, free periods are really important for students, as it allows them to work on homework, go to work, and relax during the stressful week. Many of my fellow students depend on having a free period to do homework, without having additional work to do.

C, I effectively covered the topic prior, but I will further add that if you do pass this I beg of you to delay the start date for the bill passing, to the 25/26 school year, in order to allow schools the time to make a well thought out schedule, and plan

D, while I can't find any direct studies on this topic, amongst adults there is a negative correlation between the amount of work hours and mental health of the individuals. It is reasonable to extend this to students, who in many respects are similar to adults. There is also a similar correlation between the mental health of an individual, and their drug use.

Instead of the currently proposed changes something I as a student believe would improve the education standards, would be to push back school start times for high school students, and to reduce the number of hours/days required to allow students to learn better for the fewer hours they have, improve their mental health, and allow them to focus of work, witch is needed in many communities of new mexico

From: [Emily Wildau](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Public Comment 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:32:03 PM
Attachments: [NMVC comment 6.10.5.pdf](#)

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

Good afternoon,

Attached is public comment in opposition to proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC from New Mexico Voices for Children.

Best,

Emily Wildau, MPP

(she, her, & [why this matters](#))

Senior Research & Policy Analyst/KIDS COUNT Coordinator
New Mexico Voices for Children
625 Silver Ave SW, Suite 195
Albuquerque, NM 87102
C: 575-910-8769

From: Emily Wildau
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:29 PM
To: feedback@ped.nm.gov <feedback@ped.nm.gov>
Subject: Public Comment 6.10.5 NMAC

Good afternoon,

Attached is public comment in opposition to proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC from New Mexico Voices for Children.

Best,

Emily Wildau, MPP

(she, her, & [why this matters](#))

Senior Research & Policy Analyst/KIDS COUNT Coordinator
New Mexico Voices for Children
625 Silver Ave SW, Suite 195
Albuquerque, NM 87102
C: 575-910-8769

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December 18, 2023

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To the Policy and Legislative Affairs Division, New Mexico Public Education Department:

New Mexico Voices for Children submits this public comment in opposition to proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC. Our main concern is that this rule is being proposed before there has been one full school year under the new instructional hour requirements as passed by the New Mexico Legislature during the 2023 regular session (2023 N.M. Laws, ch. 19, § 1; 2023 N.M. Laws, ch. 84, § 22). We recognize that the PED has reviewed current district calendars and found a number with fewer days, but it is unclear whether these districts are meeting the new instructional hour requirements. Additionally, there is no evidence of data indicating the 2023-2024 district calendars are impacting student outcomes at this time. Rapid changes like this are detrimental to educators and administrators, particularly when the majority are concerned about class sizes and chronic absenteeism as primary challenges to improving student outcomes.

This rule also makes changes to the intent of H.B. 130, particularly by changing the criteria for hours dedicated to professional work so that it must occur before or after school, or on days beyond the 180 mandated days. H.B. 130 specifically allows for 60 instructional hours at the elementary level and 30 instructional hours at the middle and high school levels to be embedded in the day to ensure that educators have time to complete required training, collaborate, and develop as professionals. Adding instructional hours and allowing for embedded professional work hours was intended to support educators in improving the quality of instruction so classroom time is more beneficial to students and not simply an increase in days at the expense of opportunities to improve quality. By requiring professional work to occur before or after school, or on days beyond the 180 mandated for instruction, this rule not only conflicts with statute, but it may cause additional financial burden for districts.

Additionally, H.B. 130 created specific calculations to incentivize additional days through K-12 Plus program units, and the Legislature included calculations for districts operating four-day school weeks. Leaving this out of the proposed rule and requiring all districts to shift to a 180-day calendar unnecessarily removes local school district authority and eliminates a critical opportunity for families and communities to provide input and feedback for their children's school schedule. Under the current rule, local boards have to have verification of substantial community support for implementation of school calendars, and ultimately, the PED does not have similar support to make this change.

Local districts are also facing the imminent cliff that will occur in funding as pandemic-era federal support ends. There are critical budget issues that districts are and will be facing, and if the additional funding through K-12 Plus is not effectively incentivizing districts to add additional days, then the PED and Legislature should continue to review this model and determine if the program units generated through K-12 Plus are simply not enough to cover the full costs of additional days, or if there are other factors limiting uptake even with the changes made in H.B. 130.

Ultimately, the approach of mandating a 180-day school year removes local input that is critical to developing the best schedule to meet the unique needs

of students in each district and will further strain the educator workforce. NM Voices views this rule as premature and potentially damaging to any efforts at collaboration between the PED, the Legislature, district leadership, and community stakeholders.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature, on the left, is 'Bill Jordan' and the second, on the right, is 'Farah Council'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Jordan and Farah Council
Interim Co-Directors

From: [Elizabeth Boyce](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Desert Willow Family School
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:32:47 PM

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

Hello,

We are a Desert Willow Family School family. We have had two daughters attend (they're now in college), and currently have a son attending 1st grade with intent to continue to 8th.

Please allow Desert Willow Family School to continue its rigorous curriculum with support from parents as teachers. Our family believes strongly in the public school system and supports the desires of APS to ensure academic excellence for all of its students. However, we also wish to ensure that Desert Willow Family school is able to continue considering homeschool hours as regular schooling hours.

We have been in the unique position to watch the curriculum strengthen over the years and appreciate the fantastic support families get in understanding how to help their students learn while home. The program, parent learning, and the teachers are excellent.

Desert Willow has shown the 50/50 and 80/20 curriculums work, as demonstrated with its ranking of #10 among NM Elementary Schools. We strongly believe parent involvement in our children's education has supported their success and wish for this to continue with our son who is just beginning his public school journey.

Please protect the charter school's control over its weekly schedules and protected homeschool time.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,
Elizabeth & Emiliano

From: [ELISSA JONES](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:33:40 PM

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Hello,

I am Elissa Jones and I am a senior this year. Though NMAC Rule 6.10.5 will not affect me, I would like to share my thoughts on behalf of my younger siblings.

My siblings and I go to school at Los Alamos Public schools, where for secondary school, we have 3.5 credits a day.

From my experience, having 3.5 credits a day results in a minimum of an hour of homework a day. If we were to have 4 credits a day, we would have very little time for other activities. Many athletes in my school would not be able to keep up with this new workload. Another issue with the 4 credit hours a day is that my school would need more teachers or have bigger class sizes. My school does not have enough room for more teachers and we already have class sizes of 20-30 people. Having 20-30 people in a class makes it hard to get help from a teacher. If we increase class sizes, this will become even harder and make teachers overwhelmed.

This rule will no longer allow districts to include professional development as a part of the required instructional hours. This will make schools have to longer, but take away much needed prep time for teachers. Teachers at my school already get overwhelmed with having to plan, grade, and teach with the planning time that they get.

This year, and last, I had the privilege to have free periods. These times not only allowed me to work on my school work without getting behind, but also allowed me to take on dual credit classes. I fear that with NMAC Rule 6.10.5, many students that have worked hard and are ready for a break, will burn themselves out with the continuous heavy workload.

Overall, this NMAC Rule 6.10.5 has a lot of issues that will negatively affect many parts of our teaching system today, that outweigh the positives. In the long run, students, teachers, and the community will suffer if the rule is enforced.

Thank you for reading and considering my thoughts,

Elissa Jones



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Nikki Cunningham](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to NMAC Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:34:33 PM

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PED--

Please, I beg of you...don't add more hours/days to New Mexico school calendars.

Succinctly, my reasons why **NO** to increased hours:

- Increased quantity does not equal increased quality.
- Schools(teachers, students, and parents) are still recovering from COVID trauma and staffing shortages.
- This change will incentivize teachers to quit.
- This will increase mental health problems coupled with more negative attitude toward school.

All NM school districts are different with different community needs. I am a parent of a Los Alamos sophomore and he and our school don't need extra hours. Kids need the extra time for sports, counseling, tutoring, jobs, simply and good schoolwork/life balance.

These changes will harm even small communities like Los Alamos who will see increase staffing shortages or increased teachers who don't like or care about their jobs.

Please don't do this. We just had district calendars changes for FY23/24. We are not ready for this, and it will have NEGATIVE consequences for parents, students, teachers, and local administrators. We know what we need, just like Hobbs or Maxwell knows what they need.

Thank you for this consideration.

Nikki Cunningham

From: [Holli Cantrell](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regulation 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:41:32 PM

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I strongly oppose the adoption of the proposed revisions to Regulation 6.10.5 in the NM Administrative Code.

Despite state law 22-2-8.1 NMSA 1978 granting local school districts the flexibility to design their own calendars, 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 as illegal and out of alignment with state statute. Requiring all schools to comply with a uniform calendar rule suggests a "one size fits all" approach to account for the diversity of the various school districts in our state, both demographically and academically. I am a kindergarten teacher in a small district that is on a 4-day school week. Our class sizes, students needs, and test scores, to only mention a few, do not fit under this "one size fits all" umbrella. We are a high performing, nationally recognized school. We are meeting the needs of OUR children and do not need to be forced into a uniform calendar.

Lengthening our calendars and then adding on professional days for teachers will only move some teachers to retire or change careers. With a national shortage of teachers, I encourage you to look at the number of "highly qualified" and "licensed" teachers actually in our classrooms. The teacher shortage is a huge problem and this revision will only make it worse. I am blessed to teach in my district and have the same schedule as my personal children. If we move to a 5-day week and longer calendar, I will consider retiring early and changing careers.

Districts should be able to use their own authority to establish their own instructional calendars that best meet the needs of their students. My district has a 97% graduation rate and elementary test scores that double the state average. Let us choose what is best for our students and staff and decide for ourselves what best serves the needs of our community.

Holli Cantrell
Kindergarten Teacher
Logan Municipal Schools

From: [Britton Lambson](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 concerns
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:41:37 PM

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

NMPED,

I strongly oppose the proposed changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements".

Our teachers, staff and students do not need more hours in school. They need more support and resources available to them without strings attached.

The proposed rule changes will increase current burn out and frustration for students and staff.

I feel that the individual districts have the best interests of their communities at heart and understand what will best meet their needs. It is not required of the state to impose such strict requirements on the schools. These rules will add a strain to our teachers whom already have so much responsibility, allowing their professional development to count as school hours is beneficial for the staff and the students as those teachers will be better prepared to educated and support their students. The rules requiring more credits for High School graduation are also detrimental to our students and staff. As students prepare for their next chapter the real-life skills of employment are key to help students transition this becomes a more difficult goal if they are not given the option to have free periods to find employment. Please do not implement these changes to NMAC Rule 6.10.5

Thank you for your time.

From a concerned, Parent, Educator and Community Member.

From: [Morgan White](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Input to hearing on 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:41:39 PM
Attachments: [comments2.docx](#)

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

Please find my statement attached. Thank you for the opportunity to speak today.

Best regards,
Morgan White
Los Alamos Resident and Parent

My name is Morgan White, I'm a parent of three students in the Los Alamos Public Schools. I came today because I felt it was important that you heard the voice of at least some parents, and I could be one of them. I am worried that the voice of parents may not be heard as loudly as it should because of the midday timing of this hearing. Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments.

I'd like to start by asking, whatever you decide, please keep our students best interest at heart.

I am sure that everyone agrees that any changes that you make should enhance their education. So surely any changes you make should ensure that "First, do no harm".

In these rules it discusses that instructional hours may involve "research- or evidence-based" curriculum. I guess being from Los Alamos it is not surprising to you that I ask you to do a bit of research regarding the changes to them. I have not seen a cost benefit analysis of these changes, which is particularly concerning as they seem to involve unfunded mandates that cause financial harm to communities in addition to potentially causing educational and mental harm to students.

All too often our good intentions can have negative consequences that actually hurt the very people we intend to help.

In Los Alamos we are very fortunate to have a strong school system. The rapid rollout of these changes will require our district to make many difficult changes with little time to prepare or adapt to them. It seems obvious listening here today we are not alone in voicing such concerns.

I'd like you to consider two aspects of our schedule. Our elementary schools have a history of half-day Wednesdays allowing enrichment activities for students and teachers. Our block schedule at our middle- and high-school are one of the well-established ways to give students the extended time to explore these subjects. I hear today and appreciate many other schools use of four-day weeks.

These proposed changes force us all to adopt a one-size fits all school day that likely will not work as well for any of us.

Other effects of these changes are more insidious but potentially more detrimental.

These changes will cause our teachers to work harder at tasks that it is not clear we need, and likely require that we hire more teachers to do so. Los Alamos teachers are likely to do what they do well more poorly when given less time in their days, and many great teachers are likely to quit and not be there at all. This does not help our students.

More than 90% of our school students complete their required curriculum and graduate, and they appreciate the flexibility of our schedules to pursue their passions, to become themselves, be it through traditional classes or apprenticeships, but also music, sports, or other needs. I am concerned that these changes will harm their mental health, forcing them to do work they do not value and is not required, in an environment that will be more stress, and forcing them to miss the opportunity to pursue what is important to them and their development.

Please take the time to understand how these changes make the outcomes for all our students better before acting on this ruling.

Again, I would like to thank all you who work so hard to help our students, please continue to look out for their welfare.

From: [Teresa Perez](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:43:25 PM

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

To whom it may concern, this email is in regards to the rule 6.10.5 being proposed that will change our school week from 4 to 5 days.

We moved from Texas to New Mexico about a year ago and specifically to Ruidoso because my little brother attends capitan where the school week is mon-thur. Our 3 children now attend capitan and get excellent attention from their teachers because of the 4 day school week. Our teachers and kids are able to get the rest they need to do well in the classroom and we are so thankful for that.

If our weeks change to 5 days we are not sure we will continue to keep our kids in NM schools and may switch to homeschool.

Perez family - capitan elementary school

Sent from my iPhone

From: melissasiliceo97@gmail.com
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Against new NMPED proposed requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:44:43 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 parent in the Clovis municipal schools district. I am opposed to the proposed requirements that NMPED are putting forth of 180 day school year. The current 1140 hours of instructional time gives individual school districts the ability to design a school calendar that works for our communities. The New Mexico school instructional time was already adjusted according to legislation in the spring and after school districts opposed the additional days, the decision was made for the 1140 hours of instructional time, which allows local school districts flexibility. The NMPED is overstepping their authority by trying to add in these additional days without going through the New Mexico legislative process. I'm opposed to the proposal by the NMPED and stand with the local school districts.

Sincerely,
Melissa siliceo
CMS parent Clovis, NM

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Sharla Gibbons](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:46:19 PM

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.

From: [Srinivasan, Gowri](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to proposed changes
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:48:39 PM

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

Hello

As a parent of a high schooler at Los Alamos High School, I am very disappointed to see more changes being proposed to the school year. Our schools have barely adjusted to the requirements from last year. If anything, the changes have been more disruptive than any benefit from additional class room time because of the lack of flexibility in time for teachers to receive training and strategize. The block schedule has been working very well for older kids because they get to focus on fewer topics in any given day rather than switch their attention constantly. We see this occasionally when making up an unscheduled day off like a snow day, which necessitates a 7 period schedule. My son does quite well in academics and he finds it hard to keep up with multiple subjects in a day, not to mention the amount of time that would be required for doing homework. I imagine it must be similarly hard for teachers to switch between teaching multiple sessions a day, and be able to get in depth into a topic. The proposed changes would necessitate a 7 period day, and would most certainly lower performance, hitting the kids who are already struggling the hardest. There are many more reasons to oppose the proposed changes. Side effects would lead to larger class sizes and teachers not being able to give attention to each kid. When the teachers and parents feel overwhelmingly strongly that these proposed changes would NOT be beneficial, I humbly submit that it is time for NMPED to take notice and listen.

Thanks,
Gowri

RWCS

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 our concerns regarding the proposed rule on instructional time requirements (6.10.5 NMAC) and respectfully request the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) revoke the proposal as mentioned above. The legislature recently debated calendar reform, which has been implemented in schools for six months. There was significant debate on the calendar reform legislation in the 2023 legislative session. That debate led to a compromise on legislation that the Governor signed. We acknowledge the department's commitment to enhancing educational outcomes. However, given the recency of the new legislation and the Department's lack of statutory authority to execute this rule as proposed, we request that PED revoke this proposed rule and go through the legislative process to meet these requirements.

Direct Impacts to Our School

Roots and Wing Community School (RWCS), a K-8th grade, state-authorized charter school, is considered a 4-day/week school for calendaring purposes. This year, with the mandated calendar change last year, we are currently operating with 54% of our weeks as 5-day weeks with 171 student contact days meeting the required 1140 contact hour mandate. The majority of our students use a rural transportation system bus for transportation, and parents drive the rest. Our school hours are dictated by the bus schedule, which provides us with a fixed 6.5-hour school day. In addition to all the concerns that this rule proposes for all schools, we will be additionally penalized by enacting this rule as it currently reads.

1. We will lose over \$92,000 (approximately 9% of our operating budget) in K-12 Plus funding. We will have to add nine (9) days to our calendar just to make 180 days, eliminating us from participating in the K-12+ program again. This will take us to 1,199 hours! So we are adding nine (9) days and 58.5 instructional hours to our calendar AND having our budget REDUCED!
2. Last year, we had to add a net of seven (7) work days to our teacher contracts, so we added a stipend contract to all teaching staff, paying them for the additional seven days with money from the K-12+ funding. This was an added expense of \$22,750.
3. With this proposal, unless we significantly cut the limited number of PD days the teachers have, we will again have to pay the teachers a stipend for extra days with little or no K-12 Plus funding. Cutting teacher PD days is not an answer to improving student achievement or training high-quality teachers. If we don't offer the stipend, teachers will likely leave as we would ask them to work more days with no salary increase from the previous year.

Remote Days Issue

Our school is located in the Foothills of the Sangre de Cristo mountains at 8,200 ft. in northern Taos county, where we get a lot of snow. Since most of our students use the RTD public transportation to come to school and parents drive the rest, we can not do delayed openings as no bus is scheduled at those times. Therefore, we must cancel school if the surrounding districts call for a delay, or we would have to require parents to drive all students to school during unsafe driving conditions. The pandemic taught us that we can effectively learn remotely on days otherwise lost. By restricting us from using remote learning days instead of canceling school and due to the increased number of school days required by this rule, we would have to add days at the end of the year instead of continuing our instruction. Students and parents will NOT send their students to school at the end of the year to do make-up days, causing them to be wasted and increasing our absenteeism rate. Please allow us to use this remote learning tool without restrictions for weather and unexpected shutdowns.

Loss of Local Control and Staffing Issues

We have been a 4-day school since the school's beginnings over 20 years ago. We participated in the ELTP program and used the extra funding to provide more student contact time, teacher PD time, and enrichment programs to benefit our students. We were a Spotlight school in 2022 and are currently ranked as Traditional, and we have not been on any corrective action plans. Additionally, we received a 5-year contract renewal and continue to score very high on our annual site reviews by CSD/PEC. But last year, due to the increased contact hours, we eliminated most of our teacher PD days, and because of state rules/mandates, we were forced to eliminate a robust after-school enrichment program for our students. We know what works for our students and want what is best for them, but the continued implementation of these one-size-fits-all regulations is detrimental to the students and staff you are trying to help. Allow us to be innovative and successful, and stop handcuffing us with rules and mandates that prevent us from best serving our students and staff. Increasing staff workloads and decreasing professional development time are not ways to retain staff. This is especially true in rural areas where staff must travel hours to receive medical or basic life needs services. Working them five days a week will require them to take more days off and out of their classrooms.

Impacts to All Schools

State law clearly states that rule cannot run further than statute: 14-4-5.7(A): "No rule is valid or enforceable if it conflicts with statute. A conflict between a rule and a statute is resolved in favor of the statute." Within the proposed rule, several new policies lack statutory authority for PED to provide the mandates in the proposed rule:

- a. Statute clearly allows for school districts to meet statutory hourly requirements without regard to school days. In fact, NMSA 22-2-8 only allows the Secretary to waive minimum requirements associated with school hours in certain circumstances. It's unclear where the authority for a maximum number of hours is allowed in law. The law does not allow the Secretary to make mandates in our analysis. The statute is silent on the length of the school week except for language surrounding K-12 Plus funding (NMSA 22-8-23.14), which states that schools operating on a 4-day school week must

have more than 156 school days to qualify for K12 Plus programming. This clearly provides for 4-day school weeks in law without any explicit authority for the secretary to mandate a length of school week. The proposed rule oversteps New Mexico school law by prescribing more than 50% of weeks to be five-day weeks. Further, the proposed rule mandates that schools must have 180 days to qualify for K-12 Plus funding, which directly contradicts the statute. It is essential to align the rule with statutory provisions on flexible scheduling for districts and charter schools. Revisiting the law to provide authority for the Secretary is necessary to implement the policy.

b. The proposed rule introduces maximum hours in a school day without explicit statutory authorization. Identifying the specific statutory provisions granting the Secretary the authority to establish such limits is imperative. Further, this section of the proposed rule would not apply to charter schools that exercise a nondiscretionary waiver associated with “Length of School Day” NMSA22-8B-5(c).

c. The rule mandates a 30-minute lunch period, which directly contradicts the 20-minute lunch period stipulated in statute (NMSA 22-13c-10). It is crucial to adhere to statutory limitations and recognize the bounds of PED's authority in prescribing lunch periods.

Moreover, the mandated requirement that secondary students attend a minimum of four courses per day (6.10.5.8(A) in the proposed rule) poses considerable challenges for dual-credit high schools. The potential impact on charter schools, exempt from course requirements through nondiscretionary waivers, and raises concerns about equitable application across all educational institutions. Should the proposed rule go through, this would be an area in which the state's public charter schools are exempt through non-discretionary waivers NMSA 22-8B-5(c).

The proposed rule does not seem to recognize the diversity of school performance across the state regardless of the school calendar. Some of the state's highest-performing schools are on 4-day calendars. Students will face unnecessary disruptions by modifying their calendars without a clear risk-based justification. Acknowledging the success of existing calendar structures and avoiding unnecessary changes that may adversely affect student outcomes is imperative.

Lastly, PCSNM has regularly called for collaboration on the issue of attendance/chronic absenteeism. Chronic absenteeism has hovered around 40%, and the average New Mexico student misses 10.5 days of school. Focusing on changing student attendance status, in conjunction with all education partners, would provide a more impactful change than further calendar change.

In light of these concerns, we urge the PED to reconsider the proposed rule, pursue calendar reform through the legislative process, and focus on leading New Mexico's communities in regularly getting our kids to school. This approach would provide the necessary statutory clarity and allow for comprehensive stakeholder engagement to address the diverse needs of our educational community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that the PED will carefully consider the implications of the proposed rule and work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop solutions that prioritize the best interests of our students and educators.

Yours sincerely,

Scotney Blackburn

Roots and Wings Community School President

sblackburn.gc@rwcs.org

(806)674-4330

From: [Ian Alexander](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); christine.chandler@nmlegis.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:51:54 PM

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Dear NMPED,

As a parent of a public school student and a New Mexican, I am concerned by PED's proposed changes. Last year, many communities were placed into a contentious and unnecessary situation when the legislature and governor mandated schedule changes without providing adequate time for implementation. School calendars, which should be made years in advance were forced to be altered in short order to accommodate short sighted state mandates. Rather than invest in programming, curricula, and staff, PED invested in more time, without considering how it would impact the schools. Student internships, intensive summer educational programs, summer camps, university programs for staff were all deprioritized so we could have more of the same. Education is a life long investment, not a race or a competition between states. Our children deserve a long term, well thought out, collaborative, iterative, and multi-faceted education strategy. Our educators deserve input into this process, and need support from our communities, government agencies, and politicians. Unfortunately, the current mandates seem to ignore students, educators, local school boards, local communities, in hopes of providing someone with a 30 second sound bite that has little to do with life long learning or life outcomes.

Thank you,
Ian Alexander

From: [Ed Gellis](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposed to New NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:54:55 PM

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I am a parent in the Los Alamos School District, and I ***strongly object*** to the new rules proposed in NMAC.

These changes are significant and impactful, and should be given more time for real public discussion.

Our district is doing very well, and these rules are likely to have unintended negative consequences.

I believe that these changes will bring harm, rather than benefit to our district.

Edward Gellis

From: [ZANE KRETZ](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Schedule
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:55:41 PM

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HI,

My name is Zane Kretz. I am a Junior at Los Alamos High School and **I am against the proposed change.** Los Alamos students are currently trying to sign up for classes for 2025 and I am planning on taking some more difficult classes for my senior year, including AP Calculus and some college classes. To cover for this I am going to have a free period so that I can work on the homework that I will get from these classes. With the current proposal, not only would I not be able to have the free period next year but I would also have to take two more classes than I had planned. This would increase the homework load drastically, which would limit time spent in extracurricular activities and with my own family. I have been a part of the school's theater club and E-Sports team and I don't want to be forced to stop these activities to keep up with homework. With that in mind, I hope you take this feedback into consideration and make the right decision.

Sincerely,
Zane Kretz
Los Alamos NM 87544
1319 3rd Street

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This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Evelena Pulsipher](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] public comment on a proposed rule change 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:55:49 PM

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Obviously, the NM PED does not have much teaching experience. Otherwise, they would know that more hours in school does not equal more learning. Stop thinking of school as day care and start thinking about what is best for students. There is so much research about student learning available. If breaks have been proven, repeatedly, to be highly beneficial to students retaining information, why is the NM PED discouraging them by not counting them as part of increased, mandatory, instructional time? Schools will be forced to limit recess and breaks to accommodate more instructional hours in the day. The school day will get longer, the school year will get longer with diminishing returns. Apply the research, encourage recess and breaks and more prep time.

Anyone that has ever taught knows the value of prep time. The more prepared a teacher is for the day, the more efficient the lesson. "More time in front of teachers" is only beneficial if those teachers have sufficient time to prepare for the lesson. Again, if you require students to "be in front of teachers" more, then there is not time for preparation, especially at the elementary level. When you make the days and school years longer, you have to account for teachers being able to plan lessons, grade papers, contact parents, and attend professional development. Teachers are people with a high energy job, they burn out too, and you can not expect them to take everything home day after day to do after school on their own time.

Each community has their own challenges and strengths. You should stop trying to fit everyone in the same mold, there is not, and never will be, a one-size-fits-all solution for education. If the 4-day school week is working in rural areas, and the data shows that it is, why are you trying to change it? Let it play out, see what kind of gains can be made, learn from it.

You are also hurting kids that take advantage of free periods to do other things like get a job. Obviously, you do not value the "after school job" education. Students can gain many basic work and life skills from their first jobs. The first time they have to deal with a nasty customer or disagree with their boss. They learn to budget their time to complete school work and have a job. The free period can also allow kids to complete their school work before they go to work, or participate in afterschool athletics. If this first job ends poorly and bridges are burnt, they have learned life lessons without hurting their career. If they learn these lessons later when they have bills to pay and in their professional field, the burnt bridges could be much harder to recover from. Many students do not need more time in math class, they need more time out in the real world, learning how to be a productive member of the community. They can do this with an afterschool job that might lead to a career that does not require a college degree.

A side note that I find confusing, if you require students to take 32 credit hours

through 4 years of high school, but they can graduate at 24 credit hours, how does that work? That is a whole years' worth of classes, why stick around?



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From: [IRINA MAIOROV](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:55:49 PM

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To whoever it may concern,

My name is Irina Maiorov and I am currently a student at Los Alamos High School in the school district of Los Alamos Public Schools. In regards to the proposed NMAC Rule I believe that there are many oversights. I understand that the new revisions are to help the current state of education but spending more time in a classroom is not going to help unless teachers know what they're doing. One of the biggest problems with New Mexican education is that many of the teachers don't know the content they're teaching or don't have the resources to properly teach it. Spending more time with teachers who don't know what they're teaching or how to teach is not going to improve a student's understanding. Additionally, many school districts do not have the funds to pay teachers, even with additional funding from the state.

Looking at this from another perspective, the new proposal will force kids to drop out of school. I am lucky that I get to say that education is my main concern as a 15 year old student but many in New Mexico do not have that luxury. Many students including those at Los Alamos High School have families relying on them to bring in income. This new addition is not improving the state of education but it's forcing students to choose between work and education. Adding more time into the school day and school year will leave what little time we already have after school to be used up by homework. For students whose families rely on them having a job, most will not be able to have both successful academics and a source of income. This proposed plan might work in less rural and poor states but New Mexico is not it. I hope you not only consider the downfall this rule will have towards learning in New Mexico but also on the personal and socioeconomic level.

I believe that if we wait 2-3 years to see how the current requirements have affected schools, test scores, happiness, etc, then we can modify the legislature. But for now, the idea is just unintelligent.

I truly hope that you look past whatever immediate benefits this plan proposes and look at the long standing defects. Please do not pass the NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements". I promise you that it will hurt more than it heals.

Sincerely,
Irina C Maiorov

--

Secretary/Treasurer for Class of 2026
Band Section Leader
Pronouns: She/her/hers

From: [Karyl Ann Armbruster](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] referencing "NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:59:06 PM

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What a dilemma ...how does NM stop being 50th in the nation in student achievement? It's so sad that we can no longer say "Thank goodness for Mississippi". Is increased time on task the only solution? I used to think so, but now I would urge you to have extended time in small groups with researched materials for those who need it in small classes..phonics only, and proven successful math instruction. This is what Mississippi did. Don't you wonder how all the physicists and chemists and medical doctors who are successful with the math they had as children (Oppenheimer, Fauci, the physicists at the National Labs?) Apparently what they had was fine. Why is it necessary to radically change what was taught?

And yes, as a special education teacher doing both inclusion and self contained for 39 years in three districts in two states, I am sure I have great insight into the matter. Per our Secretary's resume it appears he has spent a very limited number of years as a teacher in elementary school a long time ago because his goal was to be an administrator. He has been quite successful. I urge you to listen to teachers. As an aside, I began teaching in 1970 BEFORE IDEA in a poor area of N.Long Beach, CA where my kids were taxied to school. I think you get the idea. Later,I field tested DISTAR language for SRA with severely mentally disabled students (I had 12 in my class and an aide 2 hours a day). They made remarkable progress. Later I used DISTAR Reading, and the SRA series that began with Dan Can Fan the Man, and A Hen in a Fox's Den again with spectacular results. Finally, I used SRA Morphograph spelling and increased reading and spelling scores by 2-3 years in middle school in Fountain Valley, CA and Los Alamos Middle School in inclusion classes. Using Step Up to Writing in all of Los Alamos for a number of years, raised our writing scores. **All** of my 8th graders with learning disabilities passed the No Child Left Behind state writing test and the multiple choice/writing test in 2009, the year I retired. There are programs that have worked, but we seem to care more about publishers making money than research and prior results.

This new plan will increase the likelihood that fewer college graduates will go into teaching and increase the rate that teachers leave the profession. In my school district, Los Alamos, you have taken away the hours of prep for all elementary teachers whose students will no longer leave at noon on Wednesday. In addition, you have taken away for our diverse in and out of district students the ability to earn money towards college or to donate to the family because they will now have to take 4 classes a day. Since only 24 credits are needed to graduate many were able to work in the afternoon of their senior year to help themselves or their family. I would suggest that all high school students have to take a test yearly to see if they are proficient at a high school level and can enter college with no need for remedial classes. That can be done through various tests that are available **or** for those who took the ACT or SAT through those scores, no need to duplicate testing.

Finally, you have taken away the ability to block schedule that is done in both our middle school and high school. Much research has been done as I am sure you know on the benefits of more time on task and better preparation for college where classes are every other day.

I cannot stress enough how detrimental this plan to change how education is presented is. Obviously your hope is to help our NM kids do better.. Unfortunately this is not the answer. What about involving parents who chose to have children be responsible for them? What about requiring all non disabled students to be toilet trained before entering Kindergarten and maybe pre-K as private schools require? What about providing a list of what students should know before they arrive in K? Colors, prepositions...up/down, in/out, their name, some numbers etc.

Thank you for your continued concern about our NM children. It is truly inspirational.

Karyl Ann Armbruster

FMR District 4
NM Public Education Commissioner, Sec'y
Special ed teacher at Los Alamos Middle School
AFT local president

From: [Cohn, Mitzi S](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Cohn, Mitzi S](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:59:39 PM

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Please consider the following to the proposed school calendar requirement changes!

- Professional Development days are needed – please do not take those away, specifically to take time from the Teacher’s hard-working schedules, as it is. They will have to do P.D. time in the summer or on breaks. Please support our teachers – we need to retain them!
- Longer days during the week! --- please do NOT make elementary students have to do 5 full days of education. THEY have long days as it is (both student and teachers) and adding hours is not the solution!
- Plus, families have to accommodate with their employers now to change their work schedules – yes, I work on site all day every day --- and daycare arrangements will be impacted as well. This impact daycares, employees, employers, teachers, and students.

I hope the requirements will NOT be approved !

Thank you,

Mitzi Cohn

From: [Krista Gellis](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposed to New NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 4:59:45 PM

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I am a parent in the Los Alamos School District, and I am **opposed** to the new rules proposed in NMAC.

I don't want the PED to make changes like these. They should be left in the hands of each district.

I believe that these changes will bring harm, rather than benefit to our district.

Krista Gellis

From: [MICHELLE BJORKLUND](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] proposed changes in the 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 5:00:11 PM

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Hello,

I am writing to express my concern for the proposed changes to the school calendar requirements. The answer to improving student outcomes is not more days in the classroom, but rather strong attendance rules/laws in place that hold parents accountable for ensuring their children are at school, high quality instructors, high quality materials, smaller class sizes, and support from families and communities.

Our schools continue to make growth and see improvements with our current 170 day calendar which meets the minimum hour requirement for state law. Local districts know what is best for their students. Many of the neighboring school districts to our operate on a 4 day school week and continually rank among some of the top schools and districts in the state. Please keep school calendar decisions at the local level.

We are already facing a teacher shortage. This year I have heard teachers complain about the length of our school year already. I believe the addition of 10 instructional days to our calendar will result in some teachers leaving the state. It will also create an added expense for districts, as teachers will not accept these extra days without extra compensation.

As a parent, my children are already bored in school and adding additional days to their calendar will not be a good thing for them. Please consider these points when making a decision about this rule change.

Thank you,

--

Michelle Bjorklund
First Grade Teacher
Arts Academy at Bella Vista

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From: [JONATHAN BJORKLUND](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Calendar
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 5:00:22 PM

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To whom it may concern:

I am a strong proponent of local control. The school calendar is best left at the local level for school officials to decide what is best for their own community.

It is well documented that increased instruction time does not necessarily lead to higher student outcomes. Things that do improve student outcomes include attendance, smaller class sizes, rigor, and having a highly qualified teacher in every classroom.

We already have difficulties filling our classrooms with qualified and engaging educators in New Mexico. I believe that lengthening the school year will be a turn off for teacher recruiting and retention. I strongly urge you to leave control of the school calendar at the local level. Thank you!

Jonathan Bjorklund

--

Jonathan Bjorklund
Marshall 6GA Band Director

"I often think in music. I live my daydreams in music." Albert Einstien

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From: [Dan Jones](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment for 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 5:00:46 PM

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Dear NM PED,

I am writing in opposition to the rule mandating 180 school days for all NM school districts, 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements. We have a 7 year old in 2nd grade at Parkview Elementary in Socorro (Socorro Consolidated School District), and a 3 year old that will be starting kinder in a couple years, also at Parkview.

The Socorro public school district recently adopted a 4 day school week, and we have come to strongly support it. Good teachers make all the difference, and a four-day week is important for recruiting and retaining good K12 teachers and staff, and preventing teacher/staff burnout, especially in a rural district. And we really need that here! It is hard to recruit and retain teachers in a small town like Socorro, but our 7 year old has had amazing teachers so far, and absolutely loves school. We really don't want to lose that.

We were skeptical of the four-day week at first, but we have come to love it. More time in school does not necessarily mean better learning, and we have seen that with our daughter. According to our school board and superintendent, schools in our district are all now up to PED standards - and I don't know that we have seen any decrease in test scores or performance. In addition, again according to our school board and superintendent, our schools have been fully staffed. In addition, there has also been free programming and meals provided for children after school and on Fridays.

Thanks for considering our input, and please reconsider this rule that would abolish 4-day school weeks,

Sincerely,

Dan

Daniel S. Jones, Ph.D.

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
Socorro, NM 87801
daniel.s.jones@nmt.edu
pronouns: he/him
office: 575-835-5049
mobile: 651-245-2775

From: [Tess Jones](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Rule Mandating 180 School Days for All Districts
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 5:01:20 PM

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Dear New Mexico Legislator,

I am writing to bring your attention to a rule change that the PED is currently planning to implement which will require 180 days of school/year rather than the current Governor mandate of 1140 hours/year. There are many school districts throughout the state, including ours in Socorro, that have used the hour rather than day limit to implement a 4-day school week. Initially, when our district moved to a 4-day week, I was unsure of how this would affect learning objectives for my children and the children in our school district. I have been pleasantly surprised by how well this has actually worked and how thoughtfully our school board has implemented the 4-day week.

I am one of a handful of physicians in our small town and so I know just how hard it is to recruit professionals from outside of our area and outside of our state to educate and care for our very high-risk and at-need population. The 4-day school week has allowed us to recruit and retain extraordinary teachers for our schools. I also understand the importance of educating our children so they can compete with their peers at a national and international level and the data from our district and from the state actually show that school districts with a 4-day week are actually performing better than schools with the traditional 5-day school week. According to the NM Vistas data that PED just published, 85% of 4-day schools are performing at or above the standard PED set as traditional performance (Traditional, Spotlight, or Excellent) while only 74% of 5-day weeks districts can make that same claim.

In our rural area, we struggle to find teachers who are willing to move away from cities and larger population centers for many reasons but if we can offer an enticement such as a 4 day school week then that allows our rural school districts to attract teachers looking for improved work-life balance (and it reduces commuting costs in our very large and rural school district as well!). The 4-day school week also supports families and students who may have ranches or farms quite a distance away from our schools - this decreases the commuting time for students while still maintaining the same number of hours per year as a 5 day school week.

Please consider maintaining the current rule using hours rather than days for the school calendar.

Sincerely,
Teresa Jones, MD

Family physician, Socorro, NM

From: [Lauren Coupland](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 rule - Calendar
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 5:01:20 PM

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My name is Lauren Coupland, and I am a parent of 2 disabled children, a former teacher, and the School Board Member-elect for district 3 in Los Alamos New Mexico. Last March, I spent countless hours each week following HB 130, having weekly meetings, looking at educational research, and presenting information to the public, staff, and administration. We worked hard to meet the requirements of HB130. It caused a major scramble for our schools, our union, our families, and for our local child care and businesses.

After all the hard work put in last year, to have an even broader change in under a year is disrespectful, burdensome, and demoralizing. It is taking time away from the job of education. It is also premature, as we have not even been in the new calendar for a full semester. Lurching from one plan to another with no evidence, no time, and no data will DECREASE achievement. Calendar changes are costly, in both time and money. They need to be carefully considered, data driven, and intentional.

If you want quality change, it must be carefully planned and implemented. That takes time. If we had an extra year to implement HB 103, we would have been able to explore how to best use the extra time. As it was, we were rushing to meet requirements, with no idea how it would be funded, or what we would have to work with.

It also greatly affected our community. Our local childcare providers were scrambling to modify staffing, scheduling, and budgeting. Some are on the brink of going under. Families and staff have had international travel, summer camps, and more already planned. Those staff and students will be missing school because they did not have enough time to plan after changes were announced.

These rule changes will also have so many unintended consequences. In our district, this WILL lead to higher class sizes, and lower quality education. If our middle school and high school must have 4 full classes per day, with no free periods, we currently do not have the staff or the classrooms to accommodate. Our only option will be to increase class sizes AND have staff without a permanent classroom, in a different place each period. I have been that teacher. The first and last few minutes of each class became devoted to setting up and cleaning up - NOT teaching. I was a better teacher with a dedicated classroom.

As you heard over and over, this will compound the teacher shortage in the district. High quality instruction, not quantity, leads to better learning. I ask you to look at the following

questions, and the changes to the answer before and after HB130, and to consider what effects this rule will have. What percentage of teachers are

1.
Emergency certified?
2.
Attended an alternate license program?
3.
Substitutes due to unfilled positions?

I urge you to reconsider this change, and the rushed way that education policy is implemented in New Mexico.

Thank you,
Lauren Coupland
School Board Member-Elect
Los Alamos Public Schools

From: [Tess Jones](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 5:02:23 PM

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

Dear New Mexico Legislator,

I am writing to bring your attention to a rule change that the PED is currently planning to implement which will require 180 days of school/year rather than the current Governor mandate of 1140 hours/year. There are many school districts throughout the state, including ours in Socorro, that have used the hour rather than day limit to implement a 4-day school week. Initially, when our district moved to a 4-day week, I was unsure of how this would affect learning objectives for my children and the children in our school district. I have been pleasantly surprised by how well this has actually worked and how thoughtfully our school board has implemented the 4-day week.

I am one of a handful of physicians in our small town and so I know just how hard it is to recruit professionals from outside of our area and outside of our state to educate and care for our very high-risk and at-need population. The 4-day school week has allowed us to recruit and retain extraordinary teachers for our schools. I also understand the importance of educating our children so they can compete with their peers at a national and international level and the data from our district and from the state actually show that school districts with a 4-day week are actually performing better than schools with the traditional 5-day school week. According to the NM Vistas data that PED just published, 85% of 4-day schools are performing at or above the standard PED set as traditional performance (Traditional, Spotlight, or Excellent) while only 74% of 5-day weeks districts can make that same claim.

In our rural area, we struggle to find teachers who are willing to move away from cities and larger population centers for many reasons but if we can offer an enticement such as a 4 day school week then that allows our rural school districts to attract teachers looking for improved work-life balance (and it reduces commuting costs in our very large and rural school district as well!). The 4-day school week also supports families and students who may have ranches or farms quite a distance away from our schools - this decreases the commuting time for students while still maintaining the same number of hours per year as a 5 day school week.

Please consider maintaining the current rule using hours rather than days for the school calendar.

Sincerely,
Teresa Jones, MD

Family physician, Socorro, NM

From: [Ashlynn Carroll](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 5:21:24 PM

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My name is Ashlynn Carroll, 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,
Ashlynn Carroll

From: [Jessica Rodarte](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 5:24:57 PM

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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. Please consult with teachers and districts as you make this decision. I'd be happy to provide further information. I do not feel like a quick change without full due diligence will help our teachers and students.

Thank you

Jessica Rodarte

From: [Elena Valdez](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC - Public Feedback
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 5:25:23 PM

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

Greetings,

My name is Elena Valdez. Some of you may remember me—I was an employee of the Public Education Department not too long ago.

In August, I decided to become a high school teacher; it was significant, but overwhelmingly positive change that has allowed me to use my talents in service of children in the community in which I grew up.

This is my first year teaching public high school students, so I am still very much in the early stages of learning how to be a high-quality teacher. But I know, first-hand now, how teachers—those in the early stages of their careers or the latter stages—are constantly being asked to do more with fewer resources, and often without their needs being taken into consideration.

I think we can all agree that time is a precious resource, that's why we are here. But time alone, without supports for students, can hardly be considered a remedy for the insufficiencies and inequities of public education in New Mexico, particularly when it comes to serving low-income students, students considered English learners, students with disabilities.

My short time as a public high school teacher, coupled with my prior experience working with district leaders across state, has shed light on the kinds of disconnect that often exists between the Public Education Department and the needs and interests of students, their families and larger communities. If the Department is truly interested in working on behalf of the state of New Mexico, then it will take careful note of the comments provided today, and, hopefully, redirect its energies to LISTENING to what our teachers and students really need. At this point, I consider the proposed rule making to 6.10.5 NMAC symbolic of a larger lack of awareness of community-specific needs, particularly the needs of rural communities.

Quality will always be superior to quantity, and we, collectively, have so much work to do when it comes to improving the quality of education we provide our kids.

Thank you for your time.

Elena Valdez, PhD

From: [Constantine, Consuelo, PED](#)
To: [Terrazas, Denise, PED](#); [Senteney, Emily, PED](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fewer days, more staff in schools
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 5:36:17 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

FYI

Consuelo M. Constantine | Executive Assistant, Office of the Secretary
New Mexico Public Education Department
300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501
C: (505) 309-2801 | Main: (505) 827-6452 | **New Email:** Consuelo.Constantine@ped.nm.gov
Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression Portal: bit.ly/ARAOHotline
Check us out here: [NMPED](#)



EQUITY • EXCELLENCE • RELEVANCE

From: Andrea Felix <afelix@sfps.k12.nm.us>
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 10:50 AM
To: Constantine, Consuelo, PED <Consuelo.Constantine@ped.nm.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fewer days, more staff in schools

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Good morning

I read your opinion piece in the newspaper today. You made a great argument for NOT extending the calendar -- this is what is needed: "regular attendance, student engagement, smaller class sizes, rigorous learning opportunities...." Smaller class size is imperative!

We also need FULL-TIME counselors, nurses, Math Specialists, Reading Specialists, Test Coordinators, Social Workers, etc, etc. Changing the schedule again, after setting it last year, is exhausting to TEACHERS. We are burnt out, we are running on

fumes. If you want quality instruction, you need to keep teachers healthy and motivated. Adding more days to the calendar does not address these major concerns that me and my colleagues hold.

--

Andrea Felix M.S., N.B.C.T.

SAGE Teacher

(Services for Advanced and Gifted Education)

Wood Gormley Elementary School



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From: [eric miller](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 5:53:58 PM

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Increasing the school year and teacher load will likely not help things.

These ideas should be promoted instead:

reduced class sizes

smaller caseloads for special educators

decreased time and resources spent on standardized testing

increased planning time for educators to allow for quality preparation and delivery of instruction

understanding student disengagement

addressing chronic absenteeism

resourcing mental health issues

paying more for continually rising educator health care costs

Eric Miller

Farmington NM

December 18, 2023

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,

Tierra Encantada Charter School is writing to express our concerns regarding the proposed rule on instructional time requirements (6.10.5 NMAC) and respectfully request that the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) revoke the aforementioned proposal. There was great debate on the calendar reform during the 2023 legislative session. We acknowledge the department's commitment to enhancing educational outcomes, however, the Department lacks statutory authority to execute this proposed rule as it is in direct conflict with the agreed upon and signed legislation regarding instructional hours. We request that PED revoke this proposed rule and go through the legislative process to meet these requirements.

State law clearly states that rule cannot run contrary to statute: NMSA 14-4-5.7(A) states "No rule is valid or enforceable if it conflicts with statute. A conflict between a rule and a statute is resolved in favor of the statute."

Within the proposed rule, there are several policies that lack statutory authority for the PED to mandate:

- a. The proposed rule provides for a maximum length of 7.5 hours per school day, and it's unclear where the authority for the secretary to mandate a maximum number of hours is allowed in law. In fact, NMSA 22-2-8 only allows for the Secretary to waive **minimum** requirements associated with school hours in certain circumstances.
- b. The proposed rule attempts to mandate 180 days on every school's calendar. However, the law does not provide the Secretary to make mandates on the length of school calendar. Statute is silent on the length of school week except for language surrounding K-12 Plus funding (NMSA 22-8-23.14), which explicitly allows for schools to operate on a 4-day school week. In that section of statute, it notes that 4-day week schools must have more than 156 school days to qualify for K12 Plus programming. This clearly provides for 4-day school weeks in law without any explicit authority for the Secretary to mandate the number of days provided in a school week. **Tierra Encantada Charter School currently operates at 160 school days on a 4 day calendar – still more than the minimum requirement stated in the current state statute.**
- c. The proposed rule oversteps New Mexico school law by prescribing more than 50% of weeks to be five-day weeks. We see no statutory authority for this action by the Secretary.
- d. The proposed rule mandates a 30-minute lunch period, which directly contradicts the 20-minute lunch period stipulated in statute (NMSA 22-13c-10). It is crucial to adhere to statutory limitations and recognize the bounds of PED's authority in prescribing lunch periods.

It is essential to align the proposed rule with statutory provisions on flexible scheduling for public schools. Revisiting the law to provide authority for the Secretary would therefore be necessary to implement the policy as proposed.

Moreover, the proposed policy on secondary students taking a minimum of four courses per day does not consider students at early college high schools. This provision would impose a deleterious requirement on students at dual credit high schools focused on college level work, as those students' college schedules may not allow for a minimum of four courses each day. **Tierra Encantada Charter School current PED-PEC approved Mission Specific Contract Goals call for increased number of Dual Credit classes students are required to take every year making this proposal difficult given our current goals.**

The proposed rule also attempts to make calendar mandates to all schools regardless of performance. This proposal is based on the idea that 4-week schools are not successful. Some of the state's highest-performing schools are on 4-day calendars, including ASK Academy, Moreno Valley Charter High School, and Taos Academy. These schools received Spotlight or Excellence status in the state accountability system and their students will face unnecessary disruptions by having to modify their calendars without a clear justification. It is imperative to acknowledge the success of existing calendar structures and avoid unnecessary changes that may adversely affect student outcomes. **Tierra Encantada Charter School has also seen improved graduation rates from as low as 50% to 70%-80% recently.**

School finances have also not been considered in the proposed rule. Schools moving from 4-day school weeks to meet the provisions of this law may need to cut staff hourly pay or daily rate using the same budget as well as increase their budget to provide additional transportation needs. PED has not requested funding from the legislature to help schools to implement these provisions for the year the proposed rule is implemented.

Lastly, Public Charter Schools of New Mexico (PCSNM) has been regularly calling for collaboration on the issue of attendance and chronic absenteeism. This issue is more pressing than calendar days, as students already miss many days of school on current calendars. Presently chronic absenteeism is 40% and the average New Mexico student misses 10.5 days of school. The Department should focus on leading the state toward better attendance, in conjunction with all education partners, that would provide more impactful change than the number of calendar days available to students. PCSNM will gladly support these efforts. Partners who previously worked with our school are no longer providing services or assistance in this area, thus leaving this entirely up to the schools once again, another factor for PED to further collaborate with charters and districts on absenteeism.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We ask that PED carefully consider the implications of the proposed rule and work collaboratively with the legislature to develop solutions that prioritize the best interests of our students.

Sincerely,

Danny Pena
School Director
Tierra Encantada Charter School

From: [Lauren Teffeau](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concerns with NMAC 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 6:03:39 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.

Our family uses that time to enrich her learning opportunities with home projects, field trips, homework assistance, and simply being together. This system has worked for us since she started kindergarten at Alice King in 2020. Our daughter is well above grade level and excelling at school by every metric.

We are concerned by the negative impact this rule change would have on our school of choice. 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 are concerned about these ramifications and how that will negatively affect our daughter's education and our time together as a family.

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

Sincerely,

Lauren C. Teffeau

--

Lauren C. Teffeau

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Goodreads](#)

[Implanted out now from Angry Robot!](#)

[A Hunger with No Name](#) coming soon from University of Tampa Press!

Everywhere you can find me: <https://linktr.ee/teffeau>

From: [Danny Pena](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Calendar Feedback/comments
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 6:10:36 PM

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I could not make it public forum and had to send in a letter. I am hoping you accept our feedback and comment as part of the public comment to the proceedings this evening.

Thank you.

Danny Pena

Please see attached.

Danny Peña
School Director
Tierra Encantada Charter School
Santa Fe, NM
[505.983.3337](tel:505.983.3337)

Reclaim!!
Reclamar!!

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From: [germaine](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FW: CCSD Resolution Opposing NMPED revisions to NMAC 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 6:25:54 PM
Attachments: [Resolution opposing PED School Calendar regulations.docx](#)

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

Attached please find the CCSD School Board's resolution opposing revisions to NMAC 6.10.5. This resolution was passed unanimously by the CCSD School Board on December 11, 2023.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Central Consolidated School District

Resolution of the Board of Education of the Central Consolidated School District Opposing the New Mexico Public Education Department's Draft Regulation amending NMAC 6.10.5

WHEREAS, the Central Consolidated School District, Board of Education (CCSD Board) and other school districts in the State of New Mexico are statutorily authorized to implement K-12 Plus school days for either 5 days or 4 days per week by NMSA 1978 §22-8-23.14 (A); and

WHEREAS, the CCSD Board and other school districts in the State of New Mexico are authorized to implement variable school calendars in accordance with NMSA 1978 § 22-22-1 *et. seq.*; and

WHEREAS, the CCSD Board and other school districts in the State of New Mexico are required to obtain substantial community support in determining each school district's school calendar as provided by NMSA 1978, § 22-22-4; and

WHEREAS, a primary purpose of the CCSD Board and other school districts in the State of New Mexico is to be able to represent and meet the needs of its local communities; and

WHEREAS, the CCSD Board and other school districts in the State of New Mexico have statutory and constitutional authority to exercise local control; and

WHEREAS, the CCSD Board and other school districts represent communities and students in the State of New Mexico with diverse educational and community needs and challenges. New Mexico students and communities not only represent diverse urban, rural, and remote geographic communities, they also represent distinct cultural, socioeconomic and community needs. For example, many communities need flexible school calendars for agricultural and ranch families. Additionally, students in rural and remote communities spend 3

to 4 hours traveling to and from school. These students leave for school in the dark and return home in the dark. Further, New Mexico public schools are located on and serve students from communities that have diverse jurisdictional considerations, including Native American tribes, pueblos and nations and other federal enclaves that must be considered. As a result, a one-size-approach to school calendars does not and cannot meet the diverse needs of New Mexico's students and communities. As a result, local control by school districts must be preserved so that school districts can implement school calendars that meet the needs and challenges of its students and communities; and

WHEREAS, several school districts in the State of New Mexico have utilized 4-day school weeks and have data substantiating that 4-day school weeks have actually helped to increase student outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions by NMPED to NMAC 6.10.5 do nothing to address alarming absenteeism rates or the quality of instruction provided during the expanded learning time proposed by NMPED; and

WHEREAS, the CCSD Board and other school districts in the State of New Mexico are concerned that the waiver provided by the NMPED's proposed regulation amending NMAC 6.10.5 does not include local control, community input, or data showing that a 4-day week benefits student outcomes; and

WHEREAS, there is considerable legislative concern and opposition regarding NMPED's proposed revisions to NMAC 6.10.5; and

WHEREAS, given that NMPED's proposed revisions will purportedly be implemented during the 2024 legislative session and do not appear to be supported by several members of the Legislative Finance Commission, in particular, and legislators generally, it does not appear that

additional funds will be allocated by the legislature to fund increased costs necessary to implement NMPED's proposed revisions. As a result, school districts will be required to adapt to yet another unfunded mandate; and

WHEREAS, unfunded mandates do more harm than good because ultimately if school districts are not given the resources to implement programs they are required to implement by statute or regulation, the efficacy of those programs is undermined and the programs ultimately fail; and

WHEREAS, the CCSD Board and other school districts in the State of New Mexico are concerned that the NMPED's proposed regulation amending NMAC 6.10.5 is beyond NMPED's statutorily authorized authority;

WHEREAS, the CCSD Board and other school districts in the State of New Mexico are concerned that the NMPED's proposed regulation amending NMAC 6.10.5 conflicts with state statute and undermines local control;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Based on the foregoing reasons, the Board of Education of CCSD directs the Superintendent and legal counsel to participate in upcoming hearings, submit comments and any other manner to oppose the NMPED's proposed regulation amending NMAC 6.10.5.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the CCSD Board of Education at a duly called meeting where a quorum was present and that the same was passed ____ in favor, and ____ opposed this 11th day of December, 2023.

Board President

Board Vice President

Board Secretary

From: [Eric Cyr](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] On the proposed rule change to instructional time
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 6:32:04 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,
Eric Cyr*

From: [Natasha Niday](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 6:43:44 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,
Natasha Niday

From: [MELISSA PARKIN](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 7:22:54 PM

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

I originally sent this letter on November 26th. I have been checking the public comment and have not seen my letter, so I am sending it again. My voice matters.

Good evening,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed rule that suggests adding more days to the academic calendar. While the intention behind this proposal may be to enhance student outcomes, I believe that the correlation between the number of instructional days and improved student performance is not as straightforward as it may seem.

Firstly, I would like to emphasize that quality, rather than quantity, is the key determinant of successful education. Research consistently suggests that the effectiveness of education lies in the methods of teaching, the engagement of students, and the overall learning environment. Simply increasing the number of days in the academic calendar does not necessarily address these critical factors.

Several studies have indicated that the quality of teaching and the relevance of curriculum play pivotal roles in student achievement. Investing in professional development for educators, updating curriculum to meet contemporary needs, and fostering an environment that encourages active learning are measures that have shown to be more impactful in improving educational outcomes.

Moreover, the proposal to extend the academic calendar may inadvertently lead to burnout among both students and teachers. Longer school years can result in increased stress levels, fatigue, and reduced enthusiasm for learning. This, in turn, could have adverse effects on students' mental health and overall well-being.

Additionally, it is important to consider the diminishing returns associated with extended instructional time. Studies have suggested that beyond a certain point, the benefits of additional instructional days plateau, and the gains in student achievement become marginal. It is crucial to strike a balance that prioritizes meaningful learning experiences over an extended but potentially less effective academic calendar.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the proposed rule of adding more days to the academic calendar. Instead, let us focus on measures that have proven to be more impactful, such as improving the quality of teaching, updating curriculum content, and creating a positive and engaging learning environment. Quality education is the foundation for successful student outcomes, and I believe that redirecting efforts towards

these aspects will yield more meaningful and sustainable improvements.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this matter. I trust that, together, we can work towards creating an educational system that truly prioritizes the needs and well-being of our students.

Sincerely,

~Melissa Parkin
7th/8th Grade ELA, Theatre
8th Grade Track Coach
Teacher Leader
Gattis Middle School

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From: [Rebecca Sherry](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] No to the 180 day school year proposal
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 7:31:36 PM

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

As a public school parent in New Mexico, I am writing to say that I oppose the proposal for a mandated 180-day school year for the following reasons:

1. This poses numerous hardships for some rural communities who have a 4-day week, as you already heard today.
2. We are in the Albuquerque Public School District. The legislature's proposal to increase hours for this year somehow morphed into two additional weeks of school. Teens had trouble finding summer jobs because no one wanted to hire them for the shortened break. The calendars APS proposed based on the 180-day rule look even worse in terms of allowing summer jobs or family time, especially time to visit out-of-state family that we couldn't see during the pandemic.
3. Twenty to twenty-five percent of our youth are experiencing mental health issues. While the public school spokesperson was quick to blame that on social media, the reality is that school is also a source of these mental health issues. This is particularly exacerbated by politicians and the media who regularly remind us that our post-pandemic children have been deemed deficient ("lost learning"), and that teachers, parents, and the children themselves are all to blame. That may not be the intention of that message, but it is what a depressed teen hears. I'm speaking from experience.

Our schools desperately need reforms, but I am struggling to see how piling on more of the same serves children. The pandemic exposed some of the deepest flaws and inequities in our systems, giving us an opportunity to imagine a better version of the "way things have always been." This proposal does not support a better vision. I urge you not to adopt this rule.

Thank you,
Rebecca Sherry
Albuquerque

From: [Autumn Bruton](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 7:38:28 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[4 Day Work Week.pdf](#)

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am sending this email to express my concern over the School Calendar Requirements that will impact the school that my child currently attends. I am in support of a 4-day work week and opposed to any changes that will limit the ability for my rural school district to utilize this option.

I am attaching my letter with information and key points for my support for a 4-day work week and why I feel like it is a mistake to take that away.

Sincerely
Autumn Bruotn



CEO/President

Autumn Bruton, OTR/L

Phone: 575-590-0824

Fax: 575-535-2493

Email: autumnbruton@amplifiedtherapy.com

www.amplifiedtherapy.com



Dear Elected Official:

I am writing this letter to SUPPORT the 4-day school week that is currently utilized in my hometown school in Cliff, New Mexico. I strongly oppose changing this as an option as it has many advantages in rural and frontier areas. I strongly support local school boards having the opportunity to utilize this option to best meet the needs of the students, parents, and communities.

As a past alumni of Cliff Schools, and a parent of 3 children who have attended Cliff. I believe that the implementation of the 4-day school week, which happened at least 20 years ago, has benefited my children and our community. From an academic perspective, 2 of my 3 children graduated from Cliff Schools and went on to pursue college degrees. They were prepared academically and were successful in pursuing post-secondary education. My child that is still attending Cliff School consistently has State test scores that are well above NM standards and is being prepared for her future. The 4-day school week has not hindered their academic progress and/or opportunities.

The 4-day work week has allowed many opportunities for our community children to also seek out vocational/work experience. Agriculture is prominent in our area, and many children, including my own, benefit from working within this industry to learn valuable life experiences without disrupting his/her education. My family, for example, plans large workdays on Fridays and Saturdays, and the children who help us are critical members of the ranching/farming workforce. The heritage, skills, values, and life lessons are invaluable during this experience. And having that extra day (Friday in our case), makes it possible.

The 4-day work week has also allowed many families and children to participate in activities that include but are not limited to sports and other extracurricular activities, medical appointments, vacations, and family business without disrupting his/her education. I make every attempt to schedule things during Friday to ensure that my child is not missing school days. We can conduct family business/activities in a way that supports our child/family and supports the need to be in school.

Lastly, as an employer, I believe the challenges that rural and frontier areas have in recruiting workers are enormous. I believe that the 4-day school week is an incentive that small schools can use to be somewhat competitive with larger districts. A 4-day work week offers the employee a work-life balance that is sought after. I personally have adopted the 4-day work week in my Company. I feel like I have been able to recruit and retain higher quality individuals utilizing this as a business model, while maintaining quality services.

I am asking that you support the option for schools to continue to utilize a 4-day work week. Thank you for your time on this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Autumn Bruton

From: [Rebecca Hendricks](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 4 Day School Week
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 8:04:03 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing concerning the statewide shift to a 5-day school week and my perspective based on my years as a teacher in multiple grade levels and as a parent. I have been a Quemado Elementary School teacher for eight years and in education since the fall of 2010.

My students begin their school day at 7:45 a.m. and end at 4:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday. This time is from when they walk into the school to begin the day to when the buses and parents leave. In this amount of time, the students successfully become proficient in Common Core Standards, proving to score better than many other schools within the state.

To travel to and from school, many of the children and staff in Quemado travel around two hours one way. Many of the miles they travel are on dirt roads that can prove to be difficult to drive on, depending on the weather. The school day is set up right now, where the instructional time is maximized and travel time is shortened. If we were to expand the same amount of time into five days, it would add additional travel time. In the past, when we had school on a Friday, my students' absenteeism increased. The students either missed school on the Friday or the following Monday. This was due to the hardship the extra day of travel caused the families.

Travel has a large impact on rural communities and their schools. It takes a full day to shop for groceries or attend an appointment. Albuquerque, where we do most of our shopping and doctor appointments, is two and a half hours away. As the school schedule is set up now, the students and their families can use Fridays for errands in town.

We know that students with families involved in their education are more successful. A four-day school week allows our students to have the family support system that is necessary for their success. Our community includes a large number of families that still work ranches. There are times throughout the year when these families need everyone to help. When the families are branding or shipping calves, their children are kept at home helping. Having our children home on Fridays helps reduce the number of school days they must miss to help keep our livestock operations running. The lifestyle that is in a rural community is different than that of families in town.

My children are successful in school because they know the importance of school. They are also successful because they are still allowed to be children. They are not forced to grow up too quickly in Quemado. They ride bikes, build forts, and play basketball. They have animals that they help care for to teach them responsibility. I want them to stay young and have the time to be a part of our family. Going to school is important, but there is a balance that we need to learn. Just like adults, children must be taught to balance work and family.

There are many reasons that a four-day school week works for our small community. There is no such thing as a one-size-fits-all education system, and just because something works for larger schools in a city, it does not mean it will work for small schools in rural New Mexico. Please look at all the data before enforcing something that will affect the lives of families in rural New Mexico.

Becca Hendricks
Kindergarten Teacher
Quemado ISD #2

In a world where you can be anything, BE KIND

From: [Paula Anderson](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 8:04:10 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am a parent of two students at Melrose Elementary School in Melrose, NM. We are a military family who have found this school to be the best part of living in NM. With a degree in elementary education and having lived in many different states, I have never found a more impressive school. Their commitment to academic excellence, genuine care for each student, and overall dedication to education impresses me on a daily basis. We live a ways from the school so the four day week allows for transportation to be less of an issue and also allows my kids to do extracurricular activities on Friday. For example, my son has been able to attend a lego class, as well as do other work from home. This also allows my husband, whose hours vary due to his military schedule, to see them more. The family solidarity that this four day week provides also means a lot and I have seen both of our children thrive with this schedule. When my 3rd grade son heard about the proposed change, he was so distressed. He came home and, of his own volition, spent a long time up at the computer by himself composing a letter. Below I will copy his letter which he carefully put together.

I know I speak for many military families who also greatly value Melrose's exceptional education and their ability to maintain these high standards on the four day week schedule.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Meanwhile, I so appreciate your time and consideration.

Very respectfully,

Paula

Letter from my son, Asher, who is in 3rd grade at Melrose Elementary

"Dear State,

I ask you with the utmost respect, please give us Friday off. It is special to me because my daddy is in the military at Cannon Air Force Base. It gives me more time with him and my family. Melrose is not just a building full of people, it is a family made of great leaders to be looked up to and followed. We live about 20 min away from just the bus stop and the bus drives me 15 min altogether. We live about 35 min away from school not to mention traffic maybe. That's how much we love it. There are Godly teachers and leaders. God created you and me and because of that He

blesses us tremendously. That's why He gave us Melrose Schools. I have wanted to have a farm for a while away from the city but going to Melrose gives me the chance to talk with farmer's sons and learn what chores they do. I am excited for school almost every day. I want to point especially to Mrs. Roach even though there are so many more great teachers and leaders. She is my 3rd grade teacher. She balances so many people at once and teaches basketball and has seven children. Think of her adding another day. I was talking with her and I said "I'm excited for the weekend" she said "I look forward to Friday." Not to mention a great bus driver. He teaches science for older grades. I talk with him and learn extra about NM. It sounds silly but I love the Melrose mascot. Fun fact: Buffalos walk into the storm they know it is quicker. Love, Asher/9 years old 3rd grade"

From: [Lori Whitley](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC rule 6.10.5
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 8:22:03 PM

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Hello,

I am a concerned about several aspects of how this proposal will impact my high school junior.

1. I think implementation of changes to credit hour requirements for graduation at this late stage of the game is unrealistic. We have been planning her curriculum strategy since 8th grade. Next semester is already scheduled. That only leaves two semesters to fulfill these new requirements. It is not reasonable to request that of us now.
2. Counseling and course registration for the 24/25 has already started at our school. Do we need to try to somehow account for changes that might or might not be passed in making these plans today?
3. We just saw an increase in the number of school days for this calendar year. We don't yet have any feedback on the outcomes of that increase. Perhaps we should gather that information prior to taking more drastic steps down that path?

As a parent, these changes seem to have come from out of the blue. We don't even know if the current change in hours will improve educational outcomes? As a working parent, my schedule was disrupted when the calendar for this year was changed last spring. Please reconsider your timeline for this proposal.

Sincerely,

Lori Whitley

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Holly Walker](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 8:28:48 PM

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I do not support this rule change. I am a Los Alamos Public School parent and employee and I think it will negatively impact me, my child, and my students. The answer is more quality in school, not quantity.

From: [horseprincess06](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:03:55 PM

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Just a Mom who cares a lot about our students mental & emotional health.

AGAINST NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements #newmexico #school
#forthekids #yourvoicematters #mentalhealth #kidsmentalhealthmatters

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

From: [Amber Murphy](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Instructional time requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:10:10 PM

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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,
Amber Murphy*

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: karlismommy11@gmail.com
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Instructional time requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:12:48 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,
Amber Murphy*

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Jenesis Fason](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:24:20 PM

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My name is Jenesis, 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,
Jenesis Fason

From: [Lena Armstrong-Strober](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] no to a 5 day school week!!!!
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 9:54:04 PM

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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,
Lena Armstrong-Strober*

From: [Casey Myers](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HB 130 / School Calander Requirements
Date: Monday, December 18, 2023 11:12:52 PM

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To the members of the Policy and Legislative Affairs Division of NMPED,

We are parents of a child who is a current enrolled student at Cimarron Elementary School here in the Cimarron School District. We were recently informed of the NMPED looking to convert our 4-day school week to a 5-day school week. As parents and community members we highly disapprove and are not in favor of moving our current school 4-day week to a 5-day week. Living in a rural community where most doctors, dentists and other amenities are just shy of an hour away (2 hour minimum round-trip) having a weekday to run errands and make trips to see doctors is needed. With this proposed change, if moved to 5-days, students will miss multiple hours of instruction to go to wellness visits, and other critical appointments needed to keep our children healthy. That said, legislation that passed during the last legislative session only set the statute requiring schools to achieve 1,140 instructional hours and does not require there to be a set number of days for instruction as this mandate would require. Moving rural schools such as ours to a 5 day week would require an increase of 31 instructional days which would only add more expenses to an already insufficient educational budget (cost of building care, heat, electricity, etc...). Outside of the context of instructional time, a 4 day school week allows our children to better engage in their community, extra curriculums and family.

A 5 day school week may work well in a city where amenities and access to care are readily available and only require a short amount of time for students to be out of class to go to appointments or travel for sports. In a rural community that simply is not the case. We are certain that you have had responses similar to ours from other parents, teachers and community members in these rural settings. It is our hope that you listen to this concern and weigh it heavily against the notion that a 5 day school week would be better for those in a rural community, which again is far from the truth.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Casey and Reyna Myers

From: [Annette Preston](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ridiculousness
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 6:47:59 AM

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To whom it may concern,

This new rule of adding more hours is nonsense. No wonder Americans are nicknamed workaholics. Now we are pushing more hours on children. Workaholics that have no focus on health and wellbeing. The food we give our childrens in school is all processed pre-made food. We can't even provide our school kids with decent lunches and now we want them to stay at school longer! I absolutely DO NOT support adding more hours to the school day. Instead do Fridays off so those of us who have no work on Fridays can enjoy time with our kids.

--

Annette Preston

From: [Romero, Arsenio, PED](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Comments on Proposed Rule: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:25:59 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Arsenio Romero, PhD | Secretary of Education
Public Education Department
300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501
Appointments: Consuelo Constantine (505-309-2801, Consuelo.Constantine@ped.nm.gov)
O: (505) 827-6452 | Help Desk: (505) 827-5800 |
Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression Portal: bit.ly/ARAOHotline



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From: Bethany Pendergrass <bethany.pendergrass@rrps.net>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 2:49 PM
To: Romero, Arsenio, PED <arsenio.romero@ped.nm.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Comments on Proposed Rule: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements

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Good afternoon Secretary Romero,

Dr. Cleveland asked that I share her comments with you. Please see below.

Thank you,

Beth Pendergrass
Chief Communications, Strategy and Engagement Officer

Rio Rancho Public Schools
500 Laser Rd. NE
Rio Rancho, NM 87124
Office: 505.896.0667





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

From: **Bethany Pendergrass** <bethany.pendergrass@rrps.net>

Date: Mon, Dec 18, 2023 at 7:21 AM

Subject: Comments on Proposed Rule: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements

To: <Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov>

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.

Thank you,

V. Sue Cleveland, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Rio Rancho Public Schools

Rio Rancho, NM 87124

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From: [Romero, Arsenio, PED](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: FW: LFC Memos
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:27:34 AM
Attachments: [LFC Memo on 6.10.5 NMAC Rulemaking.pdf](#)
[LFC Memo on HB2 Instructional Hour Requirements.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)

Arsenio Romero, PhD | Secretary of Education
Public Education Department
300 Don Gasrulepar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501
Appointments: Consuelo Constantine (505-309-2801, Consuelo.Constantine@ped.nm.gov)
O: (505) 827-6452 | Help Desk: (505) 827-5800 |
Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression Portal: bit.ly/ARAOHotline



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From: Liu, Sunny <Sunny.Liu@nmlegis.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 10:27 AM
To: Romero, Arsenio, PED <arsenio.romero@ped.nm.gov>
Cc: Charles.Sallee <Charles.Sallee@nmlegis.gov>; Courtney, Jon <Jon.Courtney@nmlegis.gov>
Subject: LFC Memos



Secretary Romero,

Please see the attached memos on behalf of the committee.

Best,

Sunny Z. Liu

Principal Fiscal Analyst
New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee
325 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, NM 87501
Telephone: 505.986.4550
Direct Line: 505.986.4572
sunny.liu@nmlegis.gov

Senator George K. Muñoz
Chair

Senator Pete Campos
Senator Roberto “Bobby” J. Gonzales
Senator Siah Correa Hemphill
Senator Steven P. Neville
Senator Nancy Rodriguez
Senator William E. Sharer
Senator Pat Woods



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Representative Gail Armstrong
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State of New Mexico
**LEGISLATIVE FINANCE
COMMITTEE**

325 Don Gaspar, Suite 101 • Santa Fe, NM 87501
Phone: (505) 986-4550 • Fax (505) 986-4545

Charles Sallee
Director

December 14, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Romero,

As discussed during your budget hearing for public school support on December 14, 2023, the Legislative Finance Committee has significant concerns about the Public Education Department’s (PED) proposed amendment to school calendar requirements pursuant to 6.10.5. NMAC and enforcement of instructional hour requirements pursuant to the General Appropriation Act of 2023. While the committee agrees that more high-quality learning time can improve the achievement of at-risk students named in the *Martinez-Yazzie* education sufficiency lawsuit, the committee finds certain provisions of PED’s proposed rule to be an overreach of executive authority. Unfortunately, PED’s proposed rule misses an opportunity to target learning time and support to the neediest students across the state.

The debate between mandating school days or school hours has been waged by the Legislature for years. Prior to 2009, statute required 990 instructional hours for kindergarten through sixth grade and 1,080 hours for seventh through 12th grade. In 2009, the state initiated a mandate of 180 instructional days for a regular school year calendar and 150 instructional days for a variable school calendar, beginning with the 2010-2011 school year. In 2010, the state delayed implementation of the 180-day mandate to 2011-2012 due to budget concerns. And in 2011, the state reversed course, changing the measure of a school year back to instructional hours. Despite the *Martinez-Yazzie* ruling and lost instructional time during the Covid-19 pandemic, attempts to mandate additional school days failed. In 2023, however, the enactment of Chapter 19 (House Bill 130) increased instructional time for students in all grade levels to 1,140 hours.

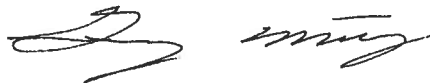
The committee understands the update of 6.10.5 NMAC was necessary and past due, given the outdated 180-day requirement was still on the books from 2010 and the new 1,140-hour requirement from House Bill 130 required clarification. PED is authorized by statute to adopt, promulgate, and enforce rules to exercise its authority and the authority of the secretary (Section 22-2-1(B)(1) NMSA 1978). PED also has the authority to control, manage, and direct all public schools, except as otherwise provided by law (Section 22-2-1(A)).

However, some provisions of PED’s proposed rule go beyond the legislative intent of House Bill 130 by prohibiting school districts from generating K-12 Plus program units intended for districts with a 4-day

school week. By deliberately establishing separate K-12 Plus funding formula components for both 5-day school weeks and 4-day school weeks, the Legislature acknowledged the existence of 4-day school weeks and authorized them to generate additional dollars if they chose to extend their school calendars. No rule is valid or enforceable if it conflicts with state statute and such conflicts are resolved in favor of the statute (Section 14-4-5.7(A)). The language in Section 22-8-23.14 (House Bill 130) makes clear a public school operating on a 4-day calendar that provides more than 155 days of instruction shall be considered a “K-12 Plus” school and shall be eligible to receive additional units. The proposed rule appears to conflict with state statute and would not be enforceable.

The committee recognizes the potential academic costs of switching to a 4-day school week, as evidenced by the prohibition of new 4-day school weeks in a provision within the General Appropriation Act. While some districts with 4-day school weeks report low performance and notable achievement gaps, other districts with 4-day school weeks display some of the best student outcomes New Mexico can produce. By requiring all public schools to operate on a 5-day school week for purposes of generating K-12 Plus program funding, the proposed rule cuts off a major revenue source for districts on 4-day school weeks to comply with the 180-day requirement, ignores substantive law authorizing formula funds for schools with a 4-day school week, and focuses attention on the number of school calendar days rather than what the days are intended for—improving the outcomes of our lowest performing students.

Sincerely,



Senator George K. Munoz, Chair, LFC



Representative Nathan Small, Vice-Chair, LFC

Senator George K. Muñoz
Chair

Senator Pete Campos
Senator Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales
Senator Siah Correa Hemphill
Senator Steven P. Neville
Senator Nancy Rodriguez
Senator William E. Sharer
Senator Pat Woods



State of New Mexico
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Charles Sallee
Director

Representative Nathan P. Small
Vice Chair

Representative Gail Armstrong
Representative Brian G. Baca
Representative Jack Chatfield
Representative Meredith A. Dixon
Representative Harry Garcia
Representative Derrick J. Lente
Representative Debra M. Sarifana

December 14, 2023

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

Dear Secretary Romero,

In response to concerns that many schools would reduce instructional time for students after enactment of House Bill 130, the Legislature required PED to disapprove the operating budgets of school districts or charter schools that provided fewer instructional hours to students in the 2023-2024 school year than instructional hours provided to students in the 2022-2023 school year. While statute sets a minimum of 1,140 instructional hours within a school year and defines instructional hours to include educator professional work time, language in the General Appropriation Act of 2023 specifically isolated the baseline requirement for instructional hours to students—not educators or schools. As such, while schools can count professional work time as part of the instructional hour requirement, for FY24, pursuant to the General Appropriation Act of 2023, schools must maintain or increase the number of instructional hours provided to students for budget approval.

The Legislature's investment in the state equalization guarantee distribution for FY24 was intended to establish a new baseline of instructional time moving forward, not fewer hours for additional appropriations. Acknowledging the differences in schedules and community needs across the state, the enactment of House Bill 130 contemplated the challenges of encouraging more learning time in an environment of limited transparency on performance and no accountability. While the task of ensuring all schools provide a constitutionally sufficient education for all students is stupendous, the committee strongly encourages PED to consider a more collaborative approach with local districts that instills joint responsibility (rather than top-down accountability) for better outcomes, focuses interventions on the lowest performing schools, and designs more dynamic approaches to expand learning opportunities than a one-size-fits-all proposal.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Senator George K. Munoz.

Senator George K. Munoz, Chair, LFC

Handwritten signature of Representative Nathan Small.

Representative Nathan Small, Vice-Chair, LFC

From: [Eli Roberts](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Eli Roberts](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:40:22 AM
Attachments: [Document1 \(2\).docx](#)

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

Dear Secretary Arsenio Romero

Hello, my name is Eli S. Roberts, I am an 8th grader at Animas High School. I would like to address the 5-day school week proposal. The five-day school week would hurt our attendance rate and some families because a lot of the families in Animas run farms and ranches. They have a lot of animals and houses to keep up on. We have a hard enough time with the school week now but if you add an extra day, this will make it that much harder to take care of our responsibilities. Living in a rural community with little resources, we use that extra day for:

- Shopping for food for the week ahead and the nearest grocery store is an hour away, so it makes it very hard to make that trip on other days. We also have plans like taking care of our chores or helping our parents out around the house.
- Another thing we need to do on Fridays, living in a rural community, is that we go to doctor's appointments and school sports games. If we are in school, then we will be getting less done and our schedule will fail.

One of the last things I want to mention is the attendance rates. The attendance rate will fall drastically, and the enrollment will drop too, because kids' parents will either pull them out to home school, or they will pull them out on Fridays to help on the farms or ranches. The school will then lose money and will possibly get shut down for lack of money and/or students and staff.

In conclusion, what I'm trying to say is that our school is built on a four day school week to help our families and if we mess that up it will have a domino effect on families and students.

For questions or concerns, please contact me back at:

eroberts@animask12.net

Sincerely,

Eli Roberts

From: [Memphis Sheehan](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#); Jenifer.Jones@nmlegis.gov; crystal.diamond@nmlegis.gov; [Soules, William P.](#); [Romero, Andres G.](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5 day school week
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:50:36 AM

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

Dear secretary Arsenio Romero,

I am an 8th grader at an Animas high school. I am an artist and do mock trials. I am writing about the concern of the changing to the five days of school proposal. I disagree with it due to some issues and I would like to express my opinion about this concern.

Some schools have diverse ways of teaching, and this five-day school week can impact the way schools teach. More teachers might start leaving and retiring causing schools to start to close. It could affect the work ethic and how exhausted the students are.

Extra days of school can impact how well teachers teach because the weekends are when they start planning the lessons. Because there might be more school days there will be more bus rides and how much money is spent on gas causing bankruptcy. The time schedules will change and make it more difficult to pay attention. The cost of food and supplies will be much more than the usual cost because more days will mean more supplies.

It will lower the number of staff and attendance of students. This will cause bankruptcies and lack of staff and attendances from students and teachers; it might even cause riots and fights more often. Students and teachers plan most things on Fridays like appointments and other jobs or family visits and holidays.

Thank

msheehan@animask12.net

This is my email address if you would like to contact me

From: [Daniel Dominguez](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Daniel Dominguez](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] proposed changes to the school week
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 8:53:57 AM

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

Hello. My name is Daniel Dominguez and I'm a 8th grader at Animas Public Schools in cotton city, New Mexico, and I don't support the new law that the governor is trying to imply since we all have stuff to do on Fridays. Here's a reminder: the governor's trying to change a law that was already there, and she's trying to add more stuff to it by trying to add 5 days and a 180-day minimum. But there's one huge flaw to that. Wanna know why? Well, mostly every citizen who lives here doesn't like the law she's trying to pass. Also, whoever made the original 4 days law made it 3 decades ago. But with that out of the way, I'm going to state the multiple things this law is going to hurt.

1. Implying this law is going to cause some of us to fall behind on school, and teachers probably won't be able to get supplies and take care of certain things, such as appointments, groceries and family matters. It's also going to add to the teacher shortage right now, meaning if there's teachers that are eligible to retire will. This will sacrifice quality for quantity since we live in a rural community. because the tech services and every other service that works for the school or helps the school has less days to help with stuff during the weekend. Lastly, teachers will have less time to prepare for classes, therefore having less quality, and if there's going to be 5 days, kids are going to be more sleep deprived since there's certain kids that come all the way from rodeo and hidalgo early in the morning just to get here on time.
2. Remember when I said that people might have certain needs on Friday, such as shopping and family needs? Well, certain kids must help with ranches, fields and other things that are important. If we have 5 days of school, it's going to be tough to do those things and kids might just have to miss school days just to get stuff done, which will hurt their grade depending what things they must do, such as a dentist appointment, family emergency or farmwork.
3. Lastly, citizens will be angry if this law is passed, since parents have been using this law in the past 30 years. Also, since there's a teacher shortage it's pretty tough to find new teachers since we're basically in the middle of nowhere, meaning it's also tougher to find people who would even want to apply!
4. As a personal reason, I hope this law doesn't get passed since I can't really see my mom very often, but she does come over on some weekends though. The reason why it's like this is because my mom lives somewhere else (Arizona). We live in separate areas because my mom has a job in Arizona and my dad has a job here in Animas, New Mexico. And we also don't have an actual house yet, and this is another hard impact this would have on us.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Domingue

School Email: ddominguez@animask12.net

Personal / Iphone Email: daniela.dominguez17@icloud.com

December 13, 2023

RE: Proposed changes in the 6.10.5 NMAC (School Calendar Requirements)

Dear Secretary Arsenio Romero

I am an eighth grader here at Animas Public Schools. I am writing in favor of maintaining the current four-day school week and am concerned about the five-day change.

- **Focus and Productivity:** A five-day school week would lead to less focused students, less productivity, and worsened behavior. With this five-day schedule, students and teachers are less motivated to make the most of their time, potentially leading to decreased engagement and academic achievement.
- **Environmental Considerations:** Extending the school week may result in increased energy consumption, transportation-related emissions, and overall environmental impact. As we strive to be environmentally conscious, maintaining a four-day school week aligns with sustainability goals and a reduced carbon footprint.
- **Limited Time for Extracurricular Activities:** A five-day school week may reduce the time available for students to engage in extracurricular activities, such as sports. Many students are enrolled in sports such as Basketball, Football, Volleyball, and Track. Many games are on Friday causing the students to be behind on work, meaning less education. Changing the schedule would interfere with the athletic schedule and the education of students.

Thank you for hearing my issues with the schedule, if you have concerns or problems reach me at fsanchez@animask12.net.

Fernando Sanchez

From: bacanii@comcast.net
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:07:30 AM

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

PED personnel are believed to be the experts in education. Please consider smaller, inclusive classes, smaller special ed caseloads, and multiple resources, especially modern electronic devices such as computers.

Dear Secretary Romero

I am a 8th grader at Animas public school. I am concerned about the five day law change

. We have responsibilities on the weekend.

. We have to go to town.

. We have to work to do.

. We have sports on the weekends.

. We have families to help out

So I would like it to stay 4 days

Wyatt Clonts

From: [Paula Currier](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5NMAC School Calendar Requirements
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:16:31 AM

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

Dear PED,

I am a New Mexico public school teacher. I am writing to speak out against this circumvention of state law that PED is proposing for SY2024-2025. The proposal to require 180 instructional days not including PD hours. It is wrong to push this change through against the wishes of New Mexico families and teachers, thinking more time will solve the deeply systemic and complex problems facing our state regarding public education. Better programs and teachers who are valued is where your focus should be.

[Sent from AOL on Android](#)

From: [Constantine, Consuelo, PED](#)
To: [Terrazas, Denise, PED](#); [Senteney, Emily, PED](#)
Subject: FW: Additional Comments from a Constituent of State Rep. Jenifer Jones
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:38:13 AM
Attachments: [Dear Secretary Romero.docx](#)
[image001.png](#)

Consuelo M. Constantine | Executive Assistant, Office of the Secretary
New Mexico Public Education Department
300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501
C: (505) 309-2801 | Main: (505) 827-6452 | **New Email:** Consuelo.Constantine@ped.nm.gov
Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression Portal: bit.ly/ARAOHotline
Check us out here: [NMPED](#)



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From: May, Rick <Rick.May@nmlegis.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:28 AM
To: Constantine, Consuelo, PED <Consuelo.Constantine@ped.nm.gov>
Cc: Jones, Jenifer <Jenifer.Jones@nmlegis.gov>; Hedin, Ryan <ryan.hedin@nmlegis.gov>
Subject: Additional Comments from a Constituent of State Rep. Jenifer Jones

Mr. Secretary:

State Representative Jenifer Jones has received an excellent letter from Fernando Sanchez, an eighth grader from Animas Public Schools, and she has asked me to forward this outstanding letter to your office. This letter expresses strong support for the current four-day school week this student currently enjoys.

While we realize the public comment period ended yesterday, we hope this letter will be taken into consideration during PED's deliberations on the final rule.

If there are any questions, please let us know.

Rick May

Rick May
Policy Director
House Republican Leadership Office
State Capitol, Room 125

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501
(505) 986-4761 office

From: Jones, Jenifer <Jenifer.Jones@nmlegis.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:14 AM

To: May, Rick <Rick.May@nmlegis.gov>

Subject: Please forward to Sec Romero

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

December 13, 2023

RE: Proposed changes in the 6.10.5 NMAC (School Calendar Requirements)

Dear Secretary Arsenio Romero

I am an eighth grader here at Animas Public Schools. I am writing in favor of maintaining the current four-day school week and am concerned about the five-day change.

- **Focus and Productivity:** A five-day school week would lead to less focused students, less productivity, and worsened behavior. With this five-day schedule, students and teachers are less motivated to make the most of their time, potentially leading to decreased engagement and academic achievement.
- **Environmental Considerations:** Extending the school week may result in increased energy consumption, transportation-related emissions, and overall environmental impact. As we strive to be environmentally conscious, maintaining a four-day school week aligns with sustainability goals and a reduced carbon footprint.
- **Limited Time for Extracurricular Activities:** A five-day school week may reduce the time available for students to engage in extracurricular activities, such as sports. Many students are enrolled in sports such as Basketball, Football, Volleyball, and Track. Many games are on Friday causing the students to be behind on work, meaning less education. Changing the schedule would interfere with the athletic schedule and the education of students.

Thank you for hearing my issues with the schedule, if you have concerns or problems reach me at fsanchez@animask12.net.

Fernando Sanchez

From: [Hadley Rudd](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:58:12 AM

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

My name is Hadley Rudd, 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.

this is crazy we do not need more stress in are week being a kid should be fun but its not because I'm always stressed about grades

Sincerely,
Hadley rudd

From: [Valeria Olivares](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Valeria Olivares](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] proposed changes
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 10:37:02 AM

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

Hello, my name is valeria S.Olivares from animas public schools I an 8th grader

Therefore, I am writing this letter to express my concern about the change of days, in my opinion I don't like the five-day school because I have got more things to do like for example sometimes most of the doctor's appointments are on Friday. Or like sometimes we to the store on Fridays

I feel like if the school days change to five-day school, we will lose a lot of teachers because of the days or because they got something to do. More things, spending time with their family etc.

I my opinion the five-day school will take away one of the days some people use more for appointments, on Fridays woke up early to help my ancle and aunt because they got.

Me and my family don't agree about it because we have more things to do, we, I know school is very important if you want to progress, but we have more occupations like going to the doctor, to the store or more reasons, oh and since I came to this school it was different but way better only going 4 days a week, with all my respect I think the five day school will affect our own time.

From: [Kelli Bair](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition of 5 day week
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 11:29:16 AM

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

Hello,

My scholar goes to the Ask Academy and is in the 11th grade. He has been there since 6th grade so he will do his entire middle school and high school education at this school. He has ADHD and is attending a STEM school! The reason he is able to attend a STEM school with this disability is because he is not required to meet a rigorous 5-day schedule at public schools. At a public school with a 5-day work week, he would not have the ability to focus on extracurricular activities as well as his huge homework assignments. The 4-day work week has allowed for him to see his counselor, do some of his homework, go on work assignments with his father to get real time on-the-job experiences, not to mention the extra time that he has with his family who he is very close to.

Please reconsider this extra school hours requirement as it would greatly harm my scholar, in irreversible ways.

I fully and 100% *OPPOSE* the proposed school year changes to add extra hours.

Thank you for your time and for reading my email.

Respectfully,

Parent Kelli Bair

From: [April Kinney](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 12:10:58 PM

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

Hello,

I am writing with strong opposition to requiring schools to have 180/150 days of instructional time. We live in a state where communities are having a difficult time finding and retaining teachers, and this proposal would put an undue burden on those schools. Additionally, I'm not sure how adding a few additional days is going to fix the reading and math problem; we are seeing kids with extreme poverty, generational cycles of abuse, technology addiction, and charter schools who aren't meeting students' IEP needs and goals. I would like the PED to take a strong look at attendance records, teacher shortages, and access to mental health care in order to create a more realistic approach to achieving higher math and reading scores.

Thank you for your time,
April Kinney

From: [Constantine, Consuelo, PED](#)
To: [Terrazas, Denise, PED](#); [Senteney, Emily, PED](#)
Subject: FW: Additional Comments from Constituents of State Rep. Jenifer Jones
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 1:53:55 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

More on 180 day for your records.

Consuelo M. Constantine | Executive Assistant, Office of the Secretary
New Mexico Public Education Department
300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501
C: (505) 309-2801 | Main: (505) 827-6452 | **New Email:** Consuelo.Constantine@ped.nm.gov
Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression Portal: bit.ly/ARAOHotline
Check us out here: [NMPED](https://nmped.org)



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From: May, Rick <Rick.May@nmlegis.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 10:29 AM
To: Constantine, Consuelo, PED <Consuelo.Constantine@ped.nm.gov>
Cc: Jones, Jenifer <Jenifer.Jones@nmlegis.gov>; Hedin, Ryan <ryan.hedin@nmlegis.gov>
Subject: RE: Additional Comments from Constituents of State Rep. Jenifer Jones

Consuelo:

Thank you very much for your quick response and your willingness to forward Fernando's letter to the policy staff.

Since my first email, Rep. Jones has sent me two additional letters and they are provided below.

Thanks again.

Rick

Hello. My name is Daniel Dominguez and I'm a 8th grader at Animas Public Schools in cotton city, New Mexico, and I don't support the new law that the governor is trying to imply since we all have stuff to do on Fridays. Here's a reminder: the governor's trying to change a law that was already there, and she's trying to add more stuff to it by trying to add 5 days and a 180-day minimum. But there's one huge flaw to that. Wanna know why? Well, mostly every citizen who lives here doesn't like the law she's trying to pass. Also, whoever made the original 4 days law made it 3 decades ago. But with that out of the way, I'm going to state the multiple things this law is going to hurt.

1. Implying this law is going to cause some of us to fall behind on school, and teachers probably won't be able to get supplies and take care of certain things, such as appointments, groceries and family matters. It's also going to add to the teacher shortage right now, meaning if there's teachers that are eligible to retire will. This will sacrifice quality for quantity since we live in a rural community. because the tech services and every other service that works for the school or helps the school has less days to help with stuff during the weekend. Lastly, teachers will have less time to prepare for classes, therefore having less quality, and if there's going to be 5 days, kids are going to be more sleep deprived since there's certain kids that come all the way from rodeo and hidalgo early in the morning just to get here on time.
2. Remember when I said that people might have certain needs on Friday, such as shopping and family needs? Well, certain kids must help with ranches, fields and other things that are important. If we have 5 days of school, it's going to be tough to do those things and kids might just have to miss school days just to get stuff done, which will hurt their grade depending what things they must do, such as a dentist appointment, family emergency or farmwork.
3. Lastly, citizens will be angry if this law is passed, since parents have been using this law in the past 30 years. Also, since there's a teacher shortage it's pretty tough to find new teachers since we're basically in the middle of nowhere, meaning it's also tougher to find people who would even want to apply!
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Sincerely,
Daniel A. Dominguez

School Email: ddominguez@animask12.net

Personal / Iphone Email: daniela.dominguez17@icloud.com

Dear secretary Arsenio Romero,

I am an 8th grader at an Animas high school. I am an artist and do mock trials. I am writing about the concern of the changing to the five days of

school proposal. I disagree with it due to some issues and I would like to express my opinion about this concern.

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It will lower the number of staff and attendance of students. This will cause bankruptcies and lack of staff and attendances from students and teachers; it might even cause riots and fights more often. Students and teachers plan most things on Fridays like appointments and other jobs or family visits and holidays.

Thank

msheehan@animask12.net

This is my email address if you would like to contact me

From: Constantine, Consuelo, PED <Consuelo.Constantine@ped.nm.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:37 AM

To: May, Rick <Rick.May@nmlegis.gov>

Cc: Jones, Jenifer <Jenifer.Jones@nmlegis.gov>; Hedin, Ryan <ryan.hedin@nmlegis.gov>

Subject: [EXT] RE: Additional Comments from a Constituent of State Rep. Jenifer Jones

Good morning, Mr. May –

I will see that the Secretary get your email and the letter from Fernando Sanchez.

I will also send it to our Policy Division so it can be put on record with other letters of support.

Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Consuelo M. Constantine | Executive Assistant, Office of the Secretary

New Mexico Public Education Department

300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501

C: (505) 309-2801 | Main: (505) 827-6452 | **New Email:** Consuelo.Constantine@ped.nm.gov

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Check us out here: [NMPED](https://www.nmped.org)



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From: May, Rick <Rick.May@nmlegis.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:28 AM

To: Constantine, Consuelo, PED <Consuelo.Constantine@ped.nm.gov>

Cc: Jones, Jenifer <Jenifer.Jones@nmlegis.gov>; Hedin, Ryan <ryan.hedin@nmlegis.gov>

Subject: Additional Comments from a Constituent of State Rep. Jenifer Jones

Mr. Secretary:

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While we realize the public comment period ended yesterday, we hope this letter will be taken into consideration during PED's deliberations on the final rule.

If there are any questions, please let us know.

Rick May

Rick May

Policy Director

House Republican Leadership Office

State Capitol, Room 125

Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

(505) 986-4761 office

From: Jones, Jenifer <Jenifer.Jones@nmlegis.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:14 AM
To: May, Rick <Rick.May@nmlegis.gov>
Subject: Please forward to Sec Romero

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From: [Windell Tsoodle](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Class room time
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 1:57:34 PM

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

More time in classrooms is not the answer. Problems in parenting and family economics will answer existing problems. We are a poor state! It's almost as if New Mexico is an emerging developing nation.

From: [Angie Medrow](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regulation 6.10.5
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 1:57:57 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 do not agree with the changes to Regulation 6.10.5. School districts should be allowed to design their school calendars as they see fit with regards to meeting the required instructional hours. I have worked in Logan Municipal School on a 4 day school week for 20 years. Our high school graduation rate is at 97.3%. Our elementary reading and math scores are more than double the state averages.

In our community a 4 day school week has shown to be successful.

Increasing to a 5 day school week will also increase the number of staff and student absences due to doctor and dental appointments. Some rural area students and teachers have to travel over an hour to get medical attention.

Angie Medrow

From: [Cindy Garcia](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Ru6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 2:21:07 PM

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

We are a small community, and we cannot do a 5-day School Schedule. We can't even come up with a good resource for our school, because we don't have enough teachers, EA's much less a school nurse. Such for nurse we take our teacher's and students to be checked at a near by Clinic. Some parents struggle in the community to bring their kids to school when they even miss the bus. A shortage of teachers harms students, teachers, and the public education system. Lack of sufficient, qualified teachers and staff instability threatens students' ability to learn and reduce teachers' effectiveness, and high teacher turnover consumes economic resources that could be better deployed elsewhere.

From: [CAROL TEWELEIT](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 2:26:47 PM

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

As a former educator and school board member, I ask you not to pass the 180 day school year. There are much more important issues to deal with, such as alarming increases in absenteeism. Adding more days to the school year will not help with the absences. The bills you passed last year should be sufficient to increase learning. Longer does not necessarily mean better learning. Thank you for considering my message. Carol Teweleit, ALAMOGORDO, New Mexico.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [F.G](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: Regarding 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 2:50:06 PM

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

Hello,

I submitted this feedback about the proposed rule change and did not see it listed in the exhibits. I wonder how many other public comments were left off? Can you please look into this and add this to the exhibits, or was the request for public comment just a farce to placate the masses?

Sincerely, Faye Gibson

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: ACT <act@atfunion.org>
To: F G <faye.gibson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 at 01:54:45 PM MST
Subject: Re: Regarding 6.10.5 NMAC

Thanks, Faye.

Dwayne Norris
ATF VP of Membership & Involvement

Website: <https://atfunion.org>

"There are only two unions in this country. The union of capital and the union of labor. Which are you going to join? You haven't got the money to get in with the capitalists, so you had better get with the honest crowd."- [Mother Jones](#)

"It is not fair for nonmembers to get the benefits that members pay for."- *Costco spokesperson on NPR 6.28.23*

From: F G <faye.gibson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, December 8, 2023 10:58 AM
To: Rule.Feedback@PED.nm.gov <Rule.Feedback@PED.nm.gov>
Cc: ACT <act@atfunion.org>
Subject: Regarding 6.10.5 NMAC

Hello,

I am writing as a parent, teacher, and community member to say that I am vehemently opposed to your proposed rule change. Firstly, I think it is absolutely an over-reach for you to attempt to side-step the legislative process like you are trying to. The current rule was vetted, debated, and revised with community and legislative input. How dare you try to subvert the will of the people?

Second, I was opposed to the increase in instructional hours to begin with. The problems facing education in our state cannot be solved with a one-size fits all approach that allows you (PED) to do the least amount of work possible to attempt to meet your obligations in the Yazzie/Martinez case. The biggest problems facing students will not be solved by adding hours to their day or days to the year. They

are living with extreme poverty, homelessness, violence, drugs and alcohol in the home, abuse, PTSD, systemic racism, and learning disabilities. Adding days will not solve the problem of 20-40% truancy in students. Adding days will do nothing to alleviate the teacher shortage, or prevent teachers leaving the district because of burn-out and lack of support.

My children and I are barely getting by mentally, emotionally, and physically. We do not have any more energy to give. My 8 year old had a breakdown yesterday because of our tough schedule. My 5 year old falls asleep in the car every single day. We leave the house at 7am and do not get home until 5:30PM, if we are lucky. Worse, my children spend a measly 3 hours a day with me, all of which is spent either rushing them to school, rushing them home, or rushing them to finish their homework and eat and bathe. We do this every day, just trying to hold on until the weekend. It is a bleak existence. Children need childhoods!! They need time to play. Free-play where they use their imagination and develop motor skills and social skills. They need time to reflect on their learning, and just spend time with their families.

We need meaningful breaks to rest and recharge, and this includes summer break where many families use time for extracurriculars they cannot participate in during the school year, travel to visit families, or attend tutoring or summer school to catch up. Teachers use this time to recharge their batteries, attend professional development that will be meaningful to their own practice(not the canned, generic PD's that are mandated and do nothing to actually improve our teaching) or to advance their own education thereby improving their teaching.

Finally, your proposal that collaborative meetings, PTC's and professional development are not counted in the instructional hours is absolutely the wrong move. That will essentially give teachers even less precious time, which as I mentioned above, is already severely lacking. Look at some of the most successful schools in New Mexico and you will find that they give their teachers ample time for planning, collaboration, and professional development.

If you really want to improve the outlook of New Mexico students, consider changes that will give teachers more time for feedback, planning, grading, differentiating, and collaborating. I cannot do these things when I have 30 students in my room that I have to watch like a hawk. I cannot help my struggling students because there are just too many in each class and I am one person. We need more EAs, more special education teachers, and smaller class sizes. These are the radical changes that can have meaningful impact.

Allow schools and districts to make their own decisions regarding how best to meet the instructional hours obligations. Schools and districts should be able to interpret the legislative rules in ways that make sense for their own communities. Not this one-size-fits-all approach you like.

If your rule goes through I am absolutely looking to change careers, and this is coming from a 3rd year teacher. I am in the beginning of what could be a long and productive career. I love teaching, but I got into it to make a difference and have more time with my family. You will also lose even more enrolled families as they opt to move to homeschooling or even moving out of state.

Sincerely,

Faye Gibson
APS Teacher and Parent

14 Decembre 2023

RE: Proposed changes in the 6.10.5 NMAC (School Calendar Requirements)

Dear Secretary Arsenio Romero

Mi nombre es Misael Orozco del grado 8 de la escuela Animas public school mi opinión sobre la ley de los 5 días de escuela es que no sería bien por que por mi parte no estaría bien como yo los viernes y el fin de semana les ayudo a mis papas con los deberes de la casa o también a veces con la economía y para los maestros y maestras no les conviene por que para ellos es muy poco la paga y ellos tienen que trabajar los viernes y los fines de semana para poder mantener a la familia mis compañeros también a veces los viernes les ayudan a sus papas con la economía de su casa por mi parte sería todo gracias por su comprensión.

Misael Orozco

From: Sarah-Darby Begeman
To: FeedBack, Rule, PED
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposed to new rule
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 3:44:17 PM

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Hi,

I'm a high school teacher in the SFPS district and I'm writing to oppose the new rule that would extend the school year. To put it simply, I don't want to give up any ground on my summers. As an educator who gives her all, the summer is a much needed respite from the stressors of the school year. I would seriously consider quitting if this rule went into effect. Also, our school already struggles with truancy issues. Adding more time to the school year would just create more days for students' to consider missing.

If the PED Secretary wants to take "**bold action**" to improve outcomes for kids, that teachers would *actually* rally behind, the PED Secretary could float a new rule to **ban cell phones in schools**. This would actually improve accountability amongst our students, a demographic who must *also* be held accountable. I could speak anecdotally to how much of a game changer that would be in my classrooms. Or we could look at other districts, states, countries who have already decided to take this kind of bold action.

I would encourage you to check out the following article titled, "It Sure Looks Like Phones Are Making Students Dumber" in The Atlantic: <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2023/12/cell-phones-student-test-scores-dropping/676889/>

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

--

Sarah-Darby C. Begeman M. Ed.

(She / Her)

ELA 9 (Honors) Teacher

Capital High School

"Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present" - Albert Camus



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From: [Melanie C. Aguilar](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] FEEDBACK: 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 4:29:06 PM

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My daughter Jaklyn M. Lopez goes to Loving Municipal School and I do not want her to go to school 5 days a week. I am voting to keep it 4 days a week, Monday-Thursday.

Thank you,

Melanie Aguilar
575-988-8460

From: [Lisa Larson](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback on proposal
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 5:02:33 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am a Los Alamos parent of two high schoolers. When I read the current proposal, I could hardly believe my eyes. I am writing to let you know that School here in this community is difficult enough without putting more hours and days into the school year. By not allowing a free period in high school you are harming the students at the high school level. The students work so hard here and they need a free period to study for their rigorous courses. Their summers have already been shortened this year. I don't believe by adding more days to the school year is going to solve the issue that seems to have you going in this direction. The students need their summers as a time for recuperation, renewal, rest and life skill growth to be a healthy and more balanced human being. I vehemently oppose this

proposal and ask you to reconsider passing this into law. This will only continue to surmount the mental health problems of these young people. I would ask you to carefully consider the well-being of the staff and students not only academically, but emotionally, physically, and mentally too. I think it would be best for each school district to have the option of implementing these policies if they are to come to pass. The Los Alamos school district stands alone when it comes to education, and I would ask you to consider not implementing this policy for this particular school district. There is enough pressure on these young adults that have led to a higher than normal suicide rate here. I believe the policies the governor's administration and state of New Mexico is passing has only contributed to this serious issue in our community. However, not only does it affect the students, but the teachers and administration as well. I urge you to consider the well-being of all the students, teachers, and administrators.

Sincerely,
Lisa Larson

Sent from my iPhone

From: devostrange@gmail.com
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5 day requirement for schools
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 9:43:23 PM

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

My name is Joel Humphrey, 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,
Joel Humphrey

From: [C. Evarts](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed new rule
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 11:03:41 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 deeply disturbed at the suggested new rules for NM schools. I am not going to give you a line by line assessment, but simply say it's a bad idea. It takes away our school district's power to form a school year to meet our communities's needs. I have heard from other people and other school districts who feel the same. It also penalizes the teachers, who give everything for our children and get very little back.

Please allow our community to serve our children. Your proposed changes would be nothing but detrimental to our students and teachers.

Thank you,
Caroline Evarts
Los Alamos, NM

From: [whitney](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Amendment 6.10.5 NMAC, Comments
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 7:36:49 AM

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

Hello,

My name is Whitney DeFoor. My children attend the APS Magnet Desert Willow Family School. It is a special school that has been around for 20 years. Part of the program is a joint parent and teacher relationship, which is facilitated by Monday Homeschool/Home Instructional Days. Parents receive monthly instruction for teaching. These Mondays are particularly important for the several yearly projects that are pivotal to the school's curriculum.

I suggest looking at the school website:

- <https://desertwillow.aps.edu/our-school/distinctives>

Desert Willow Family School is a very successful school with a program that excels. The parents and children who attend the school are committed and hardworking. The school has high expectations of everyone who attends and the children succeed.

Please consider that there are special reasons why a school may not have 5-day a week school. Well, in our case, we have 5-day a week school, but we don't have 5-day a week instruction in the school room, 1-day is home instruction. Anyway, I am concerned for the rural small schools that may have these special reasons, or maybe other special schools that approach things differently. The New Mexico community is diverse and we need to allow for the diverse needs of the community.

I am also concerned about the rapidity in which PED rule changes are occurring. How are we to measure if a single change has produced sufficient and meaningful results if the rules are changing too quickly? I am not convinced that forcing families, children, and communities into longer and more frequent schoolroom instruction is beneficial ... certainly not beneficial to everyone.

Thank You,
Whitney

From: [Can Lans](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 8:59:46 AM

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

Good morning,

While I agree New Mexico needs to improve education in our state, I am not sure that adding hours is the best course of action. We have problems with chronic absenteeism that more days will not help. We need to address that issue as well as the importance of quality, rigorous education before adding days.

Thank you,

Candice Lansford

From: [Penny Coppedge](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Rule Feedback for: 4 day school week
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 10:39:40 AM

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.

Re: 4 Day School Week

Good Morning,

Thank you for the work and advocacy you all do on behalf of New Mexico students. Not an easy task with the diversity of our state and our districts.

I saw a news story this morning about the proposed abolition of the four day school week. I am a retired educator who has served various districts in New Mexico both four and five day schedules. I was also a student at Cimarron Municipal Schools when Cimarron led the innovation of four day school weeks under the leadership of Joe Pompeo.

While I know that your ideas come from great concern and desire to improve education in New Mexico, I strongly feel that this particular issue is misguided:

1) It is not the time spent in the classroom, but the *quality* of that time. Historically, the smaller schools with four day weeks have had positive data. Graduates have gone on to become educators, physicians, professors, military officers, etc.

Teachers in these districts have been committed to continuous improvement. REC's have done a great job of providing quality in-service. In my mind, it also speaks to the benefits of smaller class sizes.

2) Areas where my experience tells me seriously need to be addressed are:

A) Mandates: funded or unfunded. It seems to me, each time a mandate comes down the pike, it is an add-on. Other mandates remain in place and are not taken away. We are asking schools to take on too much.

B) Students who come to class and literally do nothing. This should **not** be put on teachers: to motivate or individualize, etc. These students, in my opinion are there for one of two reasons: either to meet the criteria so their parents don't get in trouble or to deal drugs. This issue needs to be addressed head on and realistically. Drugs are a real issue in our schools; we can no longer minimize this issue (reference recent waste water study).

C) Teacher absenteeism. The fact of the matter is that teachers take leave for destination weddings, National Finals rodeo, family vacations, etc. Teachers cannot be effective if they are not there. My suggestion is to have districts take a serious look at and report honestly on teacher absenteeism and figure out a way to address this issue. If more days are added to schedules, my guess is, some teachers will just take more days off.

Again, thank you for your sincere concern for the education of our students. I encourage you to take a hard look at data: all data (including teacher attendance) and not just add more time, but take away some things: drug dealers disguised as students, some mandates.

Thank you again,

Penny Coppedge,
Retired Educator

From: [Meghan McDonald](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5 Day School Week Comments
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 10:41:57 AM

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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.

Moreover, my child has special needs and receives critical therapy on the Fridays she is off. Having a day to receive these outside therapies without missing school instruction is critical.

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

*Sincerely,
Meghan McDonald, Parent
Alice King Community School*

From: [Tandee Delk](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Rule 6.10.5 School Calendar Feedback
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 12:33:06 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 strong opposition to the proposed rule change regarding the school calendar, as presented by the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED). As the Superintendent of Elida Schools, I feel compelled to voice my concerns and advocate for the autonomy that local districts should have in determining their own school calendars.

Since 1995, Elida Municipal School students have thrived on a 4-day school week. The 1,140-hour requirement implemented last year allows local districts to tailor school calendars to meet the unique needs of our students and community. This proposed rule change, mandating a 180-day instructional calendar, would essentially eliminate our successful 4-day school week, adding 32 more school days and disrupting the balance we have established.

During the presentation to the NM Legislative Education Study Committee on November 15, 2023, the NMPED, represented by Mr. Frostad, referenced a RAND Corporation study suggesting that a 4-day school week has similar learning outcomes as the COVID-19 shutdown. However, it is crucial to note that the study's results indicated a negative or no difference finding on student achievement. Relying on a single study for such a significant policy change appears biased, especially when our district has demonstrated impressive academic growth.

Our district's academic achievements, with a 15% rise in math and 8% in reading last year, well above the state average, underscore the fallacy of assuming increased instructional time alone guarantees improved student outcomes. Numerous studies emphasize factors such as regular attendance, smaller class sizes, rigorous instruction, student engagement, highly qualified teachers, quality learning materials, and community and family involvement as critical contributors to academic success. It raises concerns that the NMPED is not aligning its proposals with these well-established principles.

Furthermore, the legal aspects surrounding this proposed rule change must be addressed. The Public School Code (22-2- 8.1) specifies a minimum number of instructional hours, not days, and HB 130 requires hours, not days. The Public School Finance Act (22-8-23.14) explicitly authorizes schools in New Mexico to operate on either a 4-day or 5-day school week. The proposed rule seems to contradict these laws, and clarification is necessary.

Mr. Frostad mentioned that school districts could still operate on a 4-day week, albeit only 50% of the time, while adhering to the 180-day instructional calendar. This provision would effectively force rural districts like Elida onto a year-round school calendar, creating considerable challenges for our students and their families.

One of the primary advantages of the 4-day school week in rural areas is its alignment with agricultural and ranching schedules. The proposed rule, by extending the school calendar, would impede our students' ability to participate in crucial activities such as agriculture harvest and ranch work during the summer months. This not only hinders their hands-on learning experiences but also disrupts the longstanding tradition of involving students in important community activities and family livelihoods.

Conversely, transitioning to a 5-day school week, as suggested, poses a different set of challenges. Many of our students and staff members are actively involved in family farms and ranches, relying on weekends for essential work. The proposed change would infringe upon their ability to contribute to local economies and support their families during the weekends. Mr. Frostad's characterization of districts wanting a three-day weekend overlooks the true purpose of the 4-day school week in rural areas, which is intricately linked to the economic and cultural fabric of our communities.

Financial implications also raise significant concerns. The NMPED must provide a transparent plan on how districts will be fully funded for increased transportation and cafeteria costs, considering current deficits in these areas. Additionally, addressing the 20% increase in funds for districts transitioning to a 5-day school week, and the impact on rural districts' bus rotation and mileage, is essential.

Lastly, the proposed rule represents government overreach, infringing upon the authority of local school boards elected to address the specific needs of their communities, including setting the instructional calendar. I urge the NMPED to reconsider this proposed rule change, taking into account the unique circumstances and successes of districts like Elida. Collaborative discussions with local school boards and stakeholders are crucial to ensure that any changes align with the best interests of our students and communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to a thoughtful and constructive dialogue on this issue with stakeholders.

Tandee Delk Superintendent – Elida Municipal Schools

"Perfection is unattainable, but if you chase perfection you catch excellence." - Vince Lombardi

From: [Chelsea Dappen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] act@atfunion.org
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 2:26:36 PM

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

Good Afternoon,

I am writing to give feedback on the proposed changes to the school year.

I am a current Elementary Art Teacher in Albuquerque Public Schools.

I am not in support of the further extended school year and I am pleading that you do not proceed with these changes!

It is my belief that we do not have the staff available in New Mexico to support these changes and even if we did, it would not be in the best interest of the students. At my school this year we have had multiple teachers quit mid-year because the additional time, extreme behaviors, and added stress have been too overwhelming. If this is happening already, how will we function next year? Even more students will be left without teachers and will not have the quality education they are legally owed. There is a limit to how much teachers can give and we have reached it. We are already coming in early, staying late, and working through lunches. We cannot physically DO much more...

We need:

- 1.) Consistency, try something out for 3-5 years instead of changing curriculum and schedules every single year. Teachers are having to relearn curriculum and get used to drastic schedule changes constantly. We are wasting time getting all of that figured out when we should be working with our kids.
- 2.) To listen to teachers... We are experts in our fields and we know what works with our students. Ask us what we need and listen!
- 3.) More prep time to make high quality lessons, not lessons that are thrown together. Our kids deserve better.
- 4.) Quality training on how to deal with the extreme behaviors that have surfaced since COVID, it is not over! It is continuing to become more extreme.
- 5.) To take the time to care for our student's mental health instead of worrying about test scores and statistics.**

Our children are in pain; experiencing trauma, grief, violence, addiction, abuse... They have not even begun to heal from the pandemic because we have pushed all of that aside and worried about getting test scores up and adding days to the school year. I don't think people understand that what we are facing is a post-pandemic mental health crisis. We are trying to get our students through the day without hurting each other or themselves. They cannot worry about test scores when they are struggling to make it through the day. If we continue to push them forward, thinking only about the bottom line, and ignoring their wellbeing, then we are failing them.

The students should be our priority and the last thing they need right now is even more change. We have a legal duty to provide high quality education to these students and we will not be able to do that with the proposed changes.

For the sake of our students, please do not do this!

Thank you,
Chelsa Trejo
Art Teacher

From: [BRAYDEN ALLEN](#)
To: [Feedback_Rule_PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements"
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 8:10:46 PM

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

To whom it may concern,

I am writing today against proposed NMAC Rule 6.10.5 regarding School Instructional Time Requirements. As a student in 11th grade these proposed changes would affect me greatly for sometime. Being a member of Los Alamos Public Schools, a community that has always excelled academically, these changes are unnecessary. I understand that there are parts of the state that may require additional help with further educational instruction time, however, this needs to be addressed on a county by county, or school by school basis. The proposed changes to academic time are not a one size fits all proposal and will put further undo stress on our students and community.

Growing up in Los Alamos myself I have personally been part of and seen the level of pressure put on students to succeed in this community. Adding additional requirements to an already difficult standard is unnecessary and will significantly have a negative impact on the mental health of our students, something that is already a struggle. As a Junior this year, that carries a course load with multiple AP courses, having a free period has helped me by allowing extra study time that I may not have otherwise. Many of my fellow high school students work very hard to get good grades in a difficult school system, carry a job, take classes at the local college campus and participate in extracurricular activities. The proposed changes would have an impact on all of these.

Aside from the students' well being, these proposed changes additionally affect our teachers that are already overworked and in high demand. Limiting essential planning time for our teachers will put additional undue strain on them. We are already fighting to keep the teachers we have. Straining them further will not be good for our community, or the state as a whole.

I ask that you please consider my thoughts on the matter and if you feel changes need to be made, that it be done on an individual school/county basis, and not as a rushed decision. Not all education in the state is broken. All students, teachers and families should not be punished when help is only needed in parts.

Thank you for your time,

Brayden Allen



Reply

Forward



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

From: [Paul Pope](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Alicia Alicia](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 10:59:12 PM

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

I am writing in reference to NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements" with my strong objection toward same.

There is a saying, "continuing to do the same unproductive thing in hopes of change is the definition of insanity."

My interpretation is that the changes proposed under NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements" fits this definition of insanity.

However, what is also true is that the long-term objectives are noble and ones that I strongly agree with.

To wit, the need to increase NM's overall graduation rate beyond the current ~73%, as well as increase our standing in academic prowess nationally (in particular in comparison to other rural states versus coastal states).

My strong recommendation is to leverage our current oil&gas windfall in the following manner (versus the proposed increases in class time and the requisite increase in teacher burden and decrease in preparation time).

I suggest our state increase teacher and instructional assistant/educational assistant recruiting and retention via increased pay and benefits. Look at our neighbors and compete aggressively and unflinchingly toward pulling talent from out of state into NM. In parallel, increase the opportunities for students to retain after school tutoring and mentorship, as well as vocational technology ("votech") opportunities.

Sincerely,
Paul Pope, Ph.D
White Rock, NM

From: [John Ellis](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] School Calendar Requirements
Date: Thursday, December 21, 2023 8:25:25 AM

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Concerned parties;

Considering HB 130 “had very little effect” according to Arsenio Romero, why propose more days in the classroom? I have been a public school teacher for 19 years in Gallup and 3 years in Taos. The overwhelming problem in both districts has been attendance. At one point Gallup tried to focus on the issue and hold parents accountable for compulsory education requirements regarding attendance. The District Attorney failed to hold parents accountable in any manner what-so-ever. Why add days if you can’t get students to class. Thanks for your consideration.

Respectfully,
John Lloyd Ellis

From: [Alicia Pope](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Instructional Time Requirements
Date: Thursday, December 21, 2023 8:30:50 AM

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

I am writing to address my deep concerns about the proposed 6.10.5 NMAC. While I applaud the attempt to address the problems of decreased graduation rates, higher drop out rates, and reduced academic performance, I do not believe this proposed solution will do what we hope to change. If this has not been done, I would recommend comparing our state and potential solutions with other rural states or other countries that have rural districts similar to us to get ideas to meet our goals. Also if this has not been done, conduct a study to find the root cause of lower performance and increased drop out rates.

I have had the privilege of working in the public schools (not as a teacher, but as an educational assistant). It has been one of the best jobs I have ever had. I love our kids, their parents, teachers, principals, and district staff. They are wonderful people who really love our kids and are trying their absolute best. I am deeply concerned about the impact this will have on them. I believe they are already overwhelmed and over worked trying to keep up with all that is expected of them. They already have so many expectations they need to meet. So do their educational assistants. I am hearing from some they absolutely love their job, but the increased work load is too much. My understanding is this change would reduce planning periods, especially in elementary. Decreasing planning periods would increase time spent at night and weekends to catch up. They use planning periods to grade, enter grades, make copies, prepare packets, email parents, meet with parents, go to meetings/training, and prepare lesson plans weeks out. Many have families of their own and this increase will give them even less time with their own families. Also, the staff and kids are exhausted by the end of the school year. They really need that summer break to recharge. I am deeply concerned we will lose good principals, teachers, and educational assistants over this change because they will feel it is too much.

I am also concerned about our students. Los Alamos kids have a long history of being overachievers. Many share they feel overwhelmed by academic and extracurricular activities expectations. Our county did a study several years ago finding that one reason for higher depression rates with our kids is they felt overwhelmed and depressed by how much was expected of them so our district and parents have been working together to improve our kids emotional well being and reduce the pressure on them. I am concerned students will drop out, be homeschooled, or worse increased depression because they already feel too much is expected of them. I do not hear anyone around me (parents, teachers, principals, district staff, school board, and kids) who want this change. I realize I am in one district and others may feel differently, but my guess is we are not the only district who does not want this change. Please consider a different solution to address the problems. If this has not been done, maybe ask the principals, teachers, and educational assistants in several districts to gather their recommendations to solve these problems we face as a state. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I appreciate the effort to try and find a solution to improve NM education.

Sincerely,

Alicia Pope

From: [Elizabeth A Stevens](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I Say NO to your 180-Day
Date: Friday, December 22, 2023 7:40:42 AM

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Extending the school year does nothing but increase district expenses and teacher burnout. You need to address the real causes of low student achievement by decreasing class sizes, increasing teacher pay, and focusing on real, evidence-based solutions to the problem.

As a level 3 teacher I'm increasingly tempted not to renew my contract because of NMPED's focus on testing data over all else. Testing effectively eliminates 3-5 weeks of instruction and is a flawed measure of student achievement.

The current school year, combined with "planning" days (that are usually consumed by mandatory meetings or trainings) is already too long. Why is it that as a child I attended school from mid-September to mid-May and still got a more complete education than my students who start in July and finish almost in June? NMPED is focused on the wrong things! Adding more days to the school year is only going to encourage already overworked teachers to look for new employment in fields outside of education.

Liz Stevens

Liz Stevens Illustration
(575)519-8561
622 W. Spruce St. Apt 5
Deming, New Mexico 88030
<https://lizstevensart.com>

From: [Isabelle Arambula](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 5-day school week
Date: Friday, December 22, 2023 8:32:36 PM

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

Isabelle V Arambula
120 Sotol Dr.
Lordsburg, NM 88045
iarambula@animask12.net
575-640-2253

December 13, 2023

RE: Proposed changes in the 6.10.5 NMAC (School Calendar Requirements)

Dear Secretary Arsenio Romero,

I am an 8th grader from Animas Public Schools, I am writing to inform you about what issues the 6.10.5 NMAC will cause if this law goes into effect. I disagree with this proposal. Since it will cause many conflicts and it will interfere with the students and the administration.

- Many of the students here
 - o Graduate with many scholarships along with dual credit
 - o Me along with many other students take advanced classes, with dual credit Welding, Math, and English being some of the courses offered.
 - o Every student has the opportunity to take career- based electives and career objectives such as Graphic arts, FFA, drama, Mock trial, and legislative leadership.

Both our students and staff have proven that having responsible students, having a high-quality staff, and having an overall positive school environment can work. We have graduated over 50 kids from WNMU in the Welding program. We also sent students to the Roundhouse every February for the past 7 years and we have never failed to impress law makers and the governor. In the past, we have even had a past secretary of education who was Christopher Ruszkowski visit the school.

Each year, we have an estimate of around 12 graduating seniors that average close to 20,000 dollars in scholarships each. Our graduation rate is near 100% and our dropout rate is near 0%. Animas has proven that a micro district that has a 4-day school week can be a success, far to often small successful districts are punished due to the failings of larger districts instead of being praised for the achievement's they have shown.

Each district should be judged by their student's success instead of being judged as a whole. Animas might be the furthest district from Santa Fe and one of the smallest districts in the whole state, but our voice is heard, loud and clear to the far corners of the state.

If adding more working days to solve our educational problem, then our law makers should fill the Roundhouse every day of the year. Many studies have pointed out the fact that a 4-day work week increases job satisfaction, improves work life balance, and most importantly

reduces stress.

The benefits of a 4-day school week are well defined, while a 5-day school week doesn't have many advantages compared to a 4-day week. With the 4-day week being so successful for many micro districts compared to larger districts going 5-days not being half as fortunate with lower graduation rates and higher dropout rates. Especially at a time when a student's mental and emotional health needs are at an all-time high, with our youth suicide rates increasing each year, why would anyone want to add anymore stress to what they already have.

In conclusion, I would like to restate my claim about how I disagree with this proposal. Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns. If you have any questions, contact me either at iarambula@animask12.net or (575)-640-2253.

Sincerely,

Isabelle V Arambula
8th grader
Animas Public Schools
(575)-640-2253
iarambula@animask12.net

From: [Shelley Clark](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Terrazas, Denise, PED](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: This is a horrible change
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 7:57:20 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Removing our pd days from the 180 days and requiring that we have 1170 hours in the classroom.

On Fri, Dec 22, 2023 at 8:35 PM FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov> wrote:

Shelley Clark,

Can you specify which rule you're referring too?

Emily Senteney | Business Operations Specialist

New Mexico Public Education Department

[300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501](#)

C: (505) 412-5572 | Help Desk: (505) 827-5800

Check us out here: [Policy and Legislative Affairs](#)



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From: Shelley Clark <lloyshel52@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 10:52 AM
To: FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: This is a horrible change

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By enacting this change you would significantly hinder the ability of science teachers to offer labs in their classes which undermines the state's adoption of the Next Generation Science Standards.

From: [Mike Musialowski](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] feedback to proposed 6.10.5 school calendar requirements
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 4:35:44 PM

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

Michael Musialowski
78 Torres Rd
Ranchos de Taos, NM 87557
polacomusial@gmail.com
December 19, 2023

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to protest the New Mexico Public Education Department's interpretation of House Bill 130 from 2023 with regard to K-12 school hours and days required (NMAC 6.10.5). I have read HB 130. This law spells out the requirements clearly: A certain number of instructional hours and days in K-12 schools. Furthermore, the opening paragraph on page 1 and lines 11-18 on page 4 both refer to schools with 4-days per week. However, it appears that NM public education department is choosing to interpret this law as requiring five-day school weeks for all schools in order to meet total number of school hours.

This is an absolute disaster for schools that already have instructional programs and staffing designed around a four-day school week. Also, we know that schools are better able to retain good teachers when they have weekend flexibility, by not having school on Fridays. And many families love it too because we can take our kids on enrichment trips over 3-day weekends as well as local enrichment experiences. Does NMPED really want to be associated with being anti-family? Of course, in New Mexico we are lucky to have a choice. We can choose to apply, or not apply, to schools that have 4-day schedules. We like having a choice. And should parents believe that a 5-day week is better for reading, writing, and math scores, then they are free to apply to those schools.

Frankly, I consider it to be un-American and unnecessary government overreach to use executive power to go beyond the law. I almost never say that, because I believe in reasonable government regulation. But, this level of control interferes with talented educators' abilities to manage their own schools within the bounds of state limits that have already been spelled out by the NM legislature within HB 130. My 8-year child goes to a school in Taos where this proposed policy of forcing 5-day weeks would upend the model of our school. As long as students receive an equivalent secular education, we believe in freedom for families and schools to choose how they get there.

If the Secretary of Education or other leadership in the Department believes that the restrictions in HB130 don't go far enough, they are welcome to lobby the legislature for a new law. But they don't have the power to rule by decree. This is a democracy, not a kingdom. The law is already set.

If NMPED leadership cannot stand down on this fascistic initiative and it cannot legitimize the

legal authority it says it has to act, then we-the-people will be forced to take legal action. Wouldn't the Department rather put time and energy into more fruitful efforts that jibe with known research and community well-being?

Please think twice about pursuing this angle of oversight. We-the-people will respond. This is *my* response.

Thank you for your consideration.

Michael Musialowski

"Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm." - Winston Churchill

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"Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm." - Winston Churchill

Michael "Maciek" Musialowski MS, MA, PDC (he, him, his)

From: +15052315391@tmomail.net
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Saturday, December 23, 2023 6:21:48 PM
Attachments: [text_0.txt](#)

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

With a near 40% truancy rate statewide, forcing local school districts to add days isn't going to bring our students back to school. Rule NMAC 6.10.5. I am a 2nd grade teacher at Ramirez Thomas.



This message was sent to you by a T-Mobile wireless phone.

Reference: NMPED Rule Change Proposal to 4 Day School Week Schools

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I am a teacher. I have been invested in and working in the New Mexico public educational system for thirty-three years, now, and am currently working in the four day a week (often five for teachers) Magdalena Municipal School District in Magdalena, New Mexico. I am in direct opposition to HB 130. I give consent for my email/letter to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is my opinion that New Mexico PED needs to look elsewhere than the 4-day week to solve the real problems underlying the malfunctioning and antiquated New Mexico (and national) public education system. During my long history with New Mexico Public Schools, the state has continued a downward trend in student performance scores. It has gone from holding a rank of 48th in the nation 20 years plus ago to that of its current rank of 50th - last in the entire nation. These results have not been due to many rural schools, like the one where I work, going to a 4-day week. During this time, legislators have steadily imposed more pressure on students and educators, more and more curriculum standardization and testing, increasing administrative tasks, and a slew of trainings that are repeated and added to each year. Education seems less and less about the student and more about protecting the state. Meanwhile, educators have less time than ever for helping students discover themselves, the joy of learning, and how to become successful through one's own volition with the help, support, and resources that schools and teachers could better provide if they were not laden with obligations that are fulfilled long after students go home. Success is born through internal drive, motivation, and true belief in self, not relentless external impositions devoid of creativity and individualization. Focus on repairing and addressing more complex issues about why New Mexico students are faring poorly. Hours logged in to the classroom and getting to know individual students, teachers, and school and class culture will be required to accomplish this task. It will reveal much, however, about you and today's students, if you let it.

Life is radically changing - the world we live in, children growing up in the world today, technological advances and the challenges those advances bring, U.S. demographics and the things that people value. Education has not kept pace and students and teachers are the "data" one can examine to see that students are bored and disengaged, and many teachers or "would be" teachers don't want to enter this professional field anymore.

Please, politicians and leaders, stop trying to impose "band-aid" solutions to problems you don't yet understand how to fix. The data indicate that, overall, these oversimplified solutions haven't been working for at least a few decades now. Leave the four day week, that is supported by much data showing success and positive results, alone. Are you trying to kill

education completely? We can only improve from last in the nation, and imposing rules that four day schools go back to five day schools is not going to change anything for the better.

Go deeper. Take time. Come sit in classes, then stay late to see what teachers do after students go home. Maybe then you'll see that what's happening with students and teachers in New Mexico is far more complicated than adding another day (not extra time) to the week.

Respectfully,

Heather Burnett, Magdalena Elementary School, 4th Grade

From: [Rebecca Abeyta](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Thursday, December 28, 2023 2:51:29 PM

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I'm an employee from Magdalena Municipal School and my opinion matters. I think we should keep the 4 days a week is much better than the 5 days school week. When I need to see the doctor I can schedule an appointment on Friday. Instead of taking a day off and missing a day of work. We're short of drivers. I can have 3 days of rest. I can be with my grandkids.

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: [Robin Geller](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: Re: [External Sender] RE: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Sunday, December 31, 2023 8:15:46 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

The proposed additional hours of teaching.

On Fri, Dec 29, 2023, 12:37 PM FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov> wrote:

Robin Geller,

Can you please clarify which rule you're referring to?

Thanks

Emily Senteney | Business Operations Specialist

New Mexico Public Education Department

300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501
C: (505) 412-5572 | Help Desk: (505) 827-5800

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From: Robin Geller <geller@aps.edu>
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 3:07 PM
To: FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

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To whom it may concern

Just to clarify. Teachers can not work any harder or longer. Continuing on this path means there will be less and less people to teach.

6.10.5_Exhibit 2768

From: [Cj Kinsolving](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HB130 5 day school week
Date: Monday, January 1, 2024 5:09:23 PM

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

I'm writing this letter in response to the legislature's upcoming vote on whether to mandate a 5 day week for all of New Mexico's schools. I believe it can be summed up very easy in that it should be left up to the individual school districts, to decide what they deem best for them. Santa Fe in general wants to make rules in a one size fits all manner and this is not a good idea. The department of education thinks huge schools in Albuquerque should be run exactly the same as the small, rural 1A schools? Give the power to the local school boards where it should be.

CJ Kinsolving
Tatum School District

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

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Johnson, Scot Douglas](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Terrazas, Denise, PED](#)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Proposed rule changes seem completely at odds with what educators, students, and parents want
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 9:17:02 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Denise,

Happy 2024! The rule change is 6.10.5-NMAC.

Best, Scot

From: FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 1, 2024 10:48 PM
To: Johnson, Scot Douglas <sjohnson@lanl.gov>
Cc: Terrazas, Denise, PED <Denise.Terrazas@ped.nm.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Proposed rule changes seem completely at odds with what educators, students, and parents want

Scot Douglas Johnson,

Can you please specify which rule you're referring to?

Emily Senteney | Business Operations Specialist
New Mexico Public Education Department
300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501
C: (505) 412-5572 | Help Desk: (505) 827-5800
Check us out here: [Policy and Legislative Affairs](#)



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From: Johnson, Scot Douglas <sjohnson@lanl.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 3:12 PM
To: FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed rule changes seem completely at odds with what educators, students, and parents want

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

To members of the NM Public Education Department,

I am contacting you to express my concern regarding your proposed rule changes. To be concise, I will simply share the following thoughts:

1) Your proposed changes are unpopular with teachers. Teaching is a hard job and I know it is hard to find and retain teachers. Your policies need to be more agreeable to teachers, not less agreeable.

2) Your rules strike me, a non-teacher but with teaching experience, as onerous and unreasonable. With your changes, teachers will have to carve other time from their lives to prepare for class. Teaching requires considerable prep time, teachers need to be sharp and on their game while teaching, and time is needed after class for grading, discussion, organizing, etc. You must find ways to provide teachers with ample time rather than burdening them with additional demands on an already demanding job.

3) Your proposed changes are clearly not beneficial to students. Removing their free period, for example, means they can't focus on fewer challenging AP classes during their senior year as my older daughter Nina did. Having a free period contributed to Nina's success in graduating with strong classes, high GPA, and admission to the university she was aiming for.

I am glad that my youngest child Heidi will be a senior next year and will soon be out of a system that appears to be ruled by persons who seem to be out-of-touch with students, teachers, and parents. But this is a selfish view. For the sake of all students and teachers, now and in the future, I urge you to re-think your approach. I'm sure you believe that what you are doing is correct and right, but I am also sure that I am far from the only person who disagrees with your proposed changes.

Sincerely, Scot Johnson (concerned parent and citizen).

From: rgallegos07@windstream.net
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Rosalie Gallegos](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Extended School Calendar
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 4:41:34 PM

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Thank you for letting us give input.

I vote to NOT to expand the school year for various reasons. It is enough that the school day was expanded. This, at least, gave teachers a little extra time to fit in 6 subjects, lunch break, and recess into a 5.5 hour day.

As a former teacher, I am concerned about teacher burnout and teacher shortage. Having the summers off not only gives teachers the time to recuperate from a bad and hard year with students, but it gives them the opportunity to prepare for the following year. Having summers off is one of the incentives of teaching, and should not be taken lightly.

I remember ending some years feeling abused, and it would take at least a month to get over that feeling. Having that time gave me the courage to go back, just like with any trauma. Time heals. Teaching is emotionally exhausting! One mean or troubled child could ruin the whole school year, and little teaching or learning will be done. Few people know how hard it is to hold in your emotions when you are trying to work with a difficult child in the classroom. I bet the spouses of teachers know!

It should be up to each district to declare what works best for their students and staff. Travel is a big issue in Northern New Mexico because people need to travel far and the road conditions are very hazardous, especially in the winters. Parents would rather have their children travel 4 days on these bad roads than 5 days. The 4-day school week also works well with the parents' 4-day work schedule. The students like having the 3-day weekend and are happy to go back to school because they have had a good break, especially since school has become so demanding and intense.

Schools don't need more days added to be successful. They need more man-power and money. Summers need to be reserved for summer school and student intervention programs for students who need it. They need more after school programs, so students can have assistance with homework and projects. They need more teacher's aides in the classroom for proper student/teacher ratio. More special educational teachers need to be hired, so they can have more pull-out programs to teach kids at their own academic level. It is ridiculous to think a special education teacher can teach kids while another teacher is talking, much less stretch themselves to teach them individually. We also need more school counselors for the increasing number of students who are troubled socially and emotionally.

New Mexico has ranked low in education for decades, but the situation goes deeper than school. In the 2023 Kid's County Data Book, New Mexico ranked last in the nation for Child Wellbeing, and this is not the only time. Until the state of New Mexico does something about Child Wellbeing and poverty, no number of days added will make a difference.

From: [Lucille](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Tuesday, January 2, 2024 7:10:20 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image001.png](#)

The change of school days that is being proposed.

On Tue, Jan 2, 2024, 8:49 AM FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov> wrote:

Hi Lucille,

Can you please specify which rule you're referring to?

Emily Senteney | Business Operations Specialist

New Mexico Public Education Department

300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501
C: (505) 412-5572 | Help Desk: (505) 827-5800

Check us out here: [Policy and Legislative Affairs](#)



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From: Lucille <lucillelarue53@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 4:31 PM
To: FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

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

Please don't change anything. What is in place now is working for students and faculty.

From: [Mario Delarosa](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] PED rule change
Date: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 8:51:39 AM

The rule change to measure the school year in days, not hours.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Dec 29, 2023, at 1:05 PM, FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov> wrote:
>
> Mario Delarosa,
>
> Can you please clarify which rule you're referring to?
>
> Thanks
>
> Emily Senteney| Business Operations Specialist
> New Mexico Public Education Department
> 300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501
> C: (505) 412-5572 | Help Desk: (505) 827-5800
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> EQUITY . EXCELLENCE . RELEVANCE
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Mario Delarosa <dmgservices1@yahoo.com>
> Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 3:48 PM
> To: FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov>
> Subject: [EXTERNAL] PED rule change
>
> CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.
>
> To whom it may concern,
> One of THE best performing schools in the whole state in all aspects. Tried and true for us here in the eastern side of the state. Please do not change this rule for us.
>
> With all due respect,
> The Delarosa family
>
> Sent from my iPhone

From: [Laura White](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 9:41:42 AM

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

Sometimes, on these types of issues, it's hard to know what to say or, we are simply too busy to create a well-rounded email. No worries, simply fill in the blanks and hit send! Or, even better, reword this to fit why you believe 4-day school weeks are essential to student success.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of Grady school district, in Grady, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18th, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14th, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities are simply unmatched.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults.

Adults

that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of
New

Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal?

Sincerely,

A concerned parent

Laura White

From: [Janell Kane](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, SCHOOL CALENDAR REQUIREMENTS
Date: Thursday, January 4, 2024 7:44:32 AM

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

As an individual who lives in a rural area where our school district is approximately 2,000 square miles with a four (4) day school calendar I am apposed to this change.

Rationale:

1. Enrollment:
 - Elementary 46
 - High School 35
- 1A. 84 Percent ride buses
2. Students time on buses
3. Bus Emissions
4. Increase in operational costs:
 - Utilities
 - Transportation
 - Staff Salaries
5. Performance Comparison:
 - 4 day calendar 86.1%
 - 5 day calendar 72.9%,
6. NMPED classification: Elementary (Excellent), High School (Spotlight School)
7. Graduation rates: significantly higher than the state standards.
8. Accreditation requires local school boards meet the needs of culture and local area.
9. One size fits all doesn't work
10. Gross overreach of power when we have local education authorities for a reason.

If it isn't broken, don't fix it!

Janell Kane
Box 421
Corona, NM 88318
575/799-6156

From: [Ellen F](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Change in rules
Date: Thursday, January 4, 2024 3:21:34 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

The rule to extend the school hours.

Thanks
Ellen

On Mon, Jan 1, 2024 at 7:52 PM FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov> wrote:

Ellen F,

Can you please specify which rule you're referring to?

Emily Senteney | Business Operations Specialist

New Mexico Public Education Department

[300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501](#)

C: (505) 412-5572 | Help Desk: (505) 827-5800

Check us out here: [Policy and Legislative Affairs](#)



EQUITY • EXCELLENCE • RELEVANCE

From: Ellen F <ellenfinn03@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 11:32 AM
To: FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Change in rules

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

Hello

Please do not alter the way things are now. As an assistant principal's wife, one working in the schools, and a mother of a child with autism in the schools, this would push us over the edge. We will not survive this unnecessary and outlandish change. This cannot be good for ANYONE. The schools are doing well. There's no need to change it this way!! Please please reconsider!!!!!!

Very sincerely
Ellen

From: [Lawrence Holland](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] New Proposed Rules
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 11:43:55 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hi Ms. Senteney--

One of the specific rules that I view as problematic is the requirement for 180 "instructional days". The way the term is defined would require my school to add 16 instructional days to the school calendar, even though we are 20 hours over the requirement for 1,140 instructional hours per year.

A second rule that is problematic for my school is the requirement that all students have a minimum of 4 class periods a day. We have just adopted a new schedule this year that includes 3 class periods on Friday (another scheduled student activity on Fridays does not count as a "class period").

There are other concerns that don't specifically impact my school. The push to end 4 day school weeks would remove a recruitment and retention tool for a lot of rural districts that have trouble attracting and keeping educators.

In the case of my school, adding 16 days to the work calendar (I haven't heard any suggestion that the state would be providing increased funding to increase salaries to compensate for an extended schedule) would lead to heightened difficulty attracting and retaining staff, which is already a huge challenge. The last I checked, the state of New Mexico is in the bottom half of states when it comes to educator salaries. Based on conversations I have had with many New Mexico educators, extending work days without a comparable increase in compensation will result in a loss of many educators in New Mexico. I expect I would be among them.

Beyond these specifics, there is the larger sense of the NM PED micromanaging schools and school districts. Let schools and districts implement the changes already mandated by the state legislature before trying to impose a new set of rules. Trust the education professionals in schools and school districts to do what they know to be best for their students.

--Lawrence Holland

On Tue, Jan 2, 2024 at 8:03 AM FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov> wrote:

Lawrence Holland,

Can you please specify which rule you're referring to?

Emily Senteney | Business Operations Specialist

New Mexico Public Education Department

300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501

C: (505) 412-5572 | Help Desk: (505) 827-5800

Check us out here: [Policy and Legislative Affairs](#)



EQUITY • EXCELLENCE • RELEVANCE

From: Lawrence Holland <lawrence.holland@atcschool.org>

Sent: Friday, December 15, 2023 4:14 PM

To: FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] New Proposed Rules

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

To Whom It May Concern--

If NMPED has any concern for retaining good teachers in New Mexico's public schools, the new proposed rules will be shelved. Schools in the state have just adjusted to the changes brought about by the legislature last year. Let us as educators in buildings and in classrooms carry out implementation of those directives before imposing new ones, particularly ones that would be so impactful and which would place new demands on those working in schools.

I can just share that the prospect of these rules being implemented next year have me thinking very seriously about moving to a different state for the 2024-5 school year. I am a 22 year teacher, National Board certified, and I think I can fairly say I've earned the respect of the students, parents and educators I've worked with. I know I can earn a lot more money moving back to Washington state, where I taught until three years ago. As much as I love New Mexico, these rules, if adopted, will likely push me out the door. And I know I'm not alone.

--Lawrence Holland

Santa Fe

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From: [Joyce Brush](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: act@atfunion.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Friday, January 5, 2024 1:54:34 PM

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

Dear NMPED,

I would like to share feedback regarding the new rules that will change HB130. I believe these changes should be decided upon through our standard legislature system and not through executive rule. In addition, requiring districts to change their school calendars yet again causes undue strain on both staff and families. This also makes it impossible to collect meaningful data over multiple years in order to inform decisions. Simply increasing the number of instructional hours does nothing to change the **quality** of students' education which is what matters most. Reducing teacher's access and time for professional development will only negatively impact student learning. Please consider what is best for staff and students by providing consistency with school calendars, following the legislative process, and supporting staff needs for professional development.

Thank you,
Joy Brush
Albuquerque Public Schools

From: [JACKSON SAFARIK](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: [Terrazas, Denise, PED](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Saturday, January 6, 2024 11:19:06 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I apologize for the confusion. I do not support the proposed change
In which requires hours of school would increase and 32 credits would be required.
On Sat, Jan 6, 2024 at 11:14 PM FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov> wrote:

Jackson Safarik,

Can you please specify which rule you're referring to?

Emily Senteney | Business Operations Specialist

New Mexico Public Education Department

[300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501](#)

C: (505) 412-5572 | Help Desk: (505) 827-5800

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From: JACKSON SAFARIK <jackson.safarik@studentlaschools.net>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 8:47 AM
To: FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]

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I do not support this rule, I am a Los Alamos Public High School student and this would negatively impact me.

From: [amber roach](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 6:00:34 AM

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

Hello,

I am a parent at the Deming Caesar Chavez Charter School. I am saying no to the extended school week. These kids have jobs and college classes on Fridays and most importantly these seniors worked hard to graduate this year. Please don't do the five days a week.

Thank you,

Amber Roach
[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Amy Lewis](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Not for my family
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 11:09:47 AM

Changes governing new school requirements for number of classes in a day, number of days of school, etc

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 9, 2024, at 11:02 AM, FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov> wrote:
>
> Amy Lewis,
>
> Can you please specify which rule you're referring to?
>
> Emily Senteney| Business Operations Specialist
> New Mexico Public Education Department
> 300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501
> C: (505) 412-5572 | Help Desk: (505) 827-5800
> Check us out here: Policy and Legislative Affairs
>
> EQUITY . EXCELLENCE . RELEVANCE
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Amy Lewis <amye_lewis@icloud.com>
> Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 3:28 PM
> To: FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov>
> Subject: [EXTERNAL] Not for my family
>
> CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.
>
> This new rule is NOT good for my family. Our straight A, athlete student needs a free period and flexibility to take college classes during school. This takes that away from her. Amy Lewis, mother of a great kid, Jillian Lewis
>
> Sent from my iPhone

From: rcprigmore@gmail.com
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed rule 6.10.5
Date: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 3:42:50 PM

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

Helo once again I'm writing to voice concern over the proposed rule relating to rule 6.10.5. We absolutely disagree with this rule change the will only serve to hurt children of all ages. There is no benefit for the change which leaves me to believe you just wanna throw your weight around and purposefully want to hurt the thriving environment of the school districts. A rule like this led me to move to capitan and a change of this rule will absolutely force me to move from the district.

Thank you
Prigmore family
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jenny Patterson](#)
To: [Notification, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed rule for weekly calendar days
Date: Thursday, December 14, 2023 2:21:07 PM

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

Good Morning,

As a person that is new to teaching and on a provisional license I felt the need to respond to the proposed action for the amount of days each week that schools will be in session. As an educator in a rural community the 4 day week works for the community that we serve. We are a small district and quite a bit (approximately 25%) of our educators in the district commute 40-45 minutes in order to work here. This is because the 4 day work week is an incentive for recruitment into our district and it is a primary reason why I began commuting to work in the district as opposed to working in my local district. Working in a district that is predominately underprivileged is absolutely where I want to work because of the inequity that is pre-built into the systems that are supposed to serve them. The communities that would be affected by this rule going into effect have many issues that need to be addressed prior to changing the days of the school's week in order to "improve scores" and "overall performance" in their education. We have attendance issues that affect the students ability to thrive in school as it is. The reasons students are absent range from not having transportation, the family not valuing education as a way to improve quality of life, or simply because the child doesn't want to come to name a few. Quite a few of the students in my classroom and school have food insecurity, unstable home lives (that include abusive homes, drug use and violence), and their basic needs aren't being met. Extending the school week would not fix these issues or meet these basic needs for the students in our district. Our focus as an educational system should be to ensure that a child's basic needs are met in order for them to be able put forth the level of effort required to grow a solid foundation in their education. We as an educational system cannot keep doing the same thing and expect a different result. There are places where our efforts, funding and time would be better served in the communities than adding a day to the school week where students are worried about their next meal, going home to an environment that is not healthy, stable and where they are not loved or valued as human beings. We must take care of the needs of the whole child in order for our students to develop at an appropriate level.

Another issue in the school systems that should be considered and addressed are the mental health needs of our educators, aids, custodial staff and administrators. The staff that currently follow the 4 day week are able to use that additional day for personal needs (self care) for themselves and their families. This gives them the time they need to have a much needed break from the work week. This is vital because the amount of demands on the educator's time is growing steadily. In addition, the staffing in the state for our schools is shrinking as it is across the country. Some of the reasons that educators are leaving is because they don't feel valued, heard, or supported, they are being asked to be a counselor, mentor, teacher, friend, social worker, attendance coach, advocate and so much more for the students and communities they serve. They carry their students' traumas with them as they try to support them through their lives and through their educational journeys. This takes a heavy toll on educational staff's mental health and in some cases physical health as well. Because we have teachers leaving the profession in large numbers, we can't afford to lose more due to a rule dictating how many days they teach each week. This rule would drastically change the willingness and/or ability for some educators to continue teaching in the communities that need them so desperately.

This rule would have a negative impact on our rural communities that currently follow a 4 day school week. Extending the school week will not be effective if we are not able to meet the basic needs of the students, teachers and educational staff that serve them. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input prior to the rule being voted on. Please consider the impact that this may have on the teaching staff, families and students that this rule will impact.

Respectfully,

Jenny Patterson

From: [Isabel Pieratt](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 9:20:28 AM

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

Hello. I am Isabel Pieratt and I go to a small school that has a four day week but we also don't get off as long for holidays and what not. Texico High school works our butts off to keep our four day week. As a highschool student I promise you I would be missing school and hating school it would be become miserable and depressing. We already have short summers you make it shorter everyone will become depressed no one likes sitting at a desk for seven hours each day! The only reason you think we need to be in school more is because y'all have bigger schools teachers who don't care and students who just smoke weed and drink alcohol. If you actually give kids time to have off and allow us a break it won't make us as stressed and make us a lot happier. Texico schools testing rates have always been high we our one of the top schools in New Mexico and I can promise if you make us go to school longer no one will try anymore and our scores will go down tremendously.
Thank you.

From: [David Korup](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Comments regarding new rules
Date: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 11:13:16 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Greetings!

My comments referred to the possibility of the State mandating that we add more instruction days to our calendar starting next year. As my colleagues and I are already being stretched to the max such additional work will only make things even harder for everyone, including our scholars. Furthermore, this expanded work does not include additional compensation. That is what I was referring to.

On Sat, Jan 6, 2024 at 11:58 PM FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov> wrote:

David Korup,

Can you please specify which rule you're referring to?

Emily Senteney | Business Operations Specialist

New Mexico Public Education Department

300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501
C: (505) 412-5572 | Help Desk: (505) 827-5800

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EQUITY • EXCELLENCE • RELEVANCE

From: David Korup <dkorup@theaskacademy.org>
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 8:55 AM
To: FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments regarding new rules

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

As a teacher in a public charter school, I must tell you that requiring more work from us than we are already doing without additional compensation is unreasonable and may also force teachers to leave the profession. I will likely have to find different employment because I am already working harder than ever. Requiring me to work even harder without additional support or pay is beyond the pale.

--

Respectfully,

Mr. Daveed Korup Project Manager

8th Grade United States History

The ASK Academy, Rio Rancho NM

dkorup@theaskacademy.org

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--

Respectfully,

Mr. Daveed Korup Project Manager

8th Grade United States History

The ASK Academy, Rio Rancho NM

dkorup@theaskacademy.org

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Joshua McCormick- PED #3132447 (hold)

Requested by Joshua McCormick

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 14, 2023 12:50 PM

Last updated at Dec 14, 2023 4:49 PM

Joshua McCormick

Dec 14, 2023 12:50 PM

Good afternoon. 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 student teaching as part of her degree. The main complain 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 the public school. Sincerely, Josh McCormick

Organization: Self

Title: Parent

Would You Like A Response: Yes please contact me

Name: Channel

Value: Web

Prefix: Mr.

First Name: Joshua

Last Name: McCormick
Email Address: joshuamccormick14@gmail.com
Phone Number: 5753028785
Address1: 1307 Chico St.
City: Carlsbad
State: NM
Zip Code: 88220
Type: General Case Request
Subject: Need Assistance: Education
Trace Id: nmkKC2l6Zv
Office: newmexicogovernor
Form Id: fd553689-cddf-42c0-af35-3ff2531dd534

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by Christopher Josef Zasa

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 18, 2023 11:26 AM

Last updated at Dec 18, 2023 10:55 PM

Christopher Josef Zasa

Dec 18, 2023 11:26 AM

CJ Zasa P.O. box 85 Animas nm 88020 928-322-4395 czasa@animask12.net December 13, 2023
RE: proposed changes in the 6.10.5 NMAC (school calendar requirements) Dear Secretary Arsenio Romero I am an 8th grader in Animas High School. I am going to express why I disagree with the proposed changes of going to a 5-day school week in Animas Schools. This will hurt our school because there are a lot of kids that work on Friday. These kids go and work on their family or friends' farm to get a better work ethic and understanding of life. Also, the money that I work for on Friday I tend to save for goals in the future such as saving money for a car, for college, and helping with family responsibilities. The second reason students would not be able to attend on Friday is because families in Animas go to town on Fridays. The families will go grocery shopping on Fridays. The travel time to and from grocery stores is over two hours. Additionally, people who live in cities have pharmacies and doctor offices close to them, but we do not. My third reason is athletics and activities. Kids like me who are athletes have games on Fridays. They typically schedule the games on Fridays because most of the schools we travel to are four or five hours away from Animas. They are on Fridays so students will not miss any school education and for this reason Saturday and Sunday are for time with family. Some people go to Mexico and some stay to work on their ranches for family responsibilities as well as to go grocery shopping and make doctor appointments as we are in a very rural community. These are the critical issues we will face if the proposed changes for the 5-day school week come in place. This is what is better for our community, students, staff, and families. Families, staff, and students are why we are here and the issues that this will cause is not worth changing due to all the negative affects this will cause, including staff shortages, will continue and possibly increase. Sincerely, CJ Zasa

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

Name: Channel

Value: Web

Prefix: Mr.

Suffix: Jr.

First Name: Christopher

Middle Name: Josef

Last Name: Zasa

Email Address: czasa@animask12.net

Phone Number: 9283224395

Address1: 48 painted pony rd

City: rodeo

State: NM

Zip Code: 88056

Type: Correspondence

Subject: Contact the Governor: Education
Trace Id: LTQe9_76pf
Office: newmexicogovernor
Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeaa9b7628

Vanessa Kennedy
Dec 18, 2023 10:55 PM

Thank you for reaching out. We are doing all that we can to improve student academic achievement in New Mexico. One part of the plan is to increase instructional time for students. We are also looking to address chronic absenteeism, improved instruction and materials, and increasing graduation rates. To have your comments added to the public record, please email NMPED at rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov.

Rhonda JoAnn Lee (solved)

Requested by Rhonda JoAnn Lee

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 15, 2023 1:51 PM

Last updated at Dec 18, 2023 2:54 PM

Rhonda JoAnn Lee

Dec 15, 2023 1:51 PM

Dear Governor Lujan-Grisham, I am writing this to state that I am against NMPED's proposed rule mandating that all school districts in NM go on a 5 day per week calendar starting with the 2024-25 school year. This proposed rule is against HB130 which does not mandate that all school districts must go to a 5 day a week calendar in order to meet the required minimum of 1,140 instructional hours for students. HB130 clearly states "An Act Creating a K-12 Plus program: PROVIDING ADDITIONAL PROGRAM UNITS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT INCREASE THE NUMBER OF INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS BEYOND ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DAYS FOR A FIVE-DAY SCHOOL WEEK AND MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE DAYS FOR A FOUR-DAY SCHOOL WEEK". This is stated throughout the Act/Bill and nowhere in the Act/Bill does it state that schools must go to a 5 day per week calendar to meet these required hours. HB130 also states in SECTION 1, PARAGRAPH C: "Up to sixty instructional hours per school year for elementary grades and thirty instructional hours for middle and high school grades may be used for professional work hours, which may be embedded during the course of a normal school day. A "professional work hour means time during which a teacher participates in professional work aligned to challenging academic content and performance standards, including: (1) home visiting or parent-teacher conferences; (2) educator training or professional development; and (3) mentorship, coaching and collaboration between school employees". The key point in this paragraph is that instructional hours of 30/60 may be used for professional work hours, which may be EMBEDDED, during the course of a normal school day. It does not state that these hours must be separated and met outside of the course of normal school day. Teachers, particularly Special Education Teachers, often use embedded instructional/professional hours to meet the requirements of general education, IDEA and NMAC for Specialized Education to serve/instruct students. The proposal by NMPED to mandate that all professional hours be completed outside of "instructional time" and without providing additional funding for this is detrimental to student's education and teachers as teachers are already underpaid and work above the hours they are mandated to by districts/states and governments. The NMPED proposal to mandate that all schools must go on a 5 day per week calendar, excluding professional hours from instructional hours, goes against HB130 and the rights of local school districts/boards and communities to determine what is best for their students and members. Several 4 day per week school districts added the required additional hours to meet the needs of the students and communities with staff, student and community input which NMPED approved. It is not right that NMPED is now going to change this after NMPED's own approval of such. I ask what is the reason for NMPED to make this mandate when several 4 day per week districts meet and exceed state educational standards? Is this proposal/reason for the benefit of students/communities for which it is designed to serve or for its own purposes/benefits? I am an Occupational Therapist who has worked for the Cimarron School District for 23 years. I began working for this district in 2001, several years after it implemented a 4 day per week school calendar in 1972. As Cimarron District is a very rural and large geographical district, the 4 day per week calendar has and continues to meet the needs of our communities. It has changed its school days from Mondays to Thursdays to Tuesdays to Fridays at least a few times in order to operate efficiently and meet the needs of

its students, staff and communities. Throughout the years of Cimarron School District's 4 day per week schooling, it has and continues to excel and go above the state educational requirements. It has consistently been one of the top ranked schools in the state of NM for all grade levels and it requires more than the minimum NM graduation requirement hours. My daughters attended school in Cimarron District from grades K-12 and have received excellent educations, excelling in their all-around public school/academic careers. They, and other students, have/had good attendance overall as a result of this 4 day per week as they were often involved in sporting events which require lengthy bus/car rides to go to and participate in. Athletic events are often scheduled at the end of the day and/or on the days in which our and nearby 4 day per week school days are not in school, thus reducing absences from instructional hours. They, and other students have also have/had reduced absences from instructional hours (by going to school on a 4 day per week), as medical and other such appointments are made on the days in which they are not in school. Appointments often have to be made in Albuquerque, Las Vegas, Santa Fe, Raton, and Taos to mention a few which is anywhere from a 45 minute to 3.5-hour drive one way. Given the round-trip travel time and appointment time, it takes a half to one full day to go to an appointment. In fact, our local dental office in Angel Fire, NM operates on a 4 day per week, (longer days) schedule in order to meet the needs of our students by not taking away from their instructional hours. I myself work at a pediatric outpatient clinic on Mondays, a non-school day to provide therapy services to children. Some of these children come to the clinic to receive their medically necessary therapy services, on their non-school day, in order to not miss school, which may include Special Education instructional hours. Mandating that rural districts go to 5 day per week calendar would certainly decrease the instructional hours for the students, which is opposite of the intention of HB130 to provide 1,140 instructional hours to students and that children need to be in school. I am also against this proposal due to concerns about the bus rides for our rural students. Several rural schools have consolidated making some bus rides for students longer than what they were before consolidation. Cimarron School District and several other rural districts cover a very large geographic area over various terrain and weather conditions. Many of our students are on the bus for up to 90 minutes each way but on a 4 day per week, they are in school much longer than they are on the bus or in a car. I do not think it is in the best interest of our students to riding to/from school for 3 hours per day for 5.5 or possibly 3.5 instructional hours. In consideration of this proposal, may I suggest that members of NMPED visit and attend at least one full day of school as a student or staff in one or all of the state's 4 day per week school districts? Your visit would include driving or riding the bus to/from the school and attending the school throughout the course of its normal day. Perhaps by doing this, you can experience yourself how well a 4 day per week school can educate our children and operate efficiently as determined by the school district itself, and not state/federal government agencies which demand a 5 day per week schooling to educate children. School districts should determine how to educate its students and meet the needs of the communities, not NMPED. Perhaps I will meet a NMPED member at one of the high-ranking schools in Cimarron School District. In conclusion, I state again that I am against the NMPED proposed rules for Extended School Hours/Calendars and ask that it not be passed. I hope that you read and consider my thoughts and opinions in this letter as I cannot personally attend/speak at the December 18 hearings on this matter as I will be working on a non-school day to provide healthcare services to those in need including some who will receive services on their non-school day in order to not miss school. Sincerely, Rhonda J. Lee, OT/LOccupational Therapist, Licensed NM License #678

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

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Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeeaa9b7628

DeVonna Lynn Waters (hold)

Requested by DeVonna Lynn Waters

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 17, 2023 9:33 AM

Last updated at Dec 18, 2023 8:34 AM

DeVonna Lynn Waters

Dec 17, 2023 9:33 AM

As a bus driver and parent this hurts our school to change our schedule we have great grades and attendance don't mess with what is working.

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

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Iemuel Acord McDonald (solved)

Requested by Iemuel Acord McDonald

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 13, 2023 1:13 PM

Last updated at Dec 18, 2023 2:53 PM

Iemuel Acord McDonald

Dec 13, 2023 1:13 PM

Dear Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham: We are writing you regarding the proposed 5-day school week mandate and how it would be detrimental to rural communities in New Mexico. School districts in New Mexico have been quite successful on the 4-day school week for many years. If a school is truly struggling, the state steps in and takes over the school district, however, when a school is successful, they are allowed to work as an independent district. Public Schools have been independent and successful for years on a 4-day school week. Most of the student body in the Animas Public School district is involved with farms and ranches. Our community's primary source of income comes from the agricultural community. The families that make up our community depend on help from everyone including students. Working on a farm or ranch requires dedication as well as a good work ethic. It is difficult to balance school and work within such a close-knit, agriculturally focused community. If we add another day, it will make it that much harder. Every student in our community is involved in an extra circular activity, in addition to the work we must do at home. As a community we hold the belief that adding an extra day might not serve the best interests of our students or community; rather, it could potentially have a detrimental impact on both. This addition might prove more disadvantageous than beneficial for our students and the wider community. Also, another thing to consider is that the closest town is nearly two hours away. Therefore, to see specialty doctors and dentists, go grocery shopping, go to the bank, etc., families must travel two hours and end up running errands all day. With a five-day school week, families and students will be unable to attend school on Fridays, therefore increasing the number of absences in the state. However, with a four-day school week, students and families will be able to go to town, run errands, and not have to worry about missing school. If we want to fix the number of absences, making a four-day school week into five days will not solve the problem. Fridays are utilized to do schoolwork, run errands, rest, work, and participate in extracurriculars. The studies examining the effects of a four-day school week reveal several promising benefits that extend beyond mere academic considerations. With an extended weekend, students seem to benefit from improved attendance, potentially leading to enhanced academic performance. Notably, the observed improvement in student attendance stemming from the longer weekend allows for more rest and engagement in extracurricular pursuits, setting the stage for heightened participation and academic focus during the school week. A four-day schedule appears to foster a more positive school climate by reducing incidents of fighting and bullying, creating a calmer and safer environment. Qualitative findings, such as improvements in student well-being, behavioral attitudes, and a positive impact on the overall school atmosphere, further support the advantages of a four-day school week. The current structure of a five-day school week can inadvertently generate detrimental effects on both students and educators. Research has pointed out the adverse consequences, notably the heightened stress levels experienced by students due to prolonged hours dedicated to academic pursuits, extracurricular commitments, and homework. Studies published in esteemed journals like the Journal of Youth and Adolescence and the American Educational Research Journal indicate a correlation between longer school weeks and increased stress among students, potentially jeopardizing their mental well-being and overall development. Additionally, the intensified schedule limits

students' opportunities for relaxation and engagement in non-academic activities, negatively impacting their holistic growth. Moreover, this demanding regimen also takes a toll on teachers, leading to burnout and diminishing the quality of instruction and teacher-student relationships. Reports from organizations like the National Education Association reinforce the adverse effects of extended work hours on teacher morale and job satisfaction. Furthermore, the financial burden placed on families, in terms of escalated childcare expenses or the need for supplementary resources to accommodate longer school hours, underscores the need for a four-day week. According to statistics schools that participate in a 4-day school week have an on average a higher productivity rate compared to schools that have a 5-day school week. In New Mexico's grading system, Melrose who goes 4 days is higher than schools in Albuquerque. Along with the productivity rate, schools that participate in the 4-day school week have a higher graduation rate than those who participate in a 5-day school week. With a 4-day school week, teachers will be able to plan and grade papers and students are less likely to burn out. In conclusion, the proposed shift from a successful 4-day school week to a mandated 5-day schedule in rural communities like ours in New Mexico raises significant concerns that warrant careful consideration. The current system, deeply ingrained in the fabric of our community, not only accommodates our unique lifestyle but also yields tangible benefits for both students and educators. The 4-day week not only allows students to balance academic pursuits with family responsibilities and extracurricular activities but also fosters a healthier school environment. The existing research and statistical evidence further support the advantages of the current system, compared to the standard 5-day school week. Therefore, maintaining the 4-day school week stands as a cornerstone of our community's educational success and overall well-being, ensuring a balanced and thriving environment for both students and the wider community. Along with this we are also sending an envelope in the mail with 156 signature's against the proposed 5-day school week. Sincerely, Animas High School Student Body

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

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 Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeea9b7628

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by **Melissa Gutierrez**

Assigned to **Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)**

Created at **Dec 18, 2023 12:31 PM**

Last updated at **Dec 18, 2023 2:45 PM**

Melissa Gutierrez

Dec 18, 2023 12:31 PM

Governor, Not all schools are textbooks, not all families are textbooks. 5 days a week may work for some families and schools but not all. As for Maxwell we have a great education level already. There is nothing that 5 days a week will fix. Why break us in our pocketbooks and time on our farms and sports. We are all individuals, don't put us all on the same ship. This will hurt us more than help us! It will cost my family alone, time I have to take away on a school day for appointments to see doctors and dental. This hurts our farm chores and livelihood. We travel a total of 120 miles a day to take and pick our children up from Maxwell. One way trip is 30 miles from our home. That's an extra \$40 cost to take our children an extra day. Please take into consideration our rural schools are tight funded and small. And PED is NOT picking up any extra costs that are going to add to our budget. This will hurt us greatly! This will affect our children in a negative way. We chose to put all 3 of our children in Maxwell District because it is an excellent school! My oldest graduated valedictorian in 2019. That says a lot! We need all these great teachers. We do not need any losses to our funding, children and teachers, Thank you Mr and Mrs Julian Gutierrez

Would You Like A Response: No, I wanted to voice my opinion

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Value: Web

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Trace Id: BdOk7s4p-W

Office: newmexicogovernor

Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeeaa9b7628

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by John Andrew Gniady

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 14, 2023 8:03 PM

Last updated at Dec 14, 2023 10:13 PM

John Andrew Gniady

Dec 14, 2023 8:03 PM

Throw more hours at the problem. That's what I would expect from a pretty uninspired government bureaucrat. Throwing more hours at the problem is a step backward particularly in a rural state like New Mexico. Those long hours riding in a school bus are better spent doing homework and studying. A much better approach is for PED Secretary Romero to get out of the office and see what's already working. While it's not the only public school that already working, one that I'm aware of and financially support is Mission Achievement & Success Charter school. https://www.missionachievementandsuccess.com/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1465928&type=d&pREC_ID=162396378 % of their 8th grade students are proficient in English vs 35% for APS, while in Math it's 45% vs 25% for APS. <https://www.krqe.com/news/75-of-albuquerque-aps-students-not-proficient-in-math-where-albuquerque-students-stand/> And, it's not because their students are any better off than APS' student body, in fact they're somewhat worse off. Clearly they must be doing right. And this is not the only public school that's doing a better job. So I would suggest Mr. Romero visit these schools to find out what's working and then attempt to implement the best practices he identifies in these schools statewide. In other words, find out what's already working in NM and not just blindly throw more hours at the problem. And he really needs to make his email address publicly available. What's he afraid of? Your friend in the Heights, johnG©

Would You Like A Response: No, I wanted to voice my opinion

Name: Channel

Value: Web

Prefix: Mr.

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Middle Name: Andrew

Last Name: Gniady

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Trace Id: e9UIA3gZav

Office: newmexicogovernor

Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeaa9b7628

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by Shannon Aguilar

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 17, 2023 9:15 PM

Last updated at Dec 18, 2023 11:49 AM

Shannon Aguilar

Dec 17, 2023 9:15 PM

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; DocuSign Envelope ID: 989CB780-9958-40DD-9FDD-C8DA871BB1E1 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 Dollie O'Neill Vice President Kari Jaramillo Board Secretary Kaycee Sandoval Member Laura Gonzales Member

Would You Like A Response: No, I wanted to voice my opinion

Name: Channel

Value: Web

Prefix: Ms.

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Trace Id: XLm6mqSFWM

Office: newmexicogovernor

Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeaa9b7628

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by Claire Elizabeth Bergeron

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 18, 2023 8:50 AM

Last updated at Dec 18, 2023 10:57 PM

Claire Elizabeth Bergeron

Dec 18, 2023 8:50 AM

I am writing as a profoundly concerned New Mexico citizen, parent, and teacher who strongly opposes PED's new policy NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements" to add more school days to the year and eliminate the option of 4-day weeks. Last year, HB 130 increased the required school hours, which increased school days. The bill passed despite scores of educators and parents vehemently opposing the measure. We had to accept it. Now, not more than a year later, without any time to observe the results of the new change, you are proposing more change. This new proposal seeks to add days and micromanage how schools and districts distribute these hours. This proposal takes the decision-making power out of the hands of the parents, educators, and the communities we serve, with no regard for what is best for said families and students. This force-fed, mandated, from-the-top-down approach greatly alarms me as it is a trend I see commonly in our modern education system. Pasi Sahlberg is one of the world's most respected authorities on educational improvement. In addition to being a teacher, teacher-educator, and professor of education policy, he was Director General at Finland's Ministry of Education. Among other notable awards, he served as visiting professor at Harvard. He explains that he is frequently asked this question by national leaders: "How can we improve our schools?" He lists five suggestions, the first of which he suggests to "prepare and treat teachers like professionals, with advanced graduate-level, intensely clinical training in teaching theory and practice, childhood development, educational research, and leadership; put these teachers in charge of your schools; and respect them as elite professionals." (Sahlberg & Doyle, 2019, p. 31) Although most administrators and educators have the type of preparation he suggests and constantly undergo training, this proposal does not put them in charge. Instead, it undermines them. PED's proposal sends a clear message to educators and the community that we are incompetent and cannot be trusted to decide what is best for their students and their community. This measure proposed by PED directly opposes the advice given by this expert as it weakens, disrespects, and disempowers teachers and inhibits their ability to make decisions that are best for their students. Instead of putting teachers in charge, it deprives them of agency. PED's proposal actually goes against all of Sahlberg's recommendations. To summarize further points, he encourages collaboration instead of competition, funding fairly, "an atmosphere of warmth, support, and well-being, instead of stress, overwork and fear," and "regular periods of playful learning and discovery." (Sahlberg & Doyle, 2019, pp. 31-32) In fact, none of his suggestions recommend heavy-handed measures that take the decision-making power out of the hands of local teachers, nor do his recommendations involve imposing scheduling mandates that go against the will and well-being of communities. As educators, we are life-long learners and researchers. Working in the classroom is an ongoing feedback loop. Teachers observe students and plan with the best knowledge and information based on what they know and what students know. Teachers can then implement the lessons, observe, reflect, assess, and adapt. This observation, reflection, and assessment communicates to the teacher what is happening with students and informs further planning. This efficient and beautiful cycle optimizes learning and time. It ensures that learning is appropriate for learners. The inability of a teacher to effectively connect with a student and to adapt appropriately creates a disconnect in which the teaching and learning

process becomes compromised. Similarly, administrative bodies need to understand what is happening within individual schools. If not, they cannot provide effective support, and as it were, in this situation, they may attempt to “improve schools.” However, they may hinder their success and threaten their very existence. In this sense, PED’s proposal offers no “collaboration” as recommended by Sahlberg but instead creates conflict and an atmosphere of oppression. In my classroom at the Cliff school, which operates on a 4-day week, I have observed that this model is very effective and optimizes learning time while also giving families and children much-needed family time and time for other meaningful pursuits. One advantage to the 4-day model is a more extended school day. This longer school day means we have more time for class activities and can go more in-depth with learning. It means I have time to provide extensions for students to ask questions, have in-depth discussions, provide individualized support, and do activities that make learning more meaningful, such as experiments, outings, or cooking. We have time, for example, to stop and look at ants on the sidewalk or birds’ nests and ask questions and make observations that can lead us into in-depth cross-curricular investigations involving science, literacy, math, and art, which in September led to an award-winning fair project. For young children, this timeframe is essential, as children need their own time processes. A colleague who worked with me in a 4-day school week and then went to a 5-day week program commented that she felt like they were “constantly rushing the children around.” Our 4-day schedule supports me in creating a learning environment that builds foundational skills such as focus, interest, and curiosity. It better enables me to make the playful learning opportunities that Sahlberg recommends. Four-day weeks have proven to be efficient. The longer school days in a 4-day week context reduce overall transition time, which involves not only school-home transitions but also within-school transitions. When my students come in from home, many of whom travel 30+ miles, they are tired. It can take them time to adjust to being at school again. The home-school transition takes much daily energy for the parents, teachers, and children. Five-day weeks would add undue stress to families and teachers regarding transportation time and cost. (This extra cost also applies to the state regarding funding). I have experienced lengthy drives of up to one hour, one way to transport myself and my children to school/work. The four-day week eases this burden and makes it much more feasible for the families and teachers living and serving in rural areas. Spreading out our schedule into a 5-day week would waste precious instruction time. First, this would shorten the instructional periods themselves. Second, for the same amount of required instructional hours, a five-day week loses more time to transitions than a four-day week. For example, a school devotes 5 hours a week or 300 minutes to math instruction if we grant 5 minutes at each end for transitioning into and out of the activity. The 5-day week would have 50 minutes of wasted time, while the 4-day week would lose only 40. The four-day week means a more significant percentage of instructional time is devoted to instruction. Factoring in transition time, the four-day week could offer 65 minutes of focused class time, while the 5-day week could offer only 50 minutes. This compounds for each class and activity per day and has more of a substantial impact on instructional time per week. How much time would be lost in another full day of transitions each week, week after week? There are the transitions to and from lunch, recess, specials, etc. The five-day model ultimately means more time at school (including transitions), less time engaged in focused learning, and less depth of learning. The 4-day model can offer benefits in promoting more in-depth learning and represents a more efficient use of time and resources. This proposal overlooks our rural culture, values, and traditions, supplanting them with an urban model that does not fit our community. This policy has a strong urban bias, which neglects our rural culture and needs. Many people in urban settings cannot imagine living an hour or more of travel time from a grocery store, and yet this is a reality in our rural communities. In my community, we learn to manage our travel time efficiently, not to exhaust ourselves and our resources. Travel time can easily be several hours for routine medical and dental appointments. Again, this is a concept many urban dwellers are

unfamiliar with, representing a bias resulting in unfair funding, giving advantages to urban schools and other schools from which the 5-day week may benefit. This is another example of how PED's proposal conflicts with Sahlberg's recommendations. In July 2018, a district court ruled in *Yazzie vs. Martinez* that the PED was found to have neglected, ignored, and failed to provide for the specialized educational needs of many of its families and students, particularly indigenous and English language learners. (New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, n.d.) PED's new proposal creates doubts that the PED has learned its lesson about the necessity to support culturally diverse students and to differentiate its approach. The extra day off has enabled me to be a single mother, teacher, and graduate student simultaneously. I have been working as a teacher pursuing alternative licensure. I don't think I would have been able to go this far without the 4-day week. As I conclude this program, I would love the opportunity to continue school to pursue a master's degree in education, but without the four-day week, I am not sure I will be able to accomplish this. News of these new mandates fills me with such deep discouragement and despair. Despite my profound love and enthusiasm for teaching, I seriously question my decision to invest the last several years of my life in pursuing a teaching license. These new forced policies discourage teachers. It pushes veteran teachers toward retirement while dispiriting newer teachers such as myself at a time when effective teachers are desperately needed. A weekday off from school gives teachers essential downtime for planning, prepping, training, self-care, family obligations, and maintenance. I and other teachers spend many hours off, including the weekends, working to complete all the behind-the-scenes parts of education. This preparation, planning, and training time results in more effective lessons. I have also observed that when I am not overworked and overwhelmed, I provide a higher-quality learning experience for students. It allows me and other families time to take their children to appointments or to include them in meaningful activities without missing school/work. The four-day week gives teachers and students family time and time to pursue other enriching activities. The 4-day week allows teachers to come in more prepared, enthusiastic, and able to provide "an atmosphere of warmth, support, and well-being, instead of stress, overwork and fear" for students, as it is more humane and supportive of teachers and students. (Sahlberg & Doyle, 2019, p. 32) This is yet another way PED's proposal conflicts with Sahlberg. Also the new proposal excludes this essential planning and training time from instructional hours which adds more stress and burden to already overworked teachers. The Cliff School, a 4-day school in the Silver Schools District, is well-known for its academic excellence, and many people who have other, much closer options in Silver City choose this school for their children because they want something better. Many staff members also travel 30+ miles from Silver City because they prefer this school as a work environment. The 4-day week supports staff, students, and families as it facilitates this. With a five-day week, many parents and staff might feel that choosing to travel to Cliff School is no longer viable. The 4-day week gives people more choices in schools for their children. It allows the Cliff School a more extensive base for staff. Conversely, if the Cliff School switched to a five-day week, it would represent an additional hardship for this vital part of our school. It would undoubtedly reduce enrollment and make hiring and maintaining staff harder. The result would be a reduction in the quality of education and opportunity. There are a lot of different ideas and approaches to curriculums and scheduling. Although I appreciate the merits of the 4-day week and I think that other communities might also benefit from it, it may not work for everyone. In education, we differentiate learning: not all students are the same. Similarly, not all communities are the same. I do not propose that the 4-day week should be imposed on communities if it does not work for them, nor should a five-day week be imposed on others. Different models have advantages and disadvantages, but it is destructive to mandate approaches that contradict the evidence of what is successful. The Cliff School, a 4-day school in the Silver Schools District, is well-known for its academic excellence, and many people who have other, much closer options in Silver City choose this school for their children because they want something better. Many

staff members also travel 30+ miles from Silver City because they prefer this school as a work environment. The 4-day week supports staff, students, and families as it facilitates this. With a five-day week a lot of parents and staff might feel like the choice to travel to Cliff School is no longer a viable option. The 4-day week enables people more choices in schools for their children. It enables the Cliff school a larger base for staff. Conversely, if the Cliff School were to switch to a five-day week, it would represent an additional hardship for this important part of our school. It would undoubtedly reduce enrollment and make hiring and maintaining staff harder. The result would be a reduction in the quality of education and opportunity. This threatens the very existence of our school, as another rural school in this region, the Glenwood School, closed not long ago. To summarize, the 4-day week provides many advantages for the Cliff school. These advantages include promoting in-depth learning, using time and resources more efficiently, and increasing instructional time and quality by delivering necessary planning, prep, training, and rest time for teachers. The 4-day week eases the burden of transportation on staff and families. The 4-day week helps our school to be excellent and an accessible option sought out by families that want a better education for their children. In addition, the 4-day week is more humane, supporting children and teachers in being more well-rounded. As a mother, I am outraged about the lengthening of the school year for my children and the extended transit time they experience getting to and from school. This mandate robs us of precious family time and at-home time. I have no concerns about my children's education. I have chosen an educational setting that works for them, and I trust their teachers. If this setting ceases to be effective, I will make appropriate changes and decisions. I assure you that I know my children, and you do not. I love my children and want what is truly best for them, and I guarantee that I am qualified above any others to decide what is best for them. I can see that they are thriving in this situation without additional days. While I have zero concerns that my children will be well-educated and able to accomplish what they set out to do in life, I have a great deal of anxiety about them not having enough time at home and spending so much time in transit. I have abundant worry about not spending enough time with them. I am disconcerted about not having time to take them on trips for enrichment and to connect with family, and I am distraught about them missing out on the simple joys and experiences of childhood because they spend too much time in school. I realize that just because my children are thriving, it does not mean all children are. Targeted plans should be developed for those students for which interventions or additional supports are necessary. Adding school days is not a given that these students will receive the support they need. This is a case in which teachers, who know and understand their students, should be given agency and support to develop plans that will support these students. Additional targeted small group or one-on-one instruction for these students could be a much better use of time and resources than extending school for students already thriving. Family involvement, home environment, and other factors must be considered to improve education. Factors such as economic hardship also play into this. Changes should be made with a lot of care and collaboration. Changes need to be sensitive to the specific needs of communities. Instead of imposing crippling mandates, PED should be asking schools and teachers: What do you need to be more successful, to enhance education, and to support students. Even 4-day schools that are struggling should not be punished but supported. Because there are complex factors at play, individualized plans should be developed for and by schools and districts in collaboration with PED, which would involve active input from community members, families, teachers, and local administrators to identify and implement strategies that would effectively produce the desired outcomes of higher-quality education. This type of planning would empower instead of cripple communities, teachers, families, and students. People often look at countries like Finland and ask what makes their education system successful? Sahlberg does not recommend that other countries do exactly what Finland does as they do it. He recognizes that there is a lot of cultural variation and what works well in one place may not work well in another. Instead, he condenses his recommendations

into some generalized points that are applicable in various contexts and countries. As I have addressed all of Sahlberg's points, it is clear that PED's proposal is not going to enhance excellence but propel us dramatically in the wrong direction. I think that New Mexico should also be asking itself the question: "What will enhance education in our state," and they should devote themselves to this principle. This proposal indicates that PED is clinging instead to ideas that threaten to deteriorate and degrade the educational system. I wonder how many children will suffer at the hands of this proposal, and I am depressed when I contemplate the answer. I sincerely implore you: do not make decisions to our detriment. I ask you to listen fully and deeply to our stories and seek to understand what it is like to walk miles in our shoes and drive so many miles on our beautiful rural roads and to arrive at our lovely schools where we devote our hearts and minds so fully. I will not be able to attend the hearing on this matter on the 18th, but I am sending along with those that are able to attend, my hopes, my prayers, and my letter along with the letters of others in the community so that PED will see reason and abandon this destructive and reckless proposal. Thank you for your consideration, Claire Bergeron New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty. (n.d.). Yazzie Vs. Martinez. Retrieved from New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty: [https://www.nmpovertylaw.org/subissues/yazzie-martinez-v-state-of-new-mexico/Sahlberg, P., & Doyle, W. \(2019\). Let the Children Play. NY: Oxford](https://www.nmpovertylaw.org/subissues/yazzie-martinez-v-state-of-new-mexico/Sahlberg, P., & Doyle, W. (2019). Let the Children Play. NY: Oxford).

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

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 Subject: Contact the Governor: Education
 Trace Id: akcPJXaMAO
 Office: newmexicogovernor
 Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeeaa9b7628

Vanessa Kennedy
 Dec 18, 2023 10:57 PM

Thank you for reaching out. We are doing all that we can to improve student academic achievement in New Mexico. One part of the plan is to increase instructional time for students. We are also looking to address chronic absenteeism, improved instruction and materials, and increasing graduation rates. To have your comments added to the public record, please email NMPED at rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov.

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by Christopher Josef Zasa

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 18, 2023 11:26 AM

Last updated at Dec 18, 2023 12:01 PM

Christopher Josef Zasa

Dec 18, 2023 11:26 AM

CJ Zasa P.O. box 85 Animas nm 88020 928-322-4395 czasa@animask12.net December 13, 2023
RE: proposed changes in the 6.10.5 NMAC (school calendar requirements) Dear Secretary Arsenio Romero I am an 8th grader in Animas High School. I am going to express why I disagree with the proposed changes of going to a 5-day school week in Animas Schools. This will hurt our school because there are a lot of kids that work on Friday. These kids go and work on their family or friends' farm to get a better work ethic and understanding of life. Also, the money that I work for on Friday I tend to save for goals in the future such as saving money for a car, for college, and helping with family responsibilities. The second reason students would not be able to attend on Friday is because families in Animas go to town on Fridays. The families will go grocery shopping on Fridays. The travel time to and from grocery stores is over two hours. Additionally, people who live in cities have pharmacies and doctor offices close to them, but we do not. My third reason is athletics and activities. Kids like me who are athletes have games on Fridays. They typically schedule the games on Fridays because most of the schools we travel to are four or five hours away from Animas. They are on Fridays so students will not miss any school education and for this reason Saturday and Sunday are for time with family. Some people go to Mexico and some stay to work on their ranches for family responsibilities as well as to go grocery shopping and make doctor appointments as we are in a very rural community. These are the critical issues we will face if the proposed changes for the 5-day school week come in place. This is what is better for our community, students, staff, and families. Families, staff, and students are why we are here and the issues that this will cause is not worth changing due to all the negative affects this will cause, including staff shortages, will continue and possibly increase. Sincerely, CJ Zasa

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

Name: Channel

Value: Web

Prefix: Mr.

Suffix: Jr.

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Middle Name: Josef

Last Name: Zasa

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Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeea9b7628

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by Christine SISNEROS

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 12, 2023 10:14 PM

Last updated at Dec 13, 2023 12:04 PM

Christine SISNEROS

Dec 12, 2023 10:14 PM

Hello,I am writing to voice my disagreement with the proposed rule change forcing school to change from thier current 4 day school week to a 5 day school week. The current school week allows medical appointments to be made without missing school time. This three day weekend allows family quality time, time for reconnecting, time for grounding, time for words of affirmation, time for love and attention without the rush and hustle of the every day school/work demands getting in the way. Studies have shown that the 4 day school week promotes better test scores, better learning environments, higher teacher/staff/student morale, and allows students time to engage in extracurricular activities without drowning into the night trying to keep everything on track. Then there's the issue with funding. Our rural schools make it with what little we get for funding and struggle to provide the beat environments for our children. Where will the additional monies needed for the extra school days proposed come from? There will not be an increase in government funding state or federal. So how do you propose schools accommodate the demand for more days with the same funding that barely scrapes them by now? Cut costs. That's always the answer. But what is the cost to the environment and we'll being of our children? Does the proposed increase benefit them at all? Our schools test in the upper echelon of the state. Why fix what's not broken? Stop pushing your agenda o to our children, onto our families, onto our lives as you do not know them or live them. Leave our schools and our children alone.Regards,C. SisnerosMaxwell Municipal School Parent of Enrolled Students(Also an alumni and the parent of two graduated Maxwell Bears)

Would You Like A Response: No, I wanted to voice my opinion

Name: Channel

Value: Web

Prefix: Mrs.

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Subject: Contact the Governor: Education

Trace Id: 5pmHdntrZU

Office: newmexicogovernor

Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeea9b7628

Matthew Dondarski (solved)

Requested by **Matthew Dondarski**

Assigned to **Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)**

Created at **Dec 11, 2023 9:31 PM**

Last updated at **Dec 18, 2023 2:53 PM**

Matthew Dondarski

Dec 11, 2023 9:31 PM

Proposed Changes to 6.10.5 NMACAs the father of three young boys residing in rural New Mexico, I am very concerned about the proposed changes to the instructional time requirements. My two oldest children (Adam and Vlad) are enrolled in Animas Public Schools while my youngest child (Levi) attends Head Start in Lordsburg. The older children commute approximately 75 miles each school day. Both boys are on the spectrum and we feel that adding days to the school year would be detrimental to their education, ability to receive needed services outside of town and to their general well being for the following reasons: The Animas Public School District has indicated that this change would most likely force the district to go to a 5-day school week. My middle child must attend many appointments at Phoenix Children's Hospital due to his autism. Unfortunately, when you reside in a rural area like this, the nearest services are an 8-hour commute. With the current 4- day week, he has been able to travel after school on Thursdays, get to his appointments/services on Fridays and come back on Friday evening or Saturday. With these services being offered Monday through Friday, he would have to miss a significant amount of school with a five-day school week. His brother has "aged-out" of Phoenix Children's Hospital so we will have to visit another location for his services. Both children will have to miss school for both their own and their brother's appointments. Please consider the socioeconomic impact on these rural families. Many individuals who send their children from Lordsburg to the Animas Public Schools are of limited means but they make it work because they care for their kids and believe it is what is best for them. Adding an additional 150 miles every week to a parents vehicle and fuel bill may be difficult for the less fortunate. Additionally, many parents in Lordsburg do not view going to Lordsburg Municipal Schools as an option due to their perceived quality of the district. To them, the options are to Homeschool or go to Animas Public Schools. I feel that going to a five-day week may prompt many people to give up the commute and the quality of personnel at the schools may suffer. This may lead to more parents homeschooling their children and therefore, denying these other children the socialization benefits of Public Schools. Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to transfer at work to Oroville, Washington. I declined it because my middle son Vlad was finally doing thriving in school. He is receiving the services he needs, is learning and even made a friend. However, I fear that going to a five-day week will cause him to possibly miss multiple school days due to his medical needs and he will become frustrated when he cannot keep up with the work. I also fear that the district may not be able to maintain the same quality or quantity of personnel for his education.

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

Name: Channel

Value: Web

Prefix: Mr.

First Name: Matthew

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Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeea9b7628

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by **Lyla Marie Mulgannon**

Assigned to **Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)**

Created at **Dec 18, 2023 11:22 AM**

Last updated at **Dec 18, 2023 10:56 PM**

Lyla Marie Mulgannon

Dec 18, 2023 11:22 AM

Lyla Mulgannon156 Dusty Acre Rd 88020575-592-9389Lmulgannon2@animask12.netRE: Proposed changes in the 6.10.5 NMAC (School Calendar Requirements)Dear Secretary Arsenio Romero,My name is Lyla Mulgannon. I am an 8th grader at Animas Public Schools. I am writing this essay to voice my concerns about the proposed change to a 5-day school week, as it is going to cause significant issues for both students and staff in our close knit, rural community.Animas is a small, rural community where the majority of students and administration members are involved in important responsibilities outside of school on Fridays. These responsibilities range from family duties to community engagements. In such a close rural community, these commitments are crucial, and altering the school week will disrupt the balance.Many students, including myself, participate in various school activities such as sports, FFA, mock trial, drama, legislative leadership, and graphic arts. Fridays are the key day for these activities. A shift to 5-day school week will not only jeopardize our ability to fully engage in these enriching experiences but would also lead to a decline in participation and overall enthusiasm.As a student athlete, I am particularly concerned about the change, as most of our games occur on Fridays. Additionally, FFA contests where I am actively involved, are predominantly scheduled on Fridays. I am taking advanced classes as well and need that extra time to study and do homework.In a rural setting like Animas, many families rely on the weekends for work and collaboration. This change will disrupt the dynamics, not only impacting students but also the broader community. It is essential to consider the interdependence between school and family life when contemplating such changes.In conclusion, the proposed shift to a 5-day week at Animas Public Schools raises valid concerns about the impact on our students, staff, and the broader community as a whole. The intricate web of responsibilities, extracurricular activities, and family commitments on Fridays underscores the need for careful consideration, before implementing such a change. It is crucial that the school administration acknowledges and addresses these concerns to ensure the well being of the Animas community. If you have any questions please contact me at Lmulgannon@animask12.net .Sincerely,Lyla Mulgannon8th GraderAnimas Public SchoolLmulgannon2@animask12.net

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

Name: Channel

Value: Web

Prefix: Ms.

First Name: Lyla

Middle Name: Marie

Last Name: Mulgannon

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Trace Id: ulOinMGLPB
Office: newmexicogovernor
Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeaa9b7628

Vanessa Kennedy
Dec 18, 2023 10:56 PM

Thank you for reaching out. We are doing all that we can to improve student academic achievement in New Mexico. One part of the plan is to increase instructional time for students. We are also looking to address chronic absenteeism, improved instruction and materials, and increasing graduation rates. To have your comments added to the public record, please email NMPED at rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov.

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by **Shelby Bradberry**

Assigned to **Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)**

Created at **Dec 17, 2023 8:06 PM**

Last updated at **Dec 18, 2023 10:54 AM**

Shelby Bradberry

Dec 17, 2023 8:06 PM

My personal remarks are added in bold. I am writing this letter as a concerned parent of two gifted students who are thriving in Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours. I strongly oppose these changes, as they pose a direct threat to the educational system that has proven successful for our community and, most importantly, for our children. My children are high-achieving A students, and my youngest son skipped second grade under Cliff's instruction and is still one of the top scorers in his new class.

- Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days:** The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.
- Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model:** Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools. As residents of Silver City, the 30-mile commute each way to Cliff schools is more than worth it – for the reputation of better instruction and higher testing scores, when compared to other Silver Schools, as well as the freedom the four-day school week provides. Our sons are able to travel to medical and orthodontist appointments on Fridays, appointments they would otherwise miss a whole day for, as many of the best medical treatments are almost two hours away in Las Cruces, even further for Cliff residents. It also provides them the opportunity to travel out-of-state for Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu instruction – advanced instruction that they cannot receive here in rural New Mexico. They are currently becoming highly ranked martial artists in their age divisions because of the three day weekend freedom. The impact on improved family life and quality family time is paramount. As veterinarians of our own practice, we have adopted a four-day work week (with coverage the fifth day by our associate veterinarian) around family time during the three day weekends. We are able to get all of the required household and pet-related weekly upkeep accomplished with two days to spare for quality family time. This has allowed us to visit ailing and dying extended family members many times, as well as travel for leisure as a family. When my boys are old enough to begin working, having three full days to work establishes a healthy work ethic and the opportunity to add more to savings, college funds, and (still important) spending money. For others in our rural community, an extra day for age-eligible students to work could provide noticeable assistance to families who often face poverty and food insecurity.
- Bias in Funding and Accreditation:** The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.
- Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time:** Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and

professional development. In a world where work-life balance is not often taken into consideration, teachers, who already have one of the hardest jobs in our country, benefit greatly from the four-day school week. While burnout and toxicity is currently seen in nearly every industry, a four-day week best allows teachers a healthier work-life balance. Most of our teachers live in Cliff, and they need days to make the 30 mile each way trip to Silver City (or further) for medical care, grocery shopping, and more.

5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support – areas in which Cliff Schools excel. Citing Effects of 4-Day School Weeks on Older Adolescents: Examining Impacts of the Schedule on Academic Achievement, Attendance, and Behavior in High School Emily Morton. Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, June 2022. “Results indicate that 4-day school weeks decrease per-pupil bullying incidents by approximately 39% and per-pupil fighting incidents by approximately 31%,” writes the author, Emily Morton, a research scientist at NWEA, a nonprofit research organization formerly known as the Northwest Evaluation Association. –In a world where bullying and violence in America’s schools is at an all-time high – violence even leading to shootings and students being beaten to death at school, these observations should be taken very seriously. I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED’s rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community. While there are conflicting studies on test scores and achievements in four-day school week schools, the resounding conclusions are that it works for some communities, while it does not work for others. The current four-day week immensely benefits our students, shown by higher test scores than other schools in the districts, and the improved quality of life for the students, parents, and teachers. In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-being and academic success of my children, and I believe that the proposed changes are absolutely a step backward in achieving these goals. I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I will encourage other parents and community members to do the same. Our collective voices can make a difference in preserving the educational integrity of Cliff Schools and our community. Thank you for considering my views and the immense negative impact that changing our school weeks would impose academically, personally, and on mental health and quality of life. Sincerely, Dr. Shelby Bradberry--

Would You Like A Response: No, I wanted to voice my opinion

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 Value: Web
 Prefix: Dr.
 First Name: Shelby
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 State: NM
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Type: Correspondence
Subject: Contact the Governor: Education
Trace Id: 9H_gnGAWf
Office: newmexicogovernor
Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeea9b7628

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by Margaret Finch

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 18, 2023 10:33 AM

Last updated at Dec 18, 2023 2:33 PM

Margaret Finch

Dec 18, 2023 10:33 AM

Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar

Would You Like A Response: No, I wanted to voice my opinion

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Value: Web

First Name: Margaret

Last Name: Finch

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Subject: Contact the Governor: Education

Trace Id: JeleoTWBZH

Office: newmexicogovernor

Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeaa9b7628

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by **Jamie Lee Johnson**

Assigned to **Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)**

Created at **Dec 17, 2023 9:53 AM**

Last updated at **Dec 18, 2023 11:32 AM**

Jamie Lee Johnson

Dec 17, 2023 9:53 AM

Jamie Johnson P.O. Box 28 Buckhorn, NM 88025 jjohnson@silverschools.org 575-313-3496
 Date: 12/13/2023 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 parent of a student attending Cliff Schools in the Silver Schools Community. I am also the Kindergarten teacher at Cliff Elementary. It has come to my attention that the Public Education Department (PED) is proposing significant changes to the public school calendar and instructional hours/days. 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. Many families have come accustomed to the 4 day week and now depend on it in order for their lives to operate smoothly. We have several students who attend from out of zone because of the fact that we are a 4 day week and it is more convenient. I anticipate that we will lose both students and staff if we are forced to go to a 5 day week. Sadly, the students we will lose will leave our spotlight school to go to a lower performing school. I don't see how this is improving the quality of education. In addition to losing students, I believe that our attendance rates will plummet. We already struggle to maintain good attendance rates. If you add another day to the week students who work, or have other obligations outside of school, are going to be absent that much more.
- 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. According to the NMVISTAS school data for 2022-2023, Cliff Elementary and High School both scored higher than any other school in our district. Cliff Elementary and High School are both on a 4 day week schedule. All of the other schools in the district are on the 5 day week. This alone contradicts the idea that increased days increases the quality of instruction and learning environment. Our district recently attended a

presentation from Anthony Muhammad that specifically addressed that increased learning time/quantity does not directly correlate with increased quality. There are many factors that determine the quality of education, but I believe it starts with happy, healthy teachers and students. Adding additional days/hours will not guarantee a higher quality education, but it could contribute to higher burnout rates amongst students and teachers. Another concern I have specifically relates to the health of our staff and students at Cliff School. Our buildings have been in poor condition for years. We have had teachers and students become very ill due to the air quality in our classrooms. We have tried for years to get new buildings, but due to how state funding works we aren't eligible for help because we are tied to a bigger district so our student population must include the entire district, not just our small school. I plead to you to please consider this before making any changes regarding increased time. I feel that time, energy, and money needs to be put forth to improve the condition of our schools across the state before we expect our students and staff to spend more time at these schools. How can we expect students to learn or teachers to provide a quality education when their health is compromised by simply being at school. I am sure we are not the only school in the state facing this situation. 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 children, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals. I attended Cliff School from kindergarten until I graduated high school. The school operated on a 5 day schedule until I was in high school. At that point we switched to a 4 day schedule. The quality of my education did not decrease due to the change in schedule. If anything, I feel that morale was higher, staff and students were happier, and attendance was better. All of these things play a vital role in the quality of education. I went on to receive my Bachelor's in Accounting and Business and my Master's in Secondary Education. I also received credits in Early Childhood Education. Schools on a 4 day schedule can produce successful individuals. It has nothing to do with how many days we are at school. It has everything to do with how well we are being taught, and learning, while we are there. I plan to attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and I encourage other parents, staff, 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, Jamie Johnson Kindergarten Teacher and Concerned Parent Cliff Elementary School Silver Consolidated Schools District

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

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Trace Id: 0_MARSiEkq
Office: newmexicogovernor
Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeaa9b7628

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by **Alexia McElhinney**

Assigned to **Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)**

Created at **Dec 17, 2023 2:30 PM**

Last updated at **Dec 18, 2023 11:32 AM**

Alexia McElhinney

Dec 17, 2023 2:30 PM

Dear Governor Lujan, 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 negatively impact our students' learning. Our teachers are phenomenal and have been able to keep up with, or surpass 5-day a week 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 consideration 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 is going to come from to finance the millions of dollars it will cost to add on these extra days? Schools across the state are constantly 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." Well, Mr. Romero, I can't agree more with you, but your plan is not the answer. 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. Thank you for your time and hopefully thoughtful consideration in this matter. With regards, Alexia McElhinney Kindergarten Teacher, Maxwell Municipal Schoolslexir@maxwellp12.com

Would You Like A Response: No, I wanted to voice my opinion

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Subject: Contact the Governor: Education
Trace Id: wsyV-Avg6S
Office: newmexicogovernor
Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeaa9b7628

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by Stacy B Quattrocchi

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 17, 2023 11:46 PM

Last updated at Dec 18, 2023 11:50 AM

Stacy B Quattrocchi

Dec 17, 2023 11:46 PM

Stacy B. Quattrocchi 4901 Deer Trail Road Silver City, NM 88061 Email: stacyb4q@gmail.com Phone: 480-600-8676 December 18, 2023 Subject: Strong Objection to Proposed Rule Changes to the School Calendar Requirements by the Public Education Department. I am writing this letter as a professional educator, parent, and advocate of quality education that supports students and the local Cliff, New Mexico 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 directly threaten the educational system that has proven successful for the community and, most importantly, for students. The pitfalls of the proposed changes are significant. Including, but limited to, the following: Unwarranted extension of instructional days Disruption of the four-day week model Bias in funding and Accreditation Neglect of essential professional work time Lack of evidence for improved outcomes I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served New Mexico communities well. As an educator, my primary concern is students' well-being and academic success. The proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals. I will attend the public hearing on December 18th to voice my concerns and support the Cliff community and rural communities throughout New Mexico. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Sincerely, Stacy Quattrocchi

Would You Like A Response: No, I wanted to voice my opinion

Name: Channel

Value: Web

Prefix: Ms.

First Name: Stacy

Middle Name: B

Last Name: Quattrocchi

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Phone Number: 480-600-8676

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State: NM

Zip Code: 88061-8648

Type: Correspondence

Subject: Contact the Governor: Education

Trace Id: 0b7YCos0Vq

Office: newmexicogovernor

Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeea9b7628

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by **Marykate Fowler**

Assigned to **Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)**

Created at **Dec 18, 2023 8:56 AM**

Last updated at **Dec 18, 2023 11:52 AM**

Marykate Fowler

Dec 18, 2023 8:56 AM

Marykate Fowler PO Box 136 Cliff, NM 88028 Basia4292000@yahoo.com
253-876-4246 12/18/23 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. My family just moved here from Washington state where we homeschooled our son. The homeschool community is not as strong in NM so we decided to look into public school. I was very concerned about placing him in a public school after having had him at home. When we discovered that the school had a 4 day week schedule we found the transition from home to public education to be very easy! My son is on the honor roll and I believe the 4 day a week schedule is beneficial to that. He has enough time to rest and recover from the school week and all the extracurriculars and have time to study. We also value our family time, and having the extra day off during the week is really important to us. I will be strongly considering homeschooling our son if the schedule changes.

1. Unwarranted Extension of Instructional Days: The proposal to increase the school year to between 181 to 205 instructional days, requiring at least 1,140 instructional hours annually, is not in line with the legislative intent of House Bill 130. Our current calendar of 173 student days has been effective, and any extension threatens to disrupt not just our schedules, but the well-being and academic progress of our students.
2. Disruption of the Four-Day Week Model: Our community has thrived under the four-day school week model. The requirement that over 50% of school weeks be five days long undermines a system that has not only been successful but also favored by our community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff Schools.
3. Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.
4. Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development.
5. Lack of Evidence for Improved Outcomes: There is no conclusive research to suggest that merely increasing instructional time guarantees better student outcomes. The success of a school should be measured by a multitude of factors, including student engagement, class sizes, the quality of teaching, and community support - areas in which Cliff Schools excel.

I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community. In conclusion, I urge the PED to reconsider these proposed changes and maintain the current educational structure that has served our community well. As a parent, my primary concern is the well-

being and academic success of my child, and I believe that the proposed changes are a step backward in achieving these goals. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Sincerely, Marykate Fowler

Would You Like A Response: No, I wanted to voice my opinion

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Subject: Contact the Governor: Education
Trace Id: EPqWV9aJpN
Office: newmexicogovernor
Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeea9b7628

Contact the Governor: Energy (solved)

Requested by Isabelle Vasuez Arambula

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 18, 2023 11:26 AM

Last updated at Dec 18, 2023 10:55 PM

Isabelle Vasuez Arambula

Dec 18, 2023 11:26 AM

Isabelle V Arambula 120 Sotol Dr. Lordsburg, NM

88045iarambula@animask12.net 575-640-2253 December 18, 2023 RE: Proposed changes in the 6.10.5 NMAC (School Calendar Requirements) Dear Secretary Arsenio Romero, I am an 8th grader from Animas Public Schools, I am writing to inform you about what issues the 6.10.5 NMAC will cause if this law goes into effect. I disagree with this proposal. Since it will cause many conflicts and it will interfere with the students and the administration. • Many of the students hereo Graduate with many scholarships along with dual credito Me along with many other students take advanced classes, with dual credit Welding, Math, and English being some of the courses offered.o Every student has the opportunity to take career- based electives and career objectives such as Graphic Arts, FFA, Drama, Mock Trial, and Legislative Leadership. Both our students and staff have proven that having responsible students, having a high-quality staff, and having an overall positive school environment can work. We have graduated over 50 students from WNMU in the Welding Program. We also have sent students to the Roundhouse every February for the past 7 years. We have never failed to impress law makers and the governor. In the past, we have even had a past secretary of education who was Christopher Ruszkowski visit the school. Each year, we have an estimate of around 12 graduating seniors that average close to \$20,000 in scholarships each. Our graduation rate is near 100% and our dropout rate is near 0%. Animas has proven that a micro district that has a 4-day school week can be a success, far to often small successful districts are punished due to the failings of larger districts instead of being praised for the achievement's they have shown. Each district should be judged by their student's success instead of being judged as a whole. Animas might be the furthest district from Santa Fe and one of the smallest districts in the whole state, but our voice is heard, loud and clear to the far corners of the state. If adding more working days to solve our educational problem, then our law makers should fill the Roundhouse every day of the year. Many studies have pointed out the fact that a 4-day work week increases job satisfaction, improves work life balance, and most importantly reduces stress. The benefits of a 4-day school week are well defined, while a 5-day school week doesn't have many advantages compared to a 4-day week. With the 4-day week being so successful for many micro districts compared to larger districts going 5-days not being half as fortunate with lower graduation rates and higher dropout rates. Especially at a time when a student's mental and emotional health needs are at an all-time high, with our youth suicide rates increasing each year, why would anyone want to add anymore stress to what they already have. In conclusion, I would like to restate my claim about how I disagree with this proposal. Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns. If you have any questions, contact me either at iarambula@animask12.net or (575)-640-2253. Sincerely, Isabelle V Arambula 8th grader Animas Public Schools (575)-640-2253 iarambula@animask12.net

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

Name: Channel
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Prefix: Ms.
First Name: Isabelle
Middle Name: Vasuez
Last Name: Arambula
Email Address: iarambula@animask12.net
Phone Number: (575)-640-2253
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State: NM
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Subject: Contact the Governor: Energy
Trace Id: NjWQpM32rr
Office: newmexicogovernor
Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeea9b7628

Vanessa Kennedy
Dec 18, 2023 10:55 PM

Thank you for reaching out. We are doing all that we can to improve student academic achievement in New Mexico. One part of the plan is to increase instructional time for students. We are also looking to address chronic absenteeism, improved instruction and materials, and increasing graduation rates. To have your comments added to the public record, please email NMPED at rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov.

Laura Eberhardt (solved)

Requested by **Laura Eberhardt**

Assigned to **Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)**

Created at **Dec 15, 2023 9:36 AM**

Last updated at **Dec 18, 2023 2:54 PM**

Laura Eberhardt

Dec 15, 2023 9:36 AM

Dear Mrs. Lujan-Grisham, I write to you regarding the push to move our rural communities to a five day school week. I grew up in Albuquerque, attended UNM for Music Education, and taught for six years in Santa Fe before I found my forever home teaching sixth through twelfth grade band in the small towns of Cimarron and Eagle Nest. I was invited to teach at a band camp in Cimarron several years before I moved here, and I noted back then how incredibly polite, well-rounded, social, hard working, and high achieving the students were. There was something magical about the students here. When the position to teach band came open, making the move to the mountains was the easiest decision I have ever made. The kids up here are different—most of my band students are also athletes, in FFA, in Scouts, in the broadcasting program, in student council, are skiers and snowboarders, go hunting, fishing, and camping, are in internships, tutor their younger peers, work on their ranches and farms, and are involved in community events and their families. I know many folks have already written letters with the data, including the concerns about how an additional day will increase our funding needs drastically and how our students have been achieving at or above level in testing compared to the rest of NM. For my part, the Cimarron High School Band has won the State Band Contest Title for twelve years, all while competing up against 2A and 3A schools. Ten percent of my high school band made our district honor band, competing against larger schools such as Santa Fe and Los Alamos. I have one student who graduated last year who is currently playing in the Wind Symphony at the University of Rochester. Another student who graduated three years ago is already a journeyman plumber, another graduate is working on wind turbines, and another is about to graduate university with a degree in Music Education. This is just a small snapshot of the success our students have had out in the world after being on a four-day school week. Please support our students' way of life and what makes them successful. Our one additional day off affords kids the opportunity to be with their family, on the ski team, teach snow sports, do an internship in a specialized field, be a fishing or hunting guide, learn how to run the family farm, or to work some extra hours to save for college. Our families are important players in their kids' education and this extra day gives students opportunities that reach beyond the classroom. On the practical side, families also use this day to schedule medical appointments (most of which are at least an hour away), get firewood ready for the winter, leave our food desert to purchase healthier and less expensive food, and purchase clothing for their quickly growing kids. I'm from the city, and it is difficult to understand exactly what it is like to live out here in such an isolated environment without living this life. I implore you to listen to rural voices and make decisions that take our special circumstances into account. Our students need your support and their voices heard. Sincerely, Laura Eberhardt, NBCT Band Director, Cimarron Municipal Schools NMMEA Music Educator of the Year, 2022

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

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Subject: Contact the Governor: Education
Trace Id: iv8Z3PHOWf
Office: newmexicogovernor
Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeaa9b7628

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by **Janean C Garney**

Assigned to **Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)**

Created at **Dec 17, 2023 7:49 AM**

Last updated at **Dec 18, 2023 8:32 AM**

Janean C Garney

Dec 17, 2023 7:49 AM

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

Would You Like A Response: No, I wanted to voice my opinion

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Subject: Contact the Governor: Education
Trace Id: E1cp9ZMHYj
Office: newmexicogovernor
Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeea9b7628

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by **Michelle Greeman**

Assigned to **Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)**

Created at **Dec 18, 2023 9:57 AM**

Last updated at **Dec 18, 2023 10:56 PM**

Michelle Greeman

Dec 18, 2023 9:57 AM

Madam Governor, I am writing on behalf of Cliff Schools in the Silver Consolidated School District, in Cliff, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18, 2023 so should it be chosen. It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education. This is blatant bureaucratic overreach which negates both state statutory law and local discretion over our children's education. Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report. Cliff Schools specifically are designated by NM Vistas (nmvistas.org) as exemplary schools with Cliff Elementary School as a School of Excellence in the top 10% of schools, and Cliff High School as a Spotlight Campus in the top 15% of all schools. Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These amazing educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults. My students are thriving at Cliff Schools, and are part of a caring community of teachers and staff, with the students best interests at the forefront of everything they do. Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4-H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities- including work and on the job training before graduation, are simply unmatched. The 4-day week also allows for students to not miss days due to travel for said extra-curricular activities because they are satisfying attendance requirements by attending in minutes during their regular school day. Also keep in mind that many schools that utilize a 4-day week are very rural, and students have to sometimes travel considerable distances to school. Adding an additional school day not only increases time on the bus for these students, but also expenses for the district in terms of transportation and bus drivers, or for parents that have to transport their children to school. Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal? I simply ask- do you truly have our students best interests at heart? Sincerely, Michelle Greeman

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

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State: NM
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Subject: Contact the Governor: Education
Trace Id: jRo1mOurGM
Office: newmexicogovernor
Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeea9b7628

Vanessa Kennedy
Dec 18, 2023 10:56 PM

Thank you for reaching out. We are doing all that we can to improve student academic achievement in New Mexico. One part of the plan is to increase instructional time for students. We are also looking to address chronic absenteeism, improved instruction and materials, and increasing graduation rates. To have your comments added to the public record, please email NMPED at rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov.

Daneen Gatlin (solved)

Requested by Daneen J Gatlin

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 13, 2023 11:45 AM

Last updated at Dec 18, 2023 2:53 PM

Daneen J Gatlin

Dec 13, 2023 11:45 AM

Dear Governor Michele Lujan Grisham, I have been in a teacher in education for over 28 years. I have worked a 5 day week and a 4 day week at the Cliff Schools in the Silver Consolidated Schools during that time. Our school currently has an excellent rating. I am pleading with you to leave Cliff Schools on a 4 day school work week. Our students are doing great on this schedule. Our school tries to schedule all athletics games on Friday and Saturday which allows students to keep in school during the school week. Staff and students can take Friday and use it for dentist appointments, doctor appointments, and personal business so that we don't miss other days during the school day. Plus not having school on Friday helps our budget will expenses like unities, staffing, and running a bus an extra day during the week. Please let Cliff Schools keep our 4 day school week please do not punishing us by making budget rules that keep us from having a 4 day week. I know you are worried about test scores. But from my 28 years of experience in education and from teaching from different types of curriculum, you need to know that Common Core is a terrible curriculum and does not meet the needs of students. Many states have quit using it because they have realized that Common Core does not work and students are doing terrible on it. It is not the teachers fault that scores are low or the students. The Education Department needs to do away with Common Core. Thank you for taking the time to listen to my concerns. Sincerely, Daneen Gatlin

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

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Middle Name: J

Last Name: Gatlin

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Subject: Contact the Governor: Education

Trace Id: hR4w3l4GhQ

Office: newmexicogovernor

Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeaa9b7628

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by Deborah Potter

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 18, 2023 12:26 PM

Last updated at Dec 18, 2023 10:55 PM

Deborah Potter

Dec 18, 2023 12:26 PM

I stand alongside NM teachers and the National Education Association-NM teacher's union in opposition to the NM Public Education Department's proposed rule changes: 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements and 6.81.2 NMAC, Requirements for Nonpublic Schools and for Public Education Department Accreditation. These changes should be immediately withdrawn to honor the flexibility that is currently held and needed by NM teachers, especially in rural areas. These changes are not good for students, and will not help improve our quality of education. Today's hearing will be inadequate to address the concerns that have already been raised, and will not allow adequate time for public testimony that is largely in opposition.

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

Name: Channel

Value: Web

Prefix: Dr.

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Last Name: Potter

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Type: Correspondence

Subject: Contact the Governor: Education

Trace Id: 1pK2ki1R3w

Office: newmexicogovernor

Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeaa9b7628

Vanessa Kennedy

Dec 18, 2023 10:55 PM

Thank you for reaching out. We are doing all that we can to improve student academic achievement in New Mexico. One part of the plan is to increase instructional time for students. We are also looking to address chronic absenteeism, improved instruction and materials, and increasing graduation rates. To have your comments added to the public record, please email NMPED at rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov.

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by **Matthew D Mitchell**

Assigned to **Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)**

Created at **Dec 18, 2023 2:27 PM**

Last updated at **Dec 18, 2023 10:54 PM**

Matthew D Mitchell

Dec 18, 2023 2:27 PM

To Whom It May Concern,My name is Matthew Mitchell. I live in Angel Fire, where two of my children attend Eagle Nest Elementary and my oldest attends Taos Academy Charter School. I write to express my concern with the PED's proposed rule to require all schools in the state to shift to a 5-day schedule. As I understand it, recently passed legislation (HB 130) obliges schools to increase their minimum hours of instruction to 1,140 hours per year. I have no concern with this requirement. I've taught at both the college and graduate school level for 20 years and I understand the value of face-to-face instruction. What concerns me is the PED's belief that this legislation obliges all schools to conform to the 5-day school week. A five day schedule may be perfectly well-suited to the dense urban environment of my hometown of Albuquerque. But it does not work in the sprawling rural communities of northern New Mexico. My two youngest children attend a school that is 35.3 miles from my house. My oldest attends a school that is 29.7 miles from my house. This means that they each spend about 2 hours a day in commute. The four-day schedule permits one day's respite from this torturous commute. It allows our family to eliminate about 3,000 lbs. of unnecessary carbon emissions per school year. It permits students to attend athletic events and to make doctor's appointments without missing school. And it allows the district to recruit top talent. Finally, it allows the district to save money on gas, heating, and other expenses. Our district believes that the move to five-days a week would cost approximately \$1.6 million in additional expenditures. There is neither a pedagogical nor practical reason for this mandate and I encourage you to reconsider. I also encourage you to visit our schools, talk to the principals and staff, and speak with the parents. I think you'll find their stories compelling and convincing. I'd be happy to discuss this matter with you further. Best regards,Matthew D. Mitchell, Ph.D.

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

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Value: Web

Prefix: Dr.

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Last Name: Mitchell

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Type: Correspondence

Subject: Contact the Governor: Education

Trace Id: BU1BPsrLaW
Office: newmexicogovernor
Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeaa9b7628

Vanessa Kennedy
Dec 18, 2023 10:54 PM

Thank you for reaching out. We are doing all that we can to improve student academic achievement in New Mexico. One part of the plan is to increase instructional time for students. We are also looking to address chronic absenteeism, improved instruction and materials, and increasing graduation rates. To have your comments added to the public record, please email NMPED at rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov.

Erin Cook (solved)

Requested by Erin Cook

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 13, 2023 5:01 PM

Last updated at Dec 18, 2023 2:53 PM

Erin Cook

Dec 13, 2023 5:01 PM

Governor Grisham , As a level 3 veteran teacher and a parent in the Los Alamos School district, I'm writing to express my concern about the proposed changes to the public school instructional time requirements. Please consider the following information from a teacher and student perspective before enacting these useless and dataless provisions on our teachers and students. With 20 years in education, through covid and post covid, let me assure you that what is failing the students isn't the time they spend in the classroom. Poverty, emotional and behavioral issues, lack of parental support, and a lack of qualified staff are the main issues facing students in New Mexico. Additional hours/days to an already long school year is not best practice for students or staff members. According to the NEA, "high-achieving nations such as Finland, Singapore, and China have chosen not to take this route, opting instead for maximizing learning and collaboration time during the traditional schedule. Indeed, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, U.S. teachers already spend more time in direct instruction with students than their peers in practically every other developed country." And although the extended school day has worked to raise test scores in a few locations across the US, the focus in those schools remains on the students who NEED the extra time, not all students. "The program works in Rochester... because the focus has always been not just on more time, but better time - and on the students who need it the most." Extending time for students who need extra support could definitely be justified, but all students do not need more time in the classroom." "Some students need additional time, not all students. Those who benefit from it are usually those who don't have adequate conditions for continuing learning after school, whether at home or in the community," explains Urbanski, superintendent of Rochester school district. My suggestion would be to extend time for the most in need students, so that teachers could focus on those students' deficiencies rather than a classroom of 30 students at a time. Another concern from the teacher perspective is that many quality and qualified teachers are leaving the profession in droves over the lack of support for us in the classroom. Instead of the increase in days, the increase should be in quality staffing, smaller class sizes, and additional teacher preparation time. PED wants teachers and staff to be everything from parents, to therapists, to referees, to councilors, and finally teachers, but with no incentive to recruit or retain staff. Adding hours/days to the calendar will only push more out of this profession that I love, hurting more students. We are now hiring anyone with a degree in anything to work with our students. A pulse and a bachelors do not make you even remotely qualified to be a teacher. My beloved profession that I have dedicated half my life to has become a profession I steer my own children away from. We have subpar compensation for the education, time, and energy we spend making education successful. My suggestion would be in returning to incentivizing the profession to get quality educators. Maybe financial compensation can not be raised, but benefits like a better retirement plan, better health insurance (potentially fully covered by the state and offer the benefits given to state employees), and getting us the help we need to be successful in the classroom would attract quality and qualified teachers to the profession. From the student perspective, additional time with subpar educators will not raise test scores. Both of my children completed elementary school in another state. When we came to NM, we enrolled

them in the Los Alamos School district because of it's high academic standards, only to find that it has the same issues as so many other schools in NM. And while our district and specifically the school I teach in has high achievement, there is a lot missing from our time spent with students, and a disconnect between the qualified staff and who we have decided to employ as "teachers". Those with next to no teaching experience or training are being placed in classrooms across the state because of the teacher shortage. Fix the teacher shortage by incentivizing the profession and the scores will improve. Continuing to put unqualified people in front of an overpopulated classroom no matter how many hours you require will continue to get you the same results of failing education. Additionally, students are over extended and over worked in our current system, and mandating more time for all students is not the solution. According to the NEA, "Many of our children are already stretched to unhealthy breaking points, loaded down with excessive homework, extracurricular activities and outside tutoring because they're led to believe high test scores, a slew of Advanced Placement classes and a packed résumé are their ticket to college and success. This has led to an epidemic of anxious, unhealthy, sleep-deprived, burned-out, disengaged, unprepared children -- and overwhelmed and discouraged teachers. The key is creating a healthier, more balanced, more engaging and effective school day, not a longer one." In conclusion, addressing the real problems facing students and teacher cannot be fixed with additional time. It can however be fixed with a real dedication to providing teachers and staff with incentives to recruit and retain quality staff, smaller class sizes to focus on individual needs, and incentives to staff more time for students who need the help, not all students. This proposed extension to hours and days will only push more educators away, leaving unqualified people to fill the positions, and hurt students and their test scores. Sincerely, Erin Cook 6th Grade ELA teacher Mountain Elementary, Los Alamos

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

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 Trace Id: hLb_jEEEZn
 Office: newmexicogovernor
 Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeea9b7628

Cyndie Ives- PED #3132141 (solved)

Requested by Cyndie Ives

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 8, 2023 4:57 PM

Last updated at Dec 15, 2023 4:47 PM

Cyndie Ives

Dec 8, 2023 4:57 PM

I am very disappointed with this proposed rule change of forcing districts to develop a calendar of 180 school days. Here are some reasons why I'm opposed: 1. After Yazzie/Martinez pointed out that our state is falling short when it comes to disadvantaged students, PED now expects rural districts to further alienate our students. We already have attendance issues across the state, and this new law will further exasperate this problem as students will be on the bus for hours 5 days a week instead of 4. In addition, it seems districts will need to take out some of the breaks that students and teachers desperately need to recharge, in order to meet this requirement. Again, attendance problems will not be healed with this change. 2. I am a veteran teacher who is very comfortable with the CCSS as well as my district's curricula. However, I am currently, and have been, a mentor to many new teachers. One of the things that I have found over the years that keeps new teachers in our profession is their confidence with CCSS, curricula, and classroom management. How do new teachers gain this confidence? Of course, teachers learn a lot of this through professional development. This confidence needs to be acquired during the course of their career as curricula and student needs change. Therefore, the state legislature worked hard to meet the needs of teachers, to try to retain them to the profession, by building in PD time within the 1140.3. Districts worked really hard around the state to create calendars that worked for their specific communities based on the new law of 1140. It seems that you are undermining all of the work that districts did to find what works best for the communities they serve. Many had community meetings, surveys, and several drafts of calendars for school communities to choose from. Please don't put all that hard work to waste! We still haven't found calendars that truly work yet with the 1140 as they will need to be revised to work better next year. We need time to implement that first before you throw another wrench in the spoke. Trust districts to do what is best for the students they serve. 4. I am very disappointed that the Governor that I worked hard to help elect twice and the cabinet that she has appointed would be so demeaning to the students and teachers they supposedly support wholeheartedly! If you would like the republicans to win in the future, keep alienating teachers, parents, and students. Do you know how many of these school community members voted for Susana Martinez? I remember both of those elections very well and know how hard it was to convince educators and educator friends that she did not have their best interest. In closing, please do not push this rule of 180 days through. Please respect the NM State Legislature and the law they enacted. Please trust districts to choose how best to implement the new law of 1140 for their unique communities. Please work to increase student attendance and retain teachers!

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

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Value: Web

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Office: newmexicogovernor
Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeaa9b7628

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by Rebekah Ormand

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 18, 2023 11:09 AM

Last updated at Dec 18, 2023 2:35 PM

Rebekah Ormand

Dec 18, 2023 11:09 AM

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, as well as a Cliff Schools staff member. 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.

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. I believe that increasing days would only increase burnout and create poorer mental and physical health of both staff and students, as well as behavioral challenges and incidents.

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 the community. This change seems to disregard the unique needs and preferences of our district, particularly of Cliff schools. I have been willing to commute 30 minutes each way this school year to be a staff member at this rural school, and it has been a very positive change for my daughter and myself. The positive educational and social environment and the 4-day weeks were a major factor in my decision to apply to work at and bring my daughter to Cliff, and I feel honored to have been hired here. If it were not for this opportunity, I would have felt compelled to pursue a homeschooling or private school option for my daughter's education.

Bias in Funding and Accreditation: The new funding criteria and accreditation rules that favor five-day weeks could severely disadvantage our successful four-day model. This bias could lead to unnecessary financial and administrative pressures on our schools, detracting from their primary focus on education.

Neglect of Essential Professional Work Time: Excluding planning and training from instructional hours fails to recognize the comprehensive educational approach that is vital for the success of our educators and students alike. Teachers need this time for effective lesson planning, collaboration, and professional development. I chose to not complete a dossier and move to a level 2 teaching license last year, due to the immense pressures of trying to complete LETRs training, SPED paperwork, and other training, as well as being a single mom. This decision led to me not having a NM teaching license and not being able to reapply for one for 3 years. My physical, emotional, and mental health were being compromised due to the pressures of all these requirements with no support or provision of any extra time to complete the ever-increasing demands of the PED. Having some 4-day weeks might have enabled me to be able to complete the dossier and continue to teach in a field in which teachers are in very short supply, Special Education. There are many Special Education teaching positions that I could have filled, both in the Silver Consolidated and surrounding districts, some of which are currently being filled with long-term subs and alternative licensure candidates. I would like to eventually pursue regaining

my teaching license, but I also desire to know that if I were to do so I would be supported and my well-being and opinion would be respected and taken into account and I am struggling to trust that this will be the case. 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-area in which Cliff schools excel. My daughter, who is on an IEP, is getting a much more effective and balanced education in Cliff's smaller class sizes and positive environment, and having Fridays off allows us to concentrate on other areas of a complete education: driving practice, sewing, cooking, and other household responsibilities, as well as time for more positive social interactions. I echo the concerns of our legislator, 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. Sincerely, Rebekah Ormand SPED EA Cliff Elementary

Would You Like A Response: No, I wanted to voice my opinion

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 Prefix: Ms.
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 Subject: Contact the Governor: Education
 Trace Id: ke8t7S70mu
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 Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeea9b7628

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by Riley Olsen

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 17, 2023 1:14 PM

Last updated at Dec 18, 2023 11:01 AM

Riley Olsen

Dec 17, 2023 1:14 PM

Riley Olsen P.O. Box 454 Gila, NM 88038 rolsen@silverschools.org 575.654.0620 December 17, 2023

Dear Governor Grisham, 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) 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 New Mexico's 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

Would You Like A Response: No, I wanted to voice my opinion

Name: Channel
Value: Web
Prefix: Ms.
First Name: Riley
Last Name: Olsen
Email Address: rilesolsen@gmail.com
Phone Number: 5756540620
Address1: PO Box 454
City: Gila
State: NM
Zip Code: 88038
Type: Correspondence
Subject: Contact the Governor: Education
Trace Id: 7zslXM4KZ6
Office: newmexicogovernor
Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeaa9b7628

Contact the Governor: Education (solved)

Requested by Deborah Potter

Assigned to Vanessa Kennedy (Constituent Services)

Created at Dec 18, 2023 12:44 PM

Last updated at Dec 18, 2023 10:55 PM

Deborah Potter

Dec 18, 2023 12:44 PM

I am also opposed to this proposed rule change by the NM Public Education Department: 6.19.4 NMAC, Accreditation Procedures. That is in addition to opposing 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements and 6.81.2 NMAC, Requirements for Nonpublic Schools and for Public Education Department Accreditation as previously expressed. These changes are largely opposed by NM teachers and will not benefit NM teachers, students or communities. I have asked that the NM PED withdraw these proposals.

Would You Like A Response: Yes, please contact me

Name: Channel

Value: Web

Prefix: Dr.

First Name: Deborah

Last Name: Potter

Email Address: ulinski@unm.edu

Phone Number: 5058978621

Address1: 1019 Guadalupe Ct. NW

City: Albuquerque

State: NM

Zip Code: 87114

Type: Correspondence

Subject: Contact the Governor: Education

Trace Id: -z9mnLRUoo

Office: newmexicogovernor

Form Id: e8157390-ee98-4a62-a4d6-edaeea9b7628

Vanessa Kennedy

Dec 18, 2023 10:55 PM

Thank you for reaching out. We are doing all that we can to improve student academic achievement in New Mexico. One part of the plan is to increase instructional time for students. We are also looking to address chronic absenteeism, improved instruction and materials, and increasing graduation rates. To have your comments added to the public record, please email NMPED at rule.feedback@ped.nm.gov.



Roy Municipal Schools
525 Roosevelt St.
P.O. Box 430
Phone: 575-485-2242
Fax: 575-485-2497
www.royschools.org

Policy and Legislative Affairs Division
New Mexico Public Education Department
300 Don Gasper Ave., Room 121
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Monday December 11, 2023

This letter is in reference to 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements that the NMPED is proposing to change. The Roy Board of Education and its Administration object to the proposed rule. Roy Municipal Schools has been on a 4-day week school calendar since 1984 and we were on a modified 4-day week calendar during the late seventies and early 1980's.

Our school has shown excellent academic success on a 4-day week calendar. Over the past two years, we have reached excellent status in the criteria set forth by NMPED. During the past two years, Roy Municipal Schools has been in the top 3 schools in the state in Reading and Math subject areas and has maintained an A or B status in school grades for over 15 years.

Our school has had great success on a 4-day week calendar. Our calendar is set up to have Fridays off so students can go to doctor appointments and take care of business that would otherwise require them to be absent. Our sports activities are scheduled with games mainly on Thursday through Saturday evenings. We have meager attendance issues because of our 4-day week calendar. Our graduation rate of 95% + is proof of our schedule's effectiveness.

Because we are on a 4-day week calendar our teacher retention rate is 100%. Having a 4-day week school gives us a better opportunity to recruit, as many staff who live in rural New Mexico use the one business day away from school to take care of medical appointments, business issues, and personal items such as grocery shopping.

Should we lose the ability to choose a 4-day week, we will see higher absenteeism among both the students and staff as it takes a minimum of two hours one way to reach medical appointments and purchase groceries because the nearest town of any significance is 77 miles away. Roy's families cannot just be gone a couple of hours to attend an appointment and then return back to school.

Increasing school days to 180 will not improve the education level throughout the state of New Mexico. By the end of April, students and staff are burned out. The teachers struggle to capture and keep their students' attention. The students are ready for summer, and their education is no longer a priority for them.

As a rural, agricultural community, our students and staff live and work on their family ranches. It takes all the family to work together to make their way of life successful. Extending the school week means families must try to find employees to help in the absence of spouses and

children. This is virtually impossible. Our rural districts struggle to find employees as much, if not more, than our counterparts in New Mexico's urban areas. Extending the school week will cause higher absenteeism as family help on the ranch is vital to sustain this way of life.

Increasing to five-day weeks will tremendously increase transportation costs. The additional day will result in increasing salary and fuel costs as well as vehicle maintenance costs. Some of our students already travel more than 35 miles each way to and from school, and some students ride the bus for one and one-half hours each way. An extended school week will add an additional three hours of commute time for these students.

The additional days will also increase utility costs as we consume additional electricity, water, sewer, and propane to operate the building(s). Food and labor costs will increase due to the additional days. Teacher contracts are by days, not hours. If teacher contract days are increased, the teachers will expect, and rightfully so, additional compensation for the added days. Should they not receive the additional compensation, we will surely lose teachers who are already hard to come by. For Roy Municipal Schools, this would be a 35-school day increase. For contracted teachers, our costs will increase by \$197,800 for salaries, \$34,720 for ERB, and \$4,000 for RHC. This is just on the teacher's side. As a school that has been on Emergency Supplemental Funding, this would increase our requests by over 350%.

In conclusion, our District, Board of Education, staff, students, and constituents are very much in favor of leaving the 4-day week school calendar as a choice for local school boards to adopt.

Roy Municipal Schools objects to the 180-day calendar proposal.

Respectfully,


Edward L. Fluhman, Superintendent


Blair Clavel, Board President


Brandon Smith, Vice President


Phillip Trujillo, Secretary


Cody Hazen, Member


Alfred Martinez, Member

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I am writing on behalf of the Magdalena Municipal School District in Magdalena, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email/letter to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing state law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education.

My name is Everett S. Cortez. I think that there shouldn't be a five day week of school. Because it stresses the students, teachers, and parents. It costs more money to get gas. And students need time to recuperate. And some kids need to help out on the farm or ranch. And it would cost the school more money. And the athletes would get more tired because they dont get back until 6:00 pm every day. So students come back to school with a fresh mind.

Thank you for your consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Everett S. Cortez". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Everett Cortez
8th grader
Student at Magdalena School District

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN,

I am writing on behalf of the Magdalena Municipal School District in Magdalena, New Mexico in direct opposition of HB 130. I give consent for my email/letter to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18, 2023, should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing state law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico Education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14 th , 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school weeks on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than in 5, again published by you, the NMPED in the most recent NM Vistas Report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico Districts to acquire educators is a massive step backward. These sensational educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico you are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults. Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day school week for students to excel at extra--curricular activities such as 4H, FFA, NMAA-sanctioned athletics, and several 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 who 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?

Having school 4 days a week is already mentally draining. I feel if we go to 5 days a week I will not have the motivation to do my work. Plus it will also mess with the kids' school-work-life balance. I help my father on Fridays with, roofing or other side jobs he needs my help with. I also help my mother every day at her job after school. Which usually takes us 2 hours to get it done so I usually do all my homework on a Friday.

Sincerely

Tristan Alvarez
10th grader
Student at Magdalena School District



New Mexico Public Education Department

To Whom it May Concern

My name is Paul Chavez-Lopez, I attend Magdalena Middle School, and I am in the 8th grade. If I have to go to school for five days I would be exhausted. I would be exhausted because my mom already drives us every morning for 30 miles just to bring us to a great school for a better education. We have to leave our house in the morning at 6:30, and we don't get home until after 6 p.m. each day. Once we get back home, we are responsible for feeding and caring for our animals. Having to come an extra day each week puts more of a hardship on my mom and wear and tear on her car. Adding an additional day to our school week would also cause more expenses for our school, such as food, electricity, heating/cooling, etc. Teachers would also need to be paid more. I also, feel that a lot of kids get bullied and having to go an extra day to school would make it harder on those students.

Thank you for your consideration,

Paul Chavez-Lopez

8th grader

Student of Magdalena School District



MODRALL SPERLING

L A W Y E R S

December 14, 2023

Arthur D. Melendres
Tel: 505.848.1805
Fax: 505.848.9710
art.melendres@modrall.com

By email to: Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov

Policy and Legislative Affairs Division
New Mexico Public Education Department
300 Don Gaspar Ave., Room 121
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Re: Comments on Proposed rule changes to NMAC 6.10.5 (calendar requirements)

Dear Policy and Legislative Affairs Division:

On behalf of our client, the Albuquerque Public Schools ("APS"), we write to object to the proposed changes to NMAC 6.10.5.

The Proposed Rule conflicts with §22-2-8.1 NMSA 1978 which provides that

[S]tudents shall be in school programs, exclusive of lunch, for a minimum of one thousand one hundred forty instructional hours per year, except half-day kindergarten, which shall have five hundred fifty instructional hours per year.

The statute goes on to provide that

Up to sixty instructional hours per school year for elementary grades and thirty instructional hours for middle and high school grades may be used for professional work hours, which may be embedded during the course of a normal school day.

The proposed rule change ignores these statutory requirements. First, it appears to require one thousand one hundred forty hours of instructional time exclusive of "professional time." This is the result of the new 6.10.5.8(H) which says that "time shall not be double counted as both instructional hours for student learning and professional work hours." That would mean that professional time would not be embedded during the course of the school day, and it could also mean that professional time could not be a part of the "instructional hours," contrary to the express language of the statute.

Administrative regulations do not supersede statutes. It is axiomatic that an agency such as the Public education Department cannot by regulation overrule a statute. As the Supreme Court held in *Jones v. Employment Services Div. of Human Services Dept.*, 1980-NMSC-120, ¶ 3, 95 N.M. 97, 99, 619 P.2d 542, 544:

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To: Policy and Legislative Affairs Division, NMPED
December 14, 2023
Page 2

If there is a conflict or inconsistency between statutes and regulations promulgated by an agency, the language of the statutes shall prevail. An agency by regulation cannot overrule a specific statute.

See also, *Tri-State Generation and Transmission Assn, Inc. v. New Mexico Public Regulation Comm'n*, 2015-NMSC-013, ¶23, 347 P.3d 274; see also, *State v. Bowden*, 2010-NMCA-070, ¶ 10, 148 N.M. 850, 852, 242 P.3d 417, 419 (“In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between a statute and a regulation, we interpret the statute to take precedence.”)

As the Legislature recognized in enacting the new §22-2-8.1, additional instructional time requires that teachers have time to do their professional work if student outcomes are to be improved. Districts need the flexibility to determine how to provide professional development and collaboration time for teachers in alignment with individual districts’ needs and goals, and that may require that professional time be embedded in the instructional day.

Implementing the proposed new rule will result in a longer school year even after taking into account the additional days APS already added for the 2023-2024 school year. APS has polled the community and determined that the community does not support adding additional days to the existing school calendar.

The Proposed Rule should be withdrawn.

Very truly yours,



Arthur D. Melendres

cc: Superintendent Scott Elder
Chief of Schools Channell Segura

Re: Rule 6.10.5NMAC, School Calendar Requirement

To Whom It May Concern:

When looking at the proposed rule change it makes no sense as to how the people making the rule change feel this will help in the growth of our students academically.

1. Students already have attendance issues, which is a big part of academic growth. Students aren't in class; they are not getting the information they need to be successful to show academic growth.
2. Schools already struggle with trying to keep fully staffed buildings to help the students learn and teach the information needed to students.
3. Schools struggle with funding to keep their districts going with what is already in place. You add more days, schools are going to struggle more to make ends meet and resources will even be scarcer due to adding more days of operation in their districts. Job positions will be cut because districts will not be able to hire and maintain staff salaries.
4. You add more days, you are taking away from professional development of those that are there to help students be successful and make gains academically, which takes away from the classroom and doesn't help with academic growth.

As a staff member in a school district that already meets the 180-day requirement, and the district has shown growth at all levels in the district I don't think because some districts have not shown growth or because the school districts in the state are doing what is best for their community and students, we should fall under one blanket. We have a school board for a reason, and that is for them to look at the needs of the community and school population to make decisions that best suit the people of that area. If you add more days, more time to a school calendar, you are going to lose more students to homeschool programs, teachers/staff are going to find other job opportunities and the field of education will not be able to recruit new staff due to the extra time of the school calendar. This is already a struggle, and our colleges and universities already have low numbers going into the field of education.

Instead let's focus on trying to get the valuable resources for all schools throughout the state to enhance academic achievement. I feel that some districts are very fortunate in that they have a supportive community when it comes to education and our children. But I know many other districts don't always have that privilege and adding more to a district such as adding more days and making it a rule across the board doesn't benefit the students, staff or community. Let's focus on ways that school districts can start to hold families accountable in the area of school attendance. Attendance is the issue of students not showing academic gain. Not how many days are already in the calendar. You add more days, more days will be missed and your staff throughout districts will also start missing more time which then takes away from instruction that students should be receiving to be successful academically.

New Mexico School Boards Association

Joe Guillen, Executive Director

Email: jguillen@nmsba.org

Carolyn Mole, Finance Director

Email: cmole@nmsba.org

Lorraine Vigil, Program Director

Email: lvigil@nmsba.org



300 Galisteo Street, Suite 204

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December 14, 2023

Dr. Arsenio Romero, Secretary of Education
c/o Policy and Legislative Affairs Division
New Mexico Public Education Department
300 Don Gaspar Ave., Room 121
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Subject: Comments on 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
and 6.19.4 NMAC, Accreditation Procedures

Dear Secretary Romero,

The New Mexico School Boards Association has served as a leader in New Mexico's public education system for over six decades. The Association was born out of a simple premise of visionary school board members, to advocate for local control of public education and to offer programs and assistance to local boards of education.

The Association serves as the statewide voice of 89 boards of education. The collective influence of close to 450 school board members enables the Association to work toward the benefit of the elementary and secondary public school system in New Mexico. The Association provides current information and advice on matters affecting school boards and cooperates with other educational and related organizations including the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) in promoting excellence in education.

School boards are not an accidental creation. Elected school board members serve their communities in several important ways.

- First and foremost, school boards look out for students. Education is not a line item on the school board's agenda—it is the only item.
- When making decisions about school programs, school boards incorporate their community's view of what students should know and be able to do.
- School boards are accessible to the public and accountable for the performance of their schools.
- School boards are the education watchdog for their communities, ensuring that students get the best education for the tax dollars spent.

Christine Ludi
President

Pauline Jaramillo
President-Elect

Marvyn Jaramillo
Vice-President

Kevin Mitchell
Secretary-Treasurer

Dymorie Maker
Past-President

NMSBA Comments on Proposed Rule 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements

Lack of Partnership/Consultation

Governance must be a balanced partnership between state and local officials responsible for public education in New Mexico. There should be no surprises in public education. NMPED, school superintendents and school board members should be constantly communicating and sharing ideas and concepts, problems and solutions. The proposed rules were brought upon local public schools with no warning by the NMPED or input from any of our education stakeholders. This lack of consultation with local school leaders is a direct violation of this balanced partnership.

Timing of Release

The timing and release of the proposed rule in the middle of the school year, not even five months into the new school year, fails to consider the existing workload of our school superintendents, administrators, principals, teachers and students. Nor does it consider the tremendous time and energy and funding resources expended this year to implement school hours legislation passed by the 2023 State Legislature. School officials should be allowed to determine the effectiveness and results of existing mandates before being forced to go through the calendar revision process again.

Regulatory Overreach/Legislative Intent

While NMPED has broad authority to promulgate administrative code, some of the provisions of the proposed rules appear to be directly in contradiction of statutory learning time provisions and legislative intent. The proposed rule requires over 50% of school weeks to consist of five days, thereby directly disregarding the legislature's intended flexibility in implementing the required 1,140 instructional hours annually, as mandated by House Bill 130. 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. These changes threaten to disrupt successfully established school calendars in 43 of our 89 school districts in New Mexico.

Local Decision Making

School boards and superintendents in 43 school districts have listened to their constituents and effectively established and operated a full-time 4-day per week schedule for many years. There is a profound concern that changes in these rules may lead to a loss of local control over educational decisions and undermine the unique needs and successful practices of our school

districts, especially in rural areas. We urge you 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 our school districts.

K-12 Plus Funding

The Legislature created the K-12 plus program during the 2023 legislative session. The statute provides thresholds for instructional days above which school districts and charter schools are eligible for additional funding. The law specifically calls out thresholds for four-day school weeks, signaling intent that there is no requirement for a five-day week to be eligible for funding, as long as school districts and charter schools are meeting statutory instructional hour requirements. NMPED's proposal that requires a minimum of 180 days to be eligible for funding appears contradictory to statutory provisions and legislative intent.

NMPED's proposal requires secondary students to 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, work study program, or employment. The requirement exists regardless of a school's schedule or the number of credits a student is lacking for graduation.

NMSBA Comments on Proposed Rule 6.19.4 NMAC, Accreditation Procedures

Statutory Authorization

NMPED accreditation proposal consolidates many statutory and regulatory requirements into one process by which the department uses its statutory authority to review whether school districts meet those requirements and would now tie these requirements for a new purpose, accreditation, without statutory amendment or review.

Directing Use of Discretionary Funding

The proposed rule also directs school districts to budget at least as much money on specific programs – those aimed at special education, gifted education, and at-risk services – as is generated by corresponding units in the funding formula. As with the department's proposed instructional time, this proposal is contradictory to current statute, which specifically designates funds generated by the Public School Finance Act as "discretionary" to school boards and governing bodies of charter schools.

Consequences of Public School Disapproval Accreditation Status

The proposal rule specifies that a local school district or public school that is not accredited by the department would subject to several punitive actions including the suspension of the school board, superintendent and principal. We are concerned that there is no process outlined or included in the rule that would ensure this is a last step in a graduated collaborative process. Suspending local elected school board members, superintendents and principals for a purpose (accreditation) not included in statute is concerning.

Conclusion

In light of these serious concerns, school board members from across New Mexico stand united with school superintendents in opposition to the rules as published and request that we have collaborative dialogue on the proposed changes, considering the importance of local control over educational practices and the preservation of educational models that have been effective in our districts.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and for your continued support of education in New Mexico.

Sincerely,



Christine Ludi
State President



Joe Guillen
Executive Director



Maxwell Municipal Schools

Prepare and inspire students to achieve their full potential.

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

Whereas, the Maxwell 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 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 at Maxwell Schools, which has effectively operated a full-time 4-day per week schedule for approximately 40 years;

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 Maxwell 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 Maxwell Municipal School District Board.



[Signature of Board President]

Mary Lou Kern



[Signature of Board Secretary]

Krystal Harty



Wagon Mound Public Schools



Anita Romero
Superintendent

300 Park Avenue
Wagon Mound, N. M. 87752
(575) 666-3030 / Fax (575) 666-9001

Monica Montoya
Principal

Resolution of the Wagon Mound Public Schools in Support of New Mexico Schools Superintendents' Efforts to Challenge the Public Education Department's Rule Hearing

Whereas, the Wagon Mound Public Schools Board of Education is committed to maintaining the highest standards of education and ensuring the well-being and academic success of all its students;

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, particularly our esteemed Wagon Mound Public Schools;

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 at Wagon Mound Public Schools, which has effectively operated a full-time 4-day per week schedule for many years;

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 Wagon Mound Public Schools 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 our district and 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. Our district would experience a loss of staff, teachers and students who commute from surrounding areas to work and attend school in the 4-day week system. We would also experience increases in our transportation, utilities and student nutrition as we will be adding an additional day per week.

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 Wagon Mound Public Schools Board of Education.

Tony Rubin
Tony Rubin, Board President

Anita Romero
Anita Romero, Superintendent

Terri Mares
Terri Mares, Board Secretary



OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

NEA-NM LEGISLATIVE & POLICY PRIORITIES 2024

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

- \$15M Related Recurring Below the Line Appropriation to NMPED to Carry out the Provisions of the NM Community Schools Act Including Planning and Implementation of the Community Schools Strategy
- \$2.7M Related Recurring Below the Line Appropriation to NMPED to Pilot a new, additional Community Schools Transformation Initiative to support continuous improvement of the the Community Schools Strategy and codesign a validation of implementation process with the cohort of 18 schools that have completed planning and implementation
- \$100M Transfer to the Community Schools Fund to support implementation of the Community Schools Act, robust technical support, and regional capacity building for implementing the community schools strategy for school transformation to improve well-being, attendance, achievement, and graduation rates

CLASS SIZE

- Support legislation that would place a cap on individual class sizes (instead of obfuscatory class size averages) and restrict use of class size waivers to truly exceptional circumstances
- Create a reporting portal and enforcement mechanism by which breaches of statutory class size limits can be reported and addressed

PLANNING TIME

- At minimum, double the amount of paid planning time for educators
- Ensure that educators' planning time is uninterrupted and self-directed
- Revise the State Equalization Guarantee funding formula to allocate unit value for increased planning time

TESTING & INSTRUCTION

- Eliminate (Suspend) the mandate to use Interim Measures of Student Success and Achievement
- Allow whole child measurements, performance based assessments, & capstone projects

HEALTH CARE

- Increase the state budget to cover a minimum of 80% of public education employees' health care premium costs
- Legislate a funding source to ensure the long-term solvency of the New Mexico Retiree Health Care Authority

EDUCATOR WAGES

- Ensure that yearly wage increases for educators keep up with inflation and the rising cost of living
- Support legislation to increase the number of support staff including secretaries and custodians and make the \$25,000 minimum salary applicable to those same staff
- Support dual-licensed staff like nurses and social workers in public school funding formula (SEG & TCI)

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

- Convene education stakeholders to support administering the funds allocated for early childhood education by the constitutional amendment passed last year

Dear Dr. Romero,

I'm a student in the Socorro School District and writing to express my thoughts about proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC Schools calendar Requirements. Let me Share with you my reasons why I think this potential school calendar change will not be good for our school district.

First, I want to say why now that you decide to change the school days? If you wanted to change it, couldn't you just change it before school started and why in the middle of the year do you want to change it?

Second, we all have stuff to do on Friday, whether it's seeing family or a game to go to. It can affect all of this or we have to babysit siblings for our parents because they have work. We could have a doctor's appointment and that can mess up a parent's work schedule because then they can't find a babysitter. Then parents have to depend on us to watch a younger sibling because without us they will have to miss work because they will have no babysitter. Some of us need to help our parents with stuff or some of us have to go hunting and we can't do that on a weekday because we have school, so we go Friday through Sunday because those are the only days we get off. It's hard doing all that in two days already, so don't make things harder on us because we still have family we want to see. We can't spend the time we need to with them in two days. These are my reasons why I don't want there to be school on Fridays.

Sincerely,
Amiah

Dear Dr. Romero,

I'm a student in the Socorro school district and writing to express my frustration about proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements. Let me share with you my reason why I think this potential school calendar change will not be good for our school district.

First, I personally think changing our calendar is crazy. We've had 4 weekdays this whole year and it's changing now. But why now? After so long we've had it for you to decide now for the change. Do you think it would be fair to change **your** calendar? We all have things to do on Fridays, such as games, activities, and especially have fun.

Sincerely,
Mia

Dear Dr. Romero,

I'm a student in the Socorro school district and writing to express my thoughts about proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC school calendar requirements. Let me share with you my reasons why I think this potential school calendar change will not be good for our school district.

First, it will affect sports schedules, make it harder on the coaches, and possibly move some games for sports. Secondly, the change could affect the students' performance in school in a bad way making them more tired, and not being able to focus as easily. As the week comes to an end, students will only have 2 full days to rest; currently, we have 3 days to rest which is enough to get us ready for school on Monday. Finally, it would likely affect the way teachers teach. With longer weeks, means that the teachers could get more tired and it could affect their learning styles and make it overall worse because of how long we have already had this 4-day schedule.

I hope you take this letter into consideration

Your best Regards, Aiden Tarver

Dear Dr. Romero,

I'm a student at Scurro High School, and I'm writing this letter to you to express my frustration about proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC School calendar requirement. I don't think this potential calendar change will be beneficial for our school district for a multitude of reasons.

First, for me personally, this will affect my family and I a lot. Every other weekend I spend those days with my mom all the way in Edgewood. This schedule change will greatly affect the amount of time I spend with my mom, which is already so little. I think I could speak for all students with a divorced family when saying this schedule change would negatively affect us.

For a more general negative affect on students and families, this schedule will affect us as a whole especially concerning sports. Fridays have been used for extracurricular activities, and having school on those days would hurt that. Also there's no reason to change the schedule as students are performing very well in a 4-day environment.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter expressing my thoughts.

- Bowen Romero

Dear Dr. Romero,

I am a student in the Socorro School District and writing to express my feelings about proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC school calendar requirements. Let me share with you the reasons why I think this potential school calendar change will not be good for our school district.

First, having Friday off allows me to get more rest in so I'm ready for the week and it helps to get homework done, since I have late practices and get too tired to do it during the week, it also helps me have time for hobbies and can provide a break from the daily routine, and it reduces stress, so I feel like having school on Fridays would just make the week more overwhelming.

- Sincerely, Estella

Dear Dr. Romero,

My name is Alet and I am a student in the Socorro school district and am writing to express my annoyance about 6.10.5 NMAC School calendar Requirements.

In my opinion I don't think we should have some 5 day weeks because many people use the Fridays for doctors appointments, Important family matters, sport meets and practices, working at a job, or even just to regroup and rest from school. The Magdalena schools have had 4 day weeks for years and no ones ever had a problem with it. Ever since we've had 4 day weeks, our test scores have been going up. If you really want people to vote for a 4 or 5 day week, ask the students, staff, and parents how they feel instead of people who aren't effected by it. I didn't even know about this calendar change until it was brought up in class.

I hope these reasons will sway your opinion on 4 day weeks. Please take what we say into (flip 2)

12-5-2023

Dear Dr. Romero

I'm a student in the Socorro school district and writing to express my complaints about proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements. Let me share with you my reasons why I think this potential school calendar change will not be good for our school district.

First, our school district does the 4 day school week. Having that Friday off is beneficial because it gives our sports teams a day of practice without having to do a stressful schoolday first. Plus when we have tournaments we use Fridays as our travel day. The next reason is that the Friday off gives students a day to catch up on assignments for school. And some kids have to help out at home, so having that Friday off gives them that extra time to help out their family. Also, that extra day on the weekend helps kids destress.

Sincerely,
Antonio

Dear Dr. Romero,

I'm a student in the Socorro School District and writing to express my complaint about proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC School calendar Requirements. Let me share with you my reasons why I think this potential school calendar change will not be good for our district. Because it will take away some of our resting time and most of our sport games are held on a Friday so it will make it so where our games are going to have to be moved to a different weekend.

Sincerely,
Matthew

Dear Dr. Romero

I'm a freshmen at Socorro School district
I'm writing to express my opinion about
rule 6.10.5 NMAC School schedule. I believe this
choice won't be good for our district because,
having Friday's off gives student's a chance
(As well as teachers) A break, or time to prepare,
study, etc. As possibly Monday-thursday there was
no time to study and de-stress, you might
be asking "why is de-stressing so important?"

Well, Allow me to explain! De-stressing is important
as you rest and prepare to push yourself to do
the best you can do, Research shows up to
45% of student's experience stress from school

(every day.) It's found that 37% of students reported
Anxiety issues. Now remember Not every one is
going to speak up! 44% of students reported
Symptoms of depression, and 15% have reported
thinking about suicide and 6 out of 10 students
experience lack of sleep from studying, etc..

Which isn't healthy especially for kids as we're
still developing into young adults. Relaxing is very
important for student's all ages! Relaxing allows
an escape for stress to restore our minds, It's
shown in studies stepping away from your
normal routines and thoughts can give you
enough space & distance to feel calmer. As not
taking breaks can decrease: 1) Academic performance,
and in some cases serious health concerns
like Anxiety, Insomnia, and even depression!

Dear Dr. Romeo

I'm a student at Socorro school district and writing to express my concern about proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC School calendar requirements. Let me share with you my reasons why I think this potential school calendar change will not be good for our school district.

First, I want to say we should not go to 5 day weeks. Second, this is why five day weeks should not be back because what if someone needs to have an appointment that day, like for dentist, doctor, or haircut and it was the only day available to have the appointment. I would also like to say what if they have an injured body part and they need that day to help get better?

Sincerely, Kadence

Dear Dr. Romero,

I'm a student at Socorro High School district and want to express my thoughts about 5 school days per week, I think that school needs to be able to give the students a bigger break. In the SCSD tons of people have stuff to go do including Basketball games / practice and other sports.

Sincerely,

Oliver Stark

Dear Dr. Romero,

I'm a student in the Socorro School District. The reason I'm writing you is to express my feelings about the proposed rule 6-10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements. I disagree with it and my reasons are that Friday is my day to enjoy time with my family. And also I play sports so on Fridays I get to relax and it helps to relax and not be at school because we sometimes have games out of town and some of them are far. So it helps to not be at school or missing school, and having to catch back up on my school work.

Sincerely,

Isiah

12.5.23

Dear Dr. Romero,

I'm a student at Secoreo
School district. I'm writing to
go against the rule 6.10.5
NMAC Calendar Requirement here's
my reasons why. 1. Students need rest
to better improve their mental health
and their mental health and
their academic skills. 2. To also
refresh your brain and body, increases
your energy, productivity, and ability
to focus.

Sincerely, Matti

Dear Dr. Romero

I'm a student at Socorro school district and writing to express my recent concern about the proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC school calendar Requirments. The reasons for my concerns are written in the 5 letter. First is that according to the data from New Mexico's vistas a five day school week would lower test scores. The data illustrates 85% of student are at/above the level of the standard PED for 4 day weeks but 74% are at/above in five day school weeks. My next reason is because as a student athlete we need the day for games. This would put a lot of extra work on top of the work and 2-3 hour practice per day week schedule. Please consider going against the 5 day school week because of its negative impact it could have.

Sincerely, Cullen Cal
Cullen

Dear Dr. Romero

I'm a student of the Socorro school district and writing to voice my opinion on the proposed rule to change the school calendar requirements, specifically the change from four-day school weeks back to a five-day school week.

First, the statistics have changed, the graduation rate went up, and some research I've done shows that four-day school week schools had a higher graduation rate. Same with the attendance rate, based on my research and my own personal experience the attendance rate has gone up, and more people show up to school. The schools also save up to 20% more than a five-day week school. The change in the calendar will also effect teachers, from what I've heard from many teachers, if rule 6.10.5 is passed a lot of teachers will leave. I would also like to add that this will effect a lot of students, parents, and teachers schedule. A lot of students and parents probably have work on Fridays and be stressed about changing schedules. People also have families to take care of and can't make it/take people to school.

But, I just wanted to voice that it would probably not be a smart move to change the calendar for it will be too complicated.

Sincerely,
I.G.

Dear Mr. Poruro,

I am Kailyn Woods and I am a student at Socorro High School. I am writing to share my thoughts on the four day school week.

I came from a middle school where we had five day weeks and I feel as if I achieve the same in four days that I have in five. I do enjoy the extra day off every week. It allows me time to do my own hobbies and follow my own interests while simultaneously preparing for the weeks ahead. The four day weeks ~~are~~ ^{are} ~~amazing!~~ ^{are} ~~I'll be a little more things.~~

I am a student-athlete who participates in cross country. Due to the four day week, and extended hours in one day, practice lasts until 6:00 p.m. Anytime I had any homework I would have to work after or during dinner in time to complete it for an adequate night's rest. We do however, get the unique opportunity to run on Friday mornings because of the four day week.

I do enjoy the four day school week. I think it works best for me. I can achieve ^{as much} as in five days in four days, and I can enjoy my time out of school.

Sincerely,

Kailyn Woods

12-6-23

Dear Dr. Romero,

I am a student in the Sacoscoas school district and writing to express my frustration about proposed cde 6:10 NMAC School Calendar Requirements. Let me share with you my reasons why I think this potential school calendar change will not be good for our school district.

First, changing from a four day school week to a five day will throw students and staff a little off with the change. Second, having Friday off gives more time for extracurricular activities and separate Friday classes. It also gives teachers more time to grade assignments.

Sincerely,
Jonathan

Dear Dr. Romero,

I am a student from the Socorro high school and writing about the proposed rule: 6.10.5. NMAC school calendar requirements

Dear Dr. Romero

I'm a student in the Socorro district and I am writing to express my feelings about proposed rule 6.10.5 NMAC School Calendar Requirements. Let me share with you my reasons why I think this potential school calendar change will not be good for a school district.

First, the students, some of them need Fridays off because of sports and family matters. The students got used to the four days and if we switch the four days back to five days students will be more tired and burnt out.

Secondly, the test scores, test scores with the five day school week were good but with four day school week they are better. Students and teachers are happier with the four day school week.

Lastly, some teachers are working there only because of the four day school week. If they change it to a five day school week those teachers will leave and they will have to start the process of hiring new teachers.

Sincerely,

Dante

Cliff Schools
Cliff, New Mexico

Name: Stephanie Tedford
Mailing Address: 9 Rosewood Cir
City: Silver City State: NM ZIP Code: 88061
Email Address: staitley.tedford@gmail.com
Phone Number: 575 596 0508
Date: 10 Dec 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,

Stephanie A. Tedford

PS. I started my teaching career in Arizona. I will take my 3 school-aged children to finish my career in AZ if we lose our 4-day school week.

4-DAYS = FAMILY 1st!

4-day week

Name: John Tedford
Mailing Address: 9 Rosewood Cir
City: Silver City State: NM ZIP Code: 88061
Email Address: john.tedford@gmail.com
Phone Number: 575 590 1441
Date: 11 Dec 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 a 4-day week school in our state. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18, 2023 so should it be chosen.

It is abundantly clear, HB 130 is an overstep of the NMPED on several grounds. In plain terms, state law 22-2-8.1 does not mandate a minimum amount of days, only hours. In conjunction, state law 22-8-23.14 clearly and specifically allows 4-day and 5-day school weeks at the discretion of local administration in the best interest of the local children. Therefore, to create a rule that negates the currently existing State Law creates a terrifying precedent for New Mexico education. This is blatant bureaucratic overreach which negates both state statutory law and local discretion over our children's education.

Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These amazing educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4-H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities- including work and on the job training before graduation, are simply unmatched. The 4-day week also allows for students to not miss days due to travel for said extra-curricular activities because they are satisfying attendance requirements by attending in minutes during their regular school day.

Also keep in mind that many schools that utilize a 4-day week are very rural, and students have to sometimes travel considerable distances to school. Adding an additional school day not only increases time on the bus for these students, but also expenses for the district in terms of transportation and bus drivers, or for parents that have to transport their children to school.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well-rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal? I simply ask- do you truly have our students' best interests at heart?

Sincerely,



Cliff Schools
Cliff, New Mexico

Name: Gary Straley
Mailing Address: 46 Meadowbrook Lane
City: Silver City State: NM ZIP Code: 88061
Email Address: garystraley@gmail.com
Phone Number: 575 532 9000
Date: 12/5/2023

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,



4-day week

Name: Sarah Williams
Mailing Address: 512 30th St
City: Silver City State: NM ZIP Code: 88641
Email Address: williams901@gmail.com
Phone Number: 575-538-9000
Date: 12/9/2023

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 a 4-day week school in our state. I give consent for my email to be read aloud at the meeting on December 18, 2023 so should it be chosen.

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Furthermore, as published by you, the NMPED, in the 2023 NM Vistas report on November 14, 2023: 4-day school week districts consistently perform higher than 5-day school week on reading and math scores, both in overall percentiles and growth. In addition to this, high school graduation rates are higher in 4-day a week schools than 5, again, published by you, NMPED, in the most recent NM Vistas report.

Likewise, in the face of a critical teacher shortage that the NMPED itself has dubbed, "one of the worst in history," removing the additional bargaining chip for rural New Mexico districts to acquire educators is a massive step backwards. These amazing educators are needed to ensure that New Mexico youth are educated and prepared to enter the world as adults.

Moreover, the freedoms allowed by the 4-day a week school for students to excel at extra-curricular activities such as 4-H, FFA, NMAA sanctioned athletics, and a number of other extremely beneficial activities- including work and on the job training before graduation, are simply unmatched. The 4-day week also allows for students to not miss days due to travel for said extra-curricular activities because they are satisfying attendance requirements by attending in minutes during their regular school day.

Also keep in mind that many schools that utilize a 4-day week are very rural, and students have to sometimes travel considerable distances to school. Adding an additional school day not only increases time on the bus for these students, but also expenses for the district in terms of transportation and bus drivers, or for parents that have to transport their children to school.

Conclusively, the 4-day school week allows New Mexico educators to mold high school graduates that have proven to be more well-rounded, higher achieving, and more emotionally competent adults. Adults that are more adequately prepared to take their place as functioning and contributing members of New Mexico's society; and, to put it blatantly, is that not the goal? I simply ask- do you truly have our students' best interests at heart?

Sincerely,


Cliff Schools
Cliff, New Mexico

Name: Katharine Croft
Mailing Address: PO Box 4006
City: Silver City State: NM ZIP Code: 88062
Email Address: Katharine.wright@gmail.com
Phone Number: 575 313 2980
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.

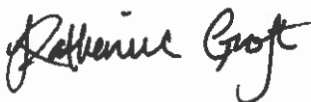
I echo the concerns of our legislators, who have pointed out the flaws in PED's rule-making process and the lack of effective communication and research backing these changes. The proposed rules not only bypass the legislative process but also ignore the voice and needs of our local community.

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,



From: [Alicia Booth](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST school rule change
Date: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 5:25:26 PM

I apologize, I forgot to specify- NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Instructional Time Requirements".

Thanks,
Alicia

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jan 8, 2024, at 2:57 PM, FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov> wrote:
>
> Alicia Booth,
>
> Can you please specify which rule you're referring to?
>
> Emily Senteney| Business Operations Specialist
> New Mexico Public Education Department
> 300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501
> C: (505) 412-5572 | Help Desk: (505) 827-5800
> Check us out here: Policy and Legislative Affairs
>
> EQUITY . EXCELLENCE . RELEVANCE
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Alicia Booth <aboothnm@gmail.com>
> Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 12:17 PM
> To: FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov>
> Subject: [EXTERNAL] AGAINST school rule change
>
> CAUTION: This email originated outside of our organization. Exercise caution prior to clicking on links or opening attachments.
>
> I am a grandmother of two school aged children in Los Alamos. Please register my objection to the implementation of this rule change. Thanks.
> Alicia Booth, 505-670-4946, 1110 Canyon Road, Los Alamos.
>
> Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sabra Davidson](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Feedback on 5 day school week
Date: Thursday, January 11, 2024 8:58:24 AM

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As an individual who lives in a rural area where our school district is approximately 2,000 square miles with a four (4) day school calendar I am apposed to this change.

Rationale:

1. Enrollment:
 - Elementary 46
 - High School 35
- 1A. 84 Percent ride buses
2. Students time on buses
3. Bus Emissions
4. Increase in operational costs:
 - Utilities
 - Transportation
 - Staff Salaries
5. Performance Comparison:
 - 4 day calendar 86.1%
 - 5 day calendar 72.9%,
6. NMPED classification: Elementary (Excellent), High School (Spotlight School)
7. Graduation rates: significantly higher than the state standards.
8. Accreditation requires local school boards meet the needs of culture and local area.
9. One size fits all doesn't work
10. Gross overreach of power when we have local education authorities for a reason.

If it isn't broken, don't fix it!

We have had MANY successful people come out of our 4 day school!

Sabra Davidson
PO Box 33
Corona NM 88318

From: [Sharon Rogers](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Extending school days.
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 9:26:12 AM

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

Sent from my iPhone. Good morning, I highly oppose the extended days of school year . I have a sophomore at Capitan high school. This idea of extending school year is a very bad idea. First off it's costly in so many ways . Food service, bus transportation and taking away time from teachers and students to work on their curriculum and sports. Also four day week gives them time for students to work and finish their assignments . This also gives more quality time to spend with family. Please don't let this happen. It would be detrimental to teachers and students.
Sincerely Sharon Rogers .

From: [JIANG Jingchao](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements"
Date: Tuesday, January 16, 2024 11:35:14 AM

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

Dear Sir or Madam,

About *NMAC Rule 6.10.5 "School Calendar Requirements*,

1. The new rule would require districts to provide 1140 hours of instruction AND a minimum of 180 days each school year. This is a change from legislation that allowed districts to count hours NOT days.
2. 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. This would eliminate the ability to have early release Wednesdays for elementary teacher planning and prep and will require early release every day.

I really don't understand why you change school calendar like this?

This is totally unfriendly for family of which both dad and mom need to work full time the whole week. We can still manage to coordinate for Wednesday early release now, but if the new school hours need everyday early release, how can we manage? This is ridiculous and adding additional daycare bills on the parents in this inflation times. The parents are already burdened by the housing, utility bills and others, now by the increasing daycare bills!!! This is unacceptable.

Please reconsider this school calendar change.

Yours sincerely,

Jingchao Jiang

From: [Evita Salazar](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Urgent!! No changes to 4 day school week!!
Date: Friday, January 19, 2024 9:34:29 AM

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

Hello my name is Evita Salazar, I am a k-8th grade Spanish teacher at TISA (Taos Integrated School of the Arts) here in New Mexico. It has come to my attention that PED is about to pass a rule change that requires all New Mexico schools to adhere to a 5 day week. If this new rule is passed, TISA would have to give up our after care program which benefits families who work late and can not pick up their children on time. This will also decrease student attendance and test scores. TISA was one of the top schools with school attendance last year. We consistently have over 95% attendance while sticking to our 4 day school schedule.

With only working 4 days teachers have more prep time to construct effective and engaging lesson plans for their students. If PED cared about the well being of the teachers and the education of the students in New Mexico they would not pass this new rule. They would continue to let each community have the power to decide what schedule fits their needs best.

Sincerely,
Evita Salazar

From: [Neava Terry](#)
To: [Alcon, Eliseo Lee](#); [anthony.allison@nmlegis.gov](#); [Janelle.Anyanonu](#); [gail@gailfornewmexico.com](#); [John.Block@nmlegis.gov](#); [Cynthia.Borrego@nmlegis.gov](#); [c.brown.nm55@gmail.com](#); [micaela.cadena@nmlegis.gov](#); [ambrose.castellano@nmlegis.gov](#); [Kathleen.Cates@nmlegis.gov](#); [Chasey, Gail](#); [jack.chatfield@nmlegis.gov](#); [Eleanor.Chavez@nmlegis.gov](#); [art.delacruz@nmlegis.gov](#); [Dixon, Meredith](#); [Mark.Duncan@nmlegis.gov](#); [Ferrary, Joanne J.](#); [natalie.figueroa@nmlegis.gov](#); [Gallegos, Doreen Y.](#); [hgarciad69](#); [Garcia, Miguel P.](#); [joy.garratt](#); [JasonHarperNM](#); [joshua.hernandez](#); [pamelya.herndon@nmlegis.gov](#); [dayan.hochman-vigil@nmlegis.gov](#); [Tara.Jaramillo@nmlegis.gov](#); [Johnson, Wonda D.](#); [Jenifer.Jones@nmlegis.gov](#); [ryan@laneforalliberty.com](#); [raymundo.lara@nmlegis.gov](#); [Lente, Derrick L.](#); [stefani.lord@nmlegis.gov](#); [tara.lujan@nmlegis.gov](#); [Lundstrom, Patricia A.](#); [willie.madrid@nmlegis.gov](#); [Alan.Martinez@nmlegis.gov](#); [Martinez, Javier](#); [Jimmy.Mason@nmlegis.gov](#); [McQueen, Matthew](#); [Tanya.MirabalMoya@nmlegis.gov](#); [Montoya, Rod](#); [Nibert, Greg](#); [kristina.ortez@nmlegis.gov](#); [randall.pettigrew@nmlegis.gov](#); [Andrea.Reeb@nmlegis.gov](#); [andrea@andrearomero.com](#); [Romero, Andres G.](#); [Roybal Caballero, Patricia](#); [Rubio, Angelica](#); [joseph.sanchez@nmlegis.gov](#); [Sarinana, Debra M.](#); [Scott, Larry R.](#); [linda.serrato@nmlegis.gov](#); [Small, Nathan P.](#); [Reena.Szczepanski@nmlegis.gov](#); [luis.terrazas@nmlegis.gov](#); [Thomson, Elizabeth](#); [townsend@pvt.net](#); [Harlan.Vincent@nmlegis.gov](#); [martin.zamora@nmlegis.gov](#); [greg.baca@nmlegis.gov](#); [Brandt, Craig W.](#); [Burt, William F.](#); [Campos, Pete](#); [joseph.cervantes@nmlegis.gov](#); [Maestas, Antonio](#); [crystal.diamond@nmlegis.gov](#); [katy.duhigg@nmlegis.gov](#); [david@ramirezandsonsinc.com](#); [Gonzales, Roberto J.](#); [Griggs, Ron](#); [carrie.hamblen@nmlegis.gov](#); [siah.hemphill](#); [martin.hickey@nmlegis.gov](#); [Ivey-Soto, Daniel](#); [Jaramillo, Leo](#); [Kernan, Gay](#); [Lopez, Linda M.](#); [brenda.mckenna@nmlegis.gov](#); [Moores, Mark](#); [George Munoz](#); [Neville, Steven P.](#); [BILL@BILLONEILL4NM.COM](#); [Ortiz y Pino, Gerald](#); [Padilla, Michael](#); [shannon.pinto@nmlegis.gov](#); [Pirtle, Cliff R.](#); [harold.popejr](#); [Istefanics@msn.com](#); [Rodriguez, Nancy](#); [Steinborn, Jeff](#); [jas4nm@gmail.com](#); [Stewart, Mimi](#); [gregg.schmedes@nmlegis.gov](#); [Tallman, Bill](#); [a.sedillolopez@nmlegis.gov](#); [Wirth, Peter](#); [Sharer, William E.](#); [Woods, Pat](#); [Shendo, Benny](#); [Soules, William P.](#); [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HB74
Date: Monday, January 15, 2024 1:06:31 PM

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. I am writing to express my strong support for HB74, which grants school boards the authority to determine the number of days per year and days per week for school districts, provided the requisite hours are met. I believe that allowing school boards to make decisions based on local needs is crucial for fostering effective educational environments.

I kindly urge you to vote "yes" on HB74.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Neave Terry

From: [Loretta Giglia](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 4 day school week
Date: Saturday, January 20, 2024 11:15:09 PM

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

I am a retired teacher of the Cimarron school district. I retired with a wonderful group of seniors in 2015. My husband and I both taught at CHS for 30 years. We had many successes with many of our students and our graduation rate was really good. I have no numbers in front of me to back up this claim but I will say that the quality of education with guidance is the KEY. More time in the classroom is not necessarily the answer. The investment of great teachers with a lot of support for parents, single parents, etc. cannot be overlooked in this state. Many of our children struggle to learn because of the disfunction at home children will now miss many more days of school regardless of requirements. Please do the right thing instead of putting a bandaid on education and pushing this mammoth mountain of problems forward, relook at the facts and statistics at least 10 years in the past and base your decisions on these statistics before you invest millions of dollars to require these rural schools to move to a 5 day school week.

I really feel that education in NM needs to give children the ability to learn and incorporate skills into its model.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Loretta Giglia

Cimarron NM

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Garcia Michael](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2024 11:05:08 AM

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why. it's great having intervention for some of the kids. This is not a good idea. its a bad idea to take it away and force kids to spend more time in school

From: [Emmalee Madison Allen](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 180 day school year.
Date: Monday, January 29, 2024 9:35:42 AM

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

I am a student at Mesa Vista Highschool, we are very rural. Going to a 180 day school year would mean some students will be on the buses for 2 hours (both ways) 5 times a week. You think raising the amount of days required in a school year will help attendance. It will not. Kids who miss, will miss more. Some students will even be brought out of the public school district, and valuable teachers will retire, all because you rise the amount of days we have to attend. I implore you to take my thoughts, as a student at one of the rural schools, into consideration when making your decision.

Best Wishes,
Emma

From: [Peggy O'Leary](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 1:11:09 PM

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

As a former (retired) educator and current resident of Corona, NM, I strongly urge the preservation of the current 4-day school calendar. Corona's students are high-achieving under the current calendar, and in our rural community, like many other New Mexico districts, the 4-day school week benefits everyone. Without going into a lengthy argument that you have already heard many times, I would simply ask that my voice be heard as one more New Mexico resident who stands for the protection of the school calendar that has been helping to make our district—and our students--notably successful.

Thank you,

Margaret O'Leary
P.O. Box 25
Corona, NM 88318

From: [DUNCAN HENDERSON](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Proposed PED rule changes have significant shortcomings
Date: Sunday, February 11, 2024 7:34:30 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

The proposed changes to Regulation 6.10.5 NMAC [School Instructional Time Requirements]

On Wed, Jan 3, 2024 at 5:24 PM FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov> wrote:

Duncan Henderson,

Can you please specify which rule you're referring to?

Emily Senteney | Business Operations Specialist

New Mexico Public Education Department

300 Don Gaspar Ave. | Santa Fe, NM 87501
C: (505) 412-5572 | Help Desk: (505) 827-5800

Check us out here: [Policy and Legislative Affairs](#)



EQUITY • EXCELLENCE • RELEVANCE

From: DUNCAN HENDERSON <duncan.henderson@studentlaschools.net>
Sent: Sunday, December 17, 2023 7:03 PM
To: FeedBack, Rule, PED <Rule.FeedBack@ped.nm.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed PED rule changes have significant shortcomings

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

New Mexico Public Education Department:

The proposed changes for next will likely have very harmful effects on both the physical and mental health of the students, particularly high school. The most significant effect these changes will impose on me will be less sleep. There have been many studies that support that decreasing the amount of sleep for adolescents has dramatic effects on cognitive abilities, including learning, retention, and growing. In my case, I am an All-American athlete verbally committed to swim in college and this will not only affect my school work, but also my training and swimming performances. If these changes are adopted, high school extracurricular activities will all have to have delayed start times. This will decrease the time for homework and for social interactions with family, friends, and pets.

These changes will also affect the structure of school. The addition of one class a day will have extremely detrimental effects on the classroom work environment. There is already a shortfall of teachers in our community which will mean that classes will become larger. Larger classes are highly correlated to poorer learning environments and a higher risk of discipline problems. In addition, as a senior, I will be losing a well deserved free period. This is something I have worked for since freshman year. I use my free periods to catch up on work and so do my friends who also participate in extracurricular activities.

I conclude that these changes will not only not help, but they will make things worse for me and every student in the state. NMPED should reevaluate what types of changes really could help, keeping in mind that kids' sleep is a priority, social interactions outside of class are very important (especially after COVID), and that there is a shortfall of teachers that NMPED might want to correct first.

Regards, Duncan Henderson



This email has been sent from a verified laschools.net user.

From: [Kirstie F](#)
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Cc: act@atfunion.org
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements. act@atfunion.org
Date: Sunday, February 11, 2024 12:53:41 PM

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

This is very very unacceptable!

This would be an outrageous circumventing of the law just put in place last year!!

Our profession is not being taken seriously! We are not being paid well as it stands. Now you want to remove our professional development and require we do it on our own out of our pockets! This would reduce our pay doublely as we would not being paid for our trainings PLUS us paying for the trainings! Unacceptable!!

NM PED is proposing rules that will change HB 130. This bill was passed and signed into law just last year expanding the school year to 1,140 hours. The new PED mandate would force all calendars to include at least 180 instructional days per school year, cutting important features of HB 130 like Parent Teacher Conferences being recognized as instructional time.

From: support@istation.com
To: [FeedBack, Rule, PED](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Four day school week
Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2024 11:31:31 AM

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

To whom it May Concern:

The law the NMPED is wanting to implement is not warranted. The rural school I work for has made growth and gains each year since I have been teaching. This is my third year teaching at this rural school and I know our elementary school is doing a fantastic job. We also received recognition for the most growth from the NMPED in the year 2022-2023. The elementary I work for was one of the two schools that went to the national conference in Indianapolis. We as a school have done this on a four school day. I do not believe this should change. I have spoken to my parents and they are not happy about wanting to change from a four day to a five day. I can not stress the anger and frustration my parents are feeling. They are parents who are working with the school to make sure their students are showing growth and participating with in the classroom. In your decision to change the school days, I want to ask you this and would you think about it. How can someone who has not been in the classroom for less than ten year know what a school or a district of our caliber needs.? We are a unique state and to judge our students from other states and do a study and then bring it in and say this is what our state needs to do is unacceptable to our rural students/parents and our state.

Sincerely yours,
Irene Melendez

for the state to do.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows