

## NEA-NM LEGISLATIVE & POLICY PRIORITIES 2024

### COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



- \$12.5M 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

### 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

### 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
- Support Legislation that reduces maximum class sizes as follows: 15 students maximum for Pre-K and K-3rd Grade, 18 students maximum for 4th-8th grade, and 22 students maximum for 9th-12th grade. All elementary classes should have an instructional assistant. The maximum student loads should be 90 students for 6th-8th grade and 120 students for 9th-12th grade

### 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 \$30,000 minimum salary applicable to those same staff
- Support dual-licensed staff like nurses and social workers in public school funding formula (SEG & TCI)

### 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

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



- Convene education stakeholders to support administering the funds allocated for early childhood education by the constitutional amendment passed last year