

# Legislative Update, Tuesday, January 16, 2018

## Opening Day

The legislature opened with Governor Martinez attacking school employee unions and taking credit for the hard work of New Mexico's public education employees. Her state of the state address once again advocated for the failed reforms that she has instituted, not by law, but by rules of the Public Education.

[http://www.governor.state.nm.us/uploads/PressRelease/191a415014634aa89604e0b4790e4768/Governor\\_Susana\\_Martinez\\_Delivers\\_State\\_of\\_the\\_State\\_Address\\_5.pdf](http://www.governor.state.nm.us/uploads/PressRelease/191a415014634aa89604e0b4790e4768/Governor_Susana_Martinez_Delivers_State_of_the_State_Address_5.pdf)

The legislature also opened with dueling budget proposals. The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) is asking to boost funding for at-risk students and for an across the board 1.5% raise for all school employees. The Governor's budget seeks to divide school employees by asking for merit pay for a few teachers, a 2% raise for teachers and a 1% raise for other school employees. Neither of these proposals is adequate, but the LFC's proposal is at least fair and equitable.

First, tell legislators that all school employees deserve a living wage. Second, tell legislators that schools must be adequately funded. Tell them that the LFC budget is a good start that must be improved upon and that the Governor's budget should be a non-start!

Follow this link for information about important education legislation endorsed by the Legislative Education Study committee.

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Entity/LESC/Documents/NewsLetter/LESCJan17.pdf>

Follow this link to sign up for legislative updates by email.

<http://capwiz.com/nea/nm/mlm/signup/>

Watch the update in coming days for NEA-New Mexico positions on important legislative issues and greater detail on the budget proposals.