

# Legislative, Update, Weekend, January 26-28, 2018

## Bill Increasing Teacher Salary Minimums Passes Senate Education Committee

[Senate Bill 119](#) sponsored by [Senator Mimi Stewart](#) and co-sponsored by Senators [Gay Kernan](#) and [Bill Soules](#), received a unanimous do-pass in [the Senate Education Committee](#) Friday. This measure will increase the minimum for each licensure tier for teachers as follows: tier 1: \$36,000; tier 2: \$44,000; and tier 3: \$54,000. This measure moves to the [Senate Finance Committee](#), Call all [committee](#) members to support this important change. The current minimums were placed into law in 2003, and, although, they have been increased through the General Appropriations Act, they have not been increased in permanent law since 2003. Tell Senators that these minimums need to be updated after 15 years to reflect changes in cost of living and complexities of the work. Remind them that all school employees need salary increases; we want them to increase the proposed average 1.5% to all school employees to at least 3%.

## The House Appropriations and Finance Committee is Moving Ahead on the General Appropriations Act

The [House Appropriations and Finance Committee](#) is working publicly and behind closed doors on the House Bill 2, the General Appropriations Act. Their plan is to have a committee vote on January 31. We need to continue to contact members of that committee to urge them to maximize public school support. The new revenue forecast just increased new available revenues by \$93.3 million to a total of \$292.3 million from the previous forecast of \$199 million. Tell committee members that this new amount should be used to move toward sufficiently funding public education, both public school support and higher education! Follow [this link to see NEA New Mexico's statement](#) on the best use of the new funds. Please use this document as talking points in contacting members of

the [House Appropriations and Finance Committee](#). The committee will be working this weekend so immediate contact is needed!

## **Come to Santa Fe February 3 to Talk to Legislators**

A Joint Hearing of the Senate and House Education Committees will be held on Saturday, February 3. This is a unique opportunity for educators to directly share your stories of the opportunities your students lose when our state fails them with insufficient spending (even this year's miniscule increases won't make up the cumulative effects of underfunding). The Hearing is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Room t.b.a. (but come early to sign-in). We are pleased to announce our special guest from the NEA Executive Committee Member George Sheridan will join our NEA-NM President Patterson for a press conference at 9 a.m. in the Capitol Rotunda. NEA-NM members are invited to attend (and receive a breakfast burrito, room t.b.a. [Click here to register](#)).