

Weekend Legislative Update

January 27-29, 2017

Over one hundred members met in Santa Fe for our annual legislative training on Wednesday. They then converged on the State Capitol before attending a reception in honor of the legislature at our NEA-NM Headquarters Building.

Now that the legislature has sent a package of legislation to the governor to plug the holes in this year's budget, perhaps the work of the session can begin in earnest.

The House and Senate on Wednesday approved a \$216 million solvency package that would rebuild state reserves to 2.3 percent of annual spending.

The measures target \$46 million in local school district reserves to shore up the state general fund (School districts that have reserve balances under 3 percent of annual program spending are exempt from cuts.), and transfer of \$81 million from dozens of state accounts and select programs. Republican Gov. Susana Martinez has three days to consider the bills once they reach her desk.

The legislature is taking a weekend break and will reconvene on Monday morning. Given the crush of business of this session this may be the only full weekend off for the lawmakers.

On Monday both the [Senate](#) and [House](#) Education Committees will continue meeting and hearing legislation. The bills before the committees and our positions on the measures are below

[House Education Committee](#) :

Monday, January 30, 2017 - 8:30 a.m. - Room 309

[HB 18](#) CONTRACT PROVISIONS FOR CERTAIN COLLEGE STAFF-no position

[HB 70](#) LOCAL SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT CRITERIA-no position

[HB 160](#) SCHOOL DISTRICT FULL-TIME NURSES-support

[HB 161](#)

PRIOR YEAR DATA FOR SCHOOL DISTRIBUTIONS- no position

[Senate Education Committee:](#)

Monday, January 30, 2017 - 8:30 a.m. - Room 311

[*SB 32](#)

K-3 PLUS ELIGIBILITY-support

[SB 34](#)

TEACHER & PRINCIPAL EVALUATION SYSTEM-support

[SB 39](#)

"CURRENT YEAR MEM" IN SCHOOL CODE-support

[SB 40](#)

STATE SCHOOL GRADES COUNCIL-support

[SB 62](#)

SCHOOL RATING GRADING POINT SYSTEM-support

Many Legislators will return home this weekend. Make a point of contacting them if you have a personal relationship—at the grocery store, in church, etc.