

LAST CHANCE LOBBY DAY    Saturday, March 14, 2015    Our Last Chance for a Big Impact!

On the last Saturday of the 2015 session, we are arranging strategic meetings with “high priority” Senators on issues critical to our survival as a strong collective voice for public education employees here in New Mexico.

9:30 AM ~ Check-in, NEA-NM Headquarters, 2007 Botolph Rd., Santa Fe, NM

10:00 AM ~ Legislative Update and Talking Points for Lobby Activities

11:30 AM ~ Lunch and to the Capitol

12:00 PM ~ Post Luncheon Meetings with Legislators at the Capitol

2:00 PM ~ Return to NEA-NM Headquarters for Debrief

3:00 PM ~ Statewide All-Member Tele Town Hall

So we have a lunch count, please register at [nea-nm.org](http://nea-nm.org) before 5:00 PM Friday!

Be prepared to talk to Senators about these issues:

Several very bad ideas are on their way from the House of Representatives to the [Senate Education Committee](#).

Please take action and let your [Senator](#) know that we oppose these measures.

The idea behind [HB 41](#), SCHOOL GRADE PROMOTION & RETENTION, sponsored by Representative [Monica Youngblood](#), has already been tabled in the [Senate Public Affairs Committee](#). This measure would require that third grade public students who cannot pass a reading text be retained in the third grade, with no input from parents or education professionals. Research indicates that retention is not an appropriate educational strategy.

[HB 71](#), STREAMLINE TEACHER & ADMINISTRATOR LICENSURE, sponsored by Representative [Tim D. Lewis](#), purports to simply streamline education licensure. However, it actually lowers standards for movement into administration by allowing anyone who is participating in a department-approved administrator preparation program to immediately become a school administrator for five years, whether or not they continue or complete the program!

[HB 76](#), TEACHER LICENSURE LEVELS & ADVANCEMENT, sponsored by Representative [Dennis J. Roch](#), drastically changes our current teacher licensure system into a merit pay system. It also places much of the current ill-conceived teacher evaluation rule in statute. This legislation appears to be statute implementing a rule, when in reality the opposite ought to be true; rules should implement statutes!

Finally, [HB 144](#), TEACHER & SCHOOL LEADER EFFECTIVENESS ACT, sponsored by Representative [James E. Smith](#), makes student standardized test scores count for a full forty per cent of as teacher's evaluation, higher even than the thirty-five percent under the current teacher evaluation rule! The measure essentially puts the current teacher evaluation rule written by the Public Education Department into statute. It does little to overcome the wide-spread objections to that rule