



Legislative Priorities for Education 2021

LWVNM believes that every student should have access to a high- quality, equitable public education regardless of race, ethnicity, ability, family income, or location. The League believes that accountability, transparency, and educational policies that promote student success strengthen New Mexico's economy and well-being.

LWVNM advocates for

- funding adequately and advancing policies for a high-quality, equitable multicultural/multilingual education system, early childhood through higher education;
- allocating sufficient resources through the State Equalization Guarantee funding formula to meet the educational needs of economically disadvantaged children, English language learners, Native American students, and students with disabilities;
- compensating teachers, administrators, and health and social service professionals with more competitive salaries;
- using a small percentage of the Land Grant Permanent Fund to fund early childhood education and care and increasing distribution for public education;
- providing funding to improve remote, hybrid, and in-person instruction and infrastructure and to attract, train, and retain a high-quality educational workforce that reflects the student population.

LWVNM supports

HJR 1 (CA*) Permanent Funds for Early Childhood Rep. Javier Martinez

Proposes distributing 1% of the five-year average of the market value of NM's \$22 billion Land Grant Permanent Fund for nonsectarian and nondenominational early childhood educational services. If approved by both chambers and by voters in the 2022 general election, these state-administered funds will support programs serving children until they are eligible for kindergarten. Early childhood education improves educational outcomes and is a top priority of the current administration. The governor does not sign constitutional amendments.

SJR 1 (CA*) Increasing Amount of Permanent Funds for Education Sen. Peter Wirth

Proposes distributing an additional 1% of the five-year average of the market value of NM's \$22 billion Land Grant Permanent Fund for eligible entities. Increasing the allocation from 5% to 6% would significantly improve educational services and outcomes.

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