



April 2021

# ATF Action Agenda

## Post 2021 Legislative Session Wrap-Up

The 2021 Legislative Session is history. But the bills that passed, failed, or were set aside for another day will continue to shape the educational landscape of New Mexico. [Here is a brief summary of outcomes.](#)

**State budget:** Thanks to an infusion of federal pandemic relief money and optimistic revenue projections from oil and gas, the state government not only avoided cuts, but will increase spending by 4.8 percent, or \$373 million. The proposed \$7.4 billion budget passed both chambers in the final days of the session and is now headed to the governor. For public education the budget included:

- \$3.39B appropriation for public education, an increase of \$175M, or 5.5% more than last year's budget;
- \$160M for extended learning programs, and \$120M for K5+ programs;
- \$20M for the extended learning pilot outlined in HB 184/aa;
- 1.5% average Cost-of-Living increases for all K-12, Transportation, and Higher Education employees;
- 0.5% increase in Higher Education Funding, despite decreases in enrollment;
- Adjusts the "credit" for Federal Impact Aid so school districts serving Native American students;
- \$34M for a 1% increase to state contribution to the ERB, your pension;
- Language directing districts to provide 10 days of COVID-related sick leave;
- \$5M for teacher prep scholarships;
- \$1M for teacher residency funding;
- \$500K for Grow Your Own Teachers Act scholarships;
- \$35M for culturally and linguistically appropriate instructional materials;
- \$30M for the Family Income Index, which is for additional funding to at-risk schools;
- \$20M for Community Schools;
- \$11M for additional funding to the Opportunity Scholarship, which provides scholarships for students seeking degrees from 2-year and 4-year public NM colleges & universities;
- \$22M to expand Pre-K, home visiting, and increase funding to support childcare workers;
- Leaves a General Fund Reserve of 24% or \$1.76B.

### Explanations

- **Extended learning:** SB 40/aa outlines parameters for Extended Learning Time Programs and K5+ programs for the next year but does not make either program mandatory.
- **Opportunity Scholarships** received \$18 million for tuition assistance for thousands of New Mexican higher ed students. Lottery Scholarships received \$10.5 million which cover 90% of tuition costs.
- **Family Income Index**, SB 17/a, committed \$30M to a two-year pilot project which would target additional resources for schools serving high-poverty communities.
- **Extended Learning Pilot Program**, which proposed an hours-based versus a days-based approach, did not pass the Senate. However, the language necessary for instituting the pilot program was included in the Budget.
- **Increase to Employer ERB Contributions** increases the state's employer contribution to the NM ERB by 2%, over two years.
- **Changes to SPED Alternative Licensure** provides for additional training and mentorship for alternatively licensed special educators.
- **High School Graduation Changes** did not pass. It would have changed the type of credits high schoolers need to graduate. However, lawmakers vowed to study the issue in the interim.

### Pending

- House Joint Resolution 1 proposes an amendment to the NM Constitution to disburse additional funding from the Permanent School Fund from 1% to 1.25%. The money will be split 60% for early childhood and 40% for K-12 education. Voters will ultimately decide the fate of this change that has been over a decade in the making.



[JOIN YOUR UNION TODAY!!!](#)



## Your Union Has a Face Shield for You

ATF is fighting for your safety. Through a partnership between AFT, AFTNM and our local union, we purchased face shields for APS educators. During Spring Break, ATF staff and volunteers sent medical grade face shields and three-ply face masks to all ATF members. We included enough materials for all nurses and those who work in SpEd in the Red programs even if they are not yet members. If you need a replacement shield or you're short on any components, contact your union at [act@atfunion.org](mailto:act@atfunion.org). We will get them out to you. Make sure to wear your union sticker with pride!

### Mentorship vs. Supervision for Ed Diags & School Psychs

We have received many concerns from our members about current supervision processes and whether requirements can be met through the APS Mentorship Program. In a collaborative effort, ATF and APS Special Ed representatives have agreed to the following:

- The requirement for “supervision” is two years (for a certain number of hours) and the “supervisor” must hold a Level 3 license.
- Supervising mentors can get paid for one year working with beginning diags or school psychs.
- Only required documentation will be time logs.
- The current form concerning proficiency in professional knowledge will only be used as a guide and support tool – it will not be given to site supervisors.
- Adding the word “supervisor” to the job title is only to satisfy PED Regulation requirements. This in no way implies a supervisory role.

### The New Stimulus: Feed Our Families

We have been fortunate to stay on our jobs and get paid during the pandemic. We know that’s not true for many in our community. To recognize this, your union set up “[Feed Our Families: A Partnership Between ATF and Roadrunner Food Bank](#)” to raise money to fight hunger in our city and state. At this writing, APS educators have donated over \$20,000 for this cause!

But we know that the challenge is not over. Many of our neighbors continue to suffer and face food insecurity. Now that we are receiving a third economic stimulus check, thanks to the passage of the American Rescue Plan, let’s recommit to donating part of it to Feed Our Families. [You can donate here.](#)

### Spring Testing

With such a short amount of instructional time left, and diminishing benefits, testing seems a frivolous undertaking. From APS:

#### Testing in the Time of Full Reentry

Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) will continue to move forward with the NMPED approved Spring 2021 Assessment plan that we have communicated with all of you previously.

- Schools will administer Dynamic Learning Maps for grades 3-8 and 11, ACCESS for grades 1-12 and the SAT for grade 11 in-person at the school site to eligible students whose parents/guardians have opted them in.
- End-of-Year District Interim Assessments will proceed as planned (Istation, iReady, NWEA, CB Suites). These should be administered in-person for students who are at school, but may also be administered remotely for students who will continue distance learning.

Additionally, APS will offer the NM-MSSA for Reading and Math to students in grades 3-8, on a voluntary opt-in basis at a centrally located testing site, not at the school site. Assessment will handle the majority of the logistics and administration, but we may ask STCs for support on details such as verifying accommodations for any students who have opted in. We will send you more information on this in the coming weeks.

### Fed Rep of the Year Nominations Are Open

ATF members, it’s time to nominate your Fed Rep to become this year’s Fed Rep of the Year! The ATF Executive Council will consider all nominations. Their decision will be announced at May Fed Rep Council. Please [click here](#) or submit your nomination to [act@atfunion.org](mailto:act@atfunion.org) with the subject “FR of the Year” by April 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Calendar of Events

All events will be held online to avoid mass gatherings.  
“SIC”= ATF Students in the Center

Wed 3/31	<a href="#">SIC- Not Your Momma's Mindfulness</a>	4:30-5:30pm FREE
Thur 4/1	Deadline to submit candidacy letter for ATF Elections	5:00pm
Thur 4/1	<a href="#">SIC- Just Say "Know"- Addressing Substance Use</a>	4:00-6:00pm FREE
Tues 4/6	Fed Rep Council	4:15-6:30pm
Tues 4/6	<a href="#">SIC: Seeds of Resilience</a>	4:30-6:30pm FREE
Wed 4/7	Principal/Supervisor Survey Opens	8:00am
Wed 4/7	<a href="#">SIC- Restorative Practices:</a>	4:00-6:00pm FREE
Wed 4/14	<a href="#">PD Dossier Overview</a>	4:30-7:00pm Member \$10 Nonmember \$65
Wed 4/14	<a href="#">SIC- Empowering Belonging &amp; Authenticity</a>	5:00-6:30pm FREE
Thur 4/15	<a href="#">SIC- Intersectionality Part 2: Is Every Voice Being Heard?</a>	4:30-6:30pm FREE
Fri 4/16	<a href="#">Fed Rep of the Year Nominations due</a>	5:00pm FREE
Sat 4/17	<a href="#">NBCT Component 1 Boot Camp</a>	8:00am-12:30pm Member \$50 Nonmember \$75
Tues 4/20	<a href="#">SIC- Just Say "Know": Addressing Substance Use</a>	4:00-6:00pm FREE
Wed 4/21	<a href="#">SIC- Seeds of Resilience</a>	4:30-6:30pm FREE
Fri 4/23	Principal/Supervisor Survey Closes	5:00pm
Tues 4/27	<a href="#">SIC-Intersectionality 2: Is Every Voice Being Heard?</a>	4:30-6:30pm FREE
Wed 4/28	<a href="#">SIC- Not Your Momma's Mindfulness</a>	4:30-5:30pm FREE
Thur 4/29	<a href="#">SIC-Restorative Practices:</a>	4:00-6:00pm FREE
Fri 4/30	Voting Opens for ATF Constituency VP elections	8:00am