

# ATFActionAgenda

March, 2021

## 2021 Legislative Update: Stay Active!

The 60-Day Legislative Session will adjourn March 20th. So far, we've seen strong commitment to investment in public education from the House. Several House Bills (HB) and Senate Bills (SB) supporting and expanding important programs are still being debated and we are hopeful legislators will pass them into the budget.

Of particular note were bills that reflected initiatives, motions, and positions of ATF. You can follow all of the action on [ATF's Legislative Bill Tracker](#).

We cannot overestimate the contributions of ATF members and retirees who serve in the House of Representatives for making good things happen for educators and students. Thank you, Representatives Sheryl Williams Stapleton, G. Andres Romero, Christine Trujillo, Joy Garratt, and Natalie Figueroa who continue to rock the House Ed. Committee. We'd also like to thank ATF members and retirees Debbie Sariñana, Miguel Garcia, and Liz Thomson.

Each year, the Budget for the State of NM is called HB2. This year, the House of Representatives passed a \$3.39 billion budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. It is now time to [contact your Senator!](#) Urge them to pass everything currently in the budget and to ensure the provisions of SB42/a are incorporated into the final, amended version of HB 2, specifically:

- Beginning in July of 2021, and the next four subsequent years, SB42/a will increase the amount of contributions to the ERB by 1% each year, for a total of 4%;
- SB42/a ensures no decreases or freezes to ERB Retiree COLA; and,
- SB42/a ensures no contribution increases to active ERB members.

Facts about HB2 as it was passed by the House:

- \$3.39B is up by \$175 million, or 5.5% from FY21.
- HB2 provides \$110 million for extended learning, including K5 plus, an extra 25 days for all at-risk elementary schools, and extended learning time, 10 extra days, for all grades K-12.
- HB2 also eliminates credit for local revenue, notably impact aid.
- Federal stimulus in December 2020 will provide school districts an additional \$439 million, addressing possible enrollment losses not covered by the formula.
- Section 5 also includes \$20 million for targeted funding to at-risk schools.
- HB2 provides \$20 million for community schools from the education reform fund.
- HB2 provides a 1.5% average cost of living adjustment for all school, higher education and agency employees at a cost of \$64 million.
- Total appropriations to the Early Childhood Education and Care Department are up \$22 million to expand pre-K, expand home visiting, increase provider rates for the family infant

toddler program, and increase funding to support childcare workers.

Some other bills that will foster better teaching and learning environments we're pushing include:

- HB 22: (Garratt) Expands Grow Your Own Teachers Scholarships to help classified employees become licensed teachers.
- HB 130: (C. Trujillo) School Gifted Education Requirements would bring more equity to identification and services of the gifted.
- HB 171: (Ferrary) Expands Eligibility for NBPTS Stipend and allows Licensed School Employees to receive the stipend, not just "teachers."
- HB 184: (G.A. Romero) K-5 Plus & Extended Learning Time Uses would allow districts flexibility on how they use this time.
- HB 218/SB 164: (Roybal-Caballero/Duhigg) Student Debt Protection & Transparency will establish a bill of rights for those with student loan debts.
- HB 221: (Garratt/Pope/Herrera) K-2nd Assessment Changes would change emphasis from standardized testing for our youngest students to using developmentally appropriate observational tools.
- HB 232/a: (Stapleton) Public School Ventilation Improvements would help improve mechanical ventilation systems in schools.
- HB266: (Figueroa) Alternative License Requirements for Special Ed Teachers would help better prepare new teachers.
- SB 302: (Sedillo Lopez) PTSD Coverage for Educators allows PTSD diagnosis to be presumed to be proximately caused by employment as an educator.

These bills would help educators with retirement and insurance stability. Our state union, AFTNM, is prioritizing them:

- SB 42: Increase Ed Retirement Contributions from the state calls for higher employer payments without pulling more money from your check.
- SB 110: Increasing Employer Contribution to our health insurance. It does not pull more money from your check.
- SB 303: Change Ed Retirement Board Membership would allow union representation on the board.

And there are more good bills to watch and advocate for. So stay tuned and stay active! Keep following [your union's website](#) and taking action through our legislative update emails.



## IC's and School Budgets

You and your colleagues have a contractual right to make decisions on your school budget. Article 7 of your Negotiated Agreement spells it out:

- A. *Instructional Councils: Connection to Budgeting:*
  1. *School budgets are open and public documents. It is the responsibility of the Instructional Council to work in collaboration with the staff to set priorities for discretionary funds in the school's budget and in developing and overseeing the implementation of a budget that places resources where they will effectively support the school's goals.*
  2. *When using discretionary money for a full or partial FTE, in order to ensure decisions are program-based, a change in the agreed use of that money must wait until the current position is vacated.*
  3. *Training in Budgeting may be requested of the District and the Federation for Instructional Councils.*
- B. *In the event that differentials are provided for positions on the school's Instruction Council, the Federation Representative position will be eligible.*

Staff should make tangible decisions on how your school's discretionary monies are spent: including Title 1 and School Improvement Program monies. School's generally receive their projected budgets for the coming school year in February and are expected to turn in their budget plans to the district by the end of April. So, it's imperative to start these conversations as early as possible.

Your IC should identify all of the money in the budget that is considered "discretionary" while being aware of any rules that need to be followed when spending said money.

Your IC needs to clearly communicate with their constituents and come to consensus about spending priorities BEFORE the budget plans are due. If an IC can't come to consensus on a topic that has deadlines, the decision will default to administration.

### Contract Negotiations Have Begun!

ATF Leadership has begun contract negotiations with APS. Once we know the final budget details, we can negotiate monetary items. ATF Leadership will negotiate to win the greatest improvements in salaries and working conditions possible for all. Stay Tuned!

Membership is power! The more members we have, the greater our leverage at the bargaining table. Not yet a member? Ask your Fed Rep to sign you up, join online at:

<https://atfunion.org/join/>, or call the ATF office:

(505)262-2657!

### NM PED Dossier Submission Dates

The Dossier submission window closes this year May 15. It reopens on July 15. In order to receive a pay raise for school year 2021-22, teachers will need to submit their new license to APS Human Resources by October 15, at which point they will be paid retroactively from August.

### From APS: Take attendance daily

Make sure you're using the correct code:

The attendance default setting is "present in virtual meeting". If a student is present for their virtual meetings the teacher doesn't have to do anything.

Absent (ABS)- If the student is not present for virtual meeting they should be marked absent. One click= absent.

Present Asynchronous (PAS)- teachers can use this code when they know a student was not present for a virtual meet, but they have spoken with the student/family and have arranged for the student to work asynchronously. Two clicks = Present

Present in Person (PIP)- Many teachers are using this for when a student is present in virtual meetings, but this is not correct. The PIP code should ONLY be used when students are physically present in the school building (such as SPED in the Red, etc.) Three clicks= Physically Present in person learning

When we have correct attendance information for our students, we can identify which students need to receive outreach/interventions for missing school.

When students are correctly marked as Absent, the district system will send a daily message to the family letting them know their student did not attend.

### Now Accepting Mentor Teacher Applications!

Apply to become a Mentor! Requirements include -

- Licensure Level 2 or 3 (Level 3 preferred)
- 3 yrs with APS (Minimum)

Each school should have a variety of mentors for grade levels and contents for the best mentor pairings with level 1 teachers and related and support personnel new to their profession

Go to the Intranet Page for more information, application forms, and reference forms, of which one reference is needed from an administrator.

<https://intranet.aps.edu/a-z/human-resources/mentor-program-for-teachers>

### Calendar of Events

*\*\* All events and classes will be held online unless otherwise noted.*

DATE	EVENT	TIME
3/2	Fed Rep Council	4:15-6:30pm
3/9	ATF Legislative Update Meeting	4:30-5:30
3/11	ATF CPS Portfolio Work Session	4:30-6:00pm
3/13	ATF/AFT-NM Union Leadership Program	9:00am-4:00pm
3/18-3/19	Parent-Teacher Conferences	No classes
3/22-3/26	Spring Break!	No Classes
4/2	Vernal Holiday	1:00-3:00pm
4/6	Fed Rep Council	4:15-6:30pm

*APS Superintendent Finalist  
Community Forums  
and Board of Education Interviews*

*You are invited to meet the APS superintendent finalists.  
Forums and interviews will be live streamed on YouTube.*

*Please fill in the feedback form after watching the forum and interview for each candidate. Your feedback will be used by the Board of Education as they make a decision regarding the next APS Superintendent.*

**Monday, March 1**

*6-7 p.m. Community Forum / 7:15-8:30 p.m. Interview*

**with Ignacio Ruiz**

Please submit feedback about Ignacio Ruiz.

**Tuesday, March 2**

*6-7 p.m. Community Forum / 7:15-8:30 p.m. Interview*

**with Scott Elder**

Please submit feedback about Scott Elder.

**Thursday, March 4**

*6-7 p.m. Community Forum / 7:15-8:30 p.m. Interview*

**with Dr. Bolgen Vargas**

Please submit feedback about Dr. Bolgen Vargas.

**Friday, March 5**

*6-7 p.m. Community Forum / 7:15-8:30 p.m. Interview*

**with Dr. Ushma Shah**

Please submit feedback about Dr. Ushma Shah.

Spanish Language Interpreters will be available.

If you would like to listen in Spanish, please sign up at: <https://www.aps.edu/interpreter>