

**New Mexico School for the Arts**  
**Head of School Report: September 2017**  
**Report by Eric Crites**

*NMSA provides access to a rigorous mastery arts and academic high school education for youth with passion and aptitude in the arts, leading to post-secondary learning, careers in the arts, and lives that contribute to society.*

**School Grade**

NMSA received its sixth consecutive school grade of A. We had the fifth-highest school grade (in points) of any high school in New Mexico.

**Teacher Evaluations**

NMPED's 2016-2017 summative teacher evaluations have been distributed to teachers.

**Budgets**

Maria continues to update final budget documents to NMPED. The status of the reporting will be shared at the meeting.

**Facility Updates**

The roof leaks continue and repairs are planned for the week of 9/5/2017.

**PEC Portal/NM DASH Reporting System**

As a state-chartered school, NMSA will continue to use the PEC Portal rather than shifting to the New Mexico DASH (Data, Accountability, Sustainability, and High Achievement) system.

**Capital Outlay**

NMPED has notified NMSA that our grant agreement for the capital outlay project has been frozen. Our next step is to complete the new bond questionnaire they will send out at an unspecified date. They stated that we would be notified when the questionnaire becomes available.

**Financial Record Custodian Designation**

NMSA received notice from NMPED that they have received our notification of Financial Record Custodian Designation and that this designation was presented to the PEC in July, 2017.

**Lease Reimbursement**

The PSCOC will meet tomorrow, September 13, to vote on lease reimbursement levels. The NM Coalition of Charter Schools has indicated they expect PSCOC to vote to keep lease reimbursement levels flat for 2017-2018.

**Graduation Requirements**

For the classes of 2018 and 2019, High School Graduation Assessment requirements remain the same: a score of 3 or higher on PARCC Geometry or Algebra II; a score of 3 or higher on PARCC English Language Arts (reading and writing components); an 1138 on SBA Science; and a passing score on a social studies End of Course exam.

Verbally, NMPED has stated that, starting with the class of 2020, the score required to meet graduation requirements for PARCC tests will increase to 4 or higher. However, this information

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has not been published. We will continue working with students to increase their proficiency on PARCC tests while also continuing to help them demonstrate proficiency through Alternative Demonstrations of Competency in order to ensure they meet requirements for a New Mexico Diploma of Excellence.

**Counseling Updates**

Nancy Jaffe has been hired as a long-term substitute for the guidance counselor position while Mikiko Ellis is on maternity leave through December, 2017. She and Reshma Kamal, the new clinical counselor, have staggered their schedules to ensure consistent counseling coverage on campus.

The Sky Center will deliver mindfulness professional development over the course of the 2017-2018 school year. The first step in implementing mindfulness in the classroom is helping teachers develop their own mindfulness practice. There will be four 90-minute trainings (one per quarter) and a total of 20 weekly guided mindfulness sessions.

**Staffing Updates**

There is a long-term substitute teacher in place for physical education. Eric Crites received his permanent K-12 administrative license from NMPED during August.