

**New Mexico School for the Arts  
Head of School Report: June 2019  
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.*

**Kudos**

- Thank you to the Progress Toward Graduation Team, headed by Chelamia Quintana and with support from Lisa Oberteuffer, Mikiko Ellis, James Durnin, and Cecile Hemez, for ensuring that 100% of our enrolled seniors graduated on time.
- Thank you to senior adviser Acacia McCombs for helping ensure that 100% of graduates were accepted into a postsecondary college, university, or career training program.
- Thank you to Barbara Hatch for producing an excellent graduation ceremony.
- Thank you to Joey Chavez and team for an incredible ArtSpring, and to Cindy, Aline, and team for an incredible gala.
- Veronica Toledo is attending the Native Collegiate Artist Residency on scholarship this month at NYU's Tisch School for the Arts.

**Charter Renewal/PEC**

- The contract will be voted on at the PEC meeting on Friday, June 14. Eric will attend.
- The PEC approved the school's relocation to 500 Montezuma Avenue. The only outstanding documentation we need to submit is the certificate of occupancy.

**Phase 2**

Paula Tackett has been researching the steps that will need to be taken in order to begin Phase 2 construction.

**Evaluation**

All elements of the NMTeach evaluation system were submitted to PED by the May 31 deadline. PED has announced that test scores (Value Added Score) will not be included in the 2018-2019 summative teacher evaluations.

**Assessment & Accountability**

- PED has announced that its intent to use either SAT or ACT as the high school accountability assessment for math and English language arts.
- Preliminary scores for the 2019 Transition Standards Based Assessment for Math and English Language Arts (formerly known as PARCC) have been received. Formal score reports will be available in July.
- PED has not yet decided whether the 2018-2019 school report card will follow the new "dashboard" model or continue with the school grade one last time.

**Excellent Schools New Mexico/Transcend**

The school is applying for a grant for follow-on funding to continue the work begun with Transcend.

**Creative Writing & Literature**

The Creative Writing & Literature department has admitted 18 incoming 9th-graders. Two more candidates are being auditioned.

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**School Lunch Program**

The school lunch program's operating cost for May was \$549. Overall, the running operating cost for the program year-to-date is \$4345.

**Professional Development**

Thanks to the support of the Stranahan Foundation, several staff members will be attending the Exeter Summer Institute (Xinrong Li, Rebekah Morgan, Bernadette Peña, Chasity Anderson, Denise Hinson).

**Move**

Most contents of the building are now packed. Student desks/chairs and lockers will be given to the Pecos school district. The Parent Association will hold a sale of remaining items. The physical move will occur in mid-July.

**Furniture**

A finalized order was submitted; the total cost stayed within the original budget. Delivery and installation will occur between July 15-August 6.

**Facilities**

The school staff, with support from Slate Stern, completed a pre-exit walkthrough with the Cathedral staff to agree on the details of the school's departure from 275 E. Alameda.