

New Mexico School Security Funding

WHEREAS, school security upgrades are urgently needed in schools across our state; and

WHEREAS, according to Education Week, in 2018 there were 24 school shootings with 28 students killed, and 79 people injured and the problem continues to intensify throughout 2019; and

WHEREAS, recent events have placed school safety in the national and state spotlight, underscoring the importance of schools and communities engaged in addressing the safety of children. In an era of limited resources, collaboration with local law enforcement and other government agencies will be required to maintain safe schools, and

WHEREAS, even though the loss of life is unacceptable and school shootings are a tragedy that affect the whole society, they remain a very small percent of the overall homicide rate of school-aged children. Student injury and death are statistically much greater from drug abuse, child abuse, suicide, bullying, and auto accidents; and

WHEREAS, the most effective approach to creating safe school environments requires a comprehensive, coordinated effort including school wide, districtwide and communitywide strategies where all institutions, organizations and individuals must accept responsibility for their critical roles and collaborate to establish a positive environment for teaching and learning; and

WHEREAS, students attend school daily and the parent and community expectation is that the facility will be safe and efficient so that learning can occur;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education and the New Mexico School Boards Association call upon the New Mexico State Legislature to create a temporary allowance for life-threatening school security upgrades be removed from matching fund programs defined as capital outlay, and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education and the New Mexico School Boards Association call upon the New Mexico State Legislature, Public School Capital Outlay Council and

New Mexico Public Education Department to create state level security standards and funding to address and upgrade all schools in our state outside of normal capital outlay funding mechanism until all schools are up to security standards.