1. Resolution Title: End Class Size Overload Waiver

Author/Submitting Organization: Jeremy Sment

WHEREAS the student teacher class size ratio is required to have no more than 20 for kindergarten; 22 for grades 1-3; 24 for grades 4-6; 27 for grades 7,8; and 30 for grades 9-12 students by law. 
Source: Section 22-10A-20NMSA 1978; Section 25-5-15NMSA 1978; www.ped.state.nm.us

WHEREAS the drastic measure of approving waivers on class size limits across the state was only supposed to be a temporary emergency waiver to fill an unexpected budget shortfall due to plunging commodity prices and revenues in 2009, but these waivers were renewed consecutively and risk becoming the new norm.

Source: 
https://www.nmlegis.gov/sessions/13%20Regular/LESCAnalysis/SJR02.PDF

WHEREAS the funding basis that includes overloaded classrooms was the assumed baseline in the FY18 budget as there has been no funding earmarked for restoring class sizes to statute.

Source: 
https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/ALESC%20061417%20Item%202%20LESC%202017%20Post-Session%20Memo.pdf

http://www.ladailypost.com/content/governor-introduces-fy-2017-646-billion-budget

WHEREAS overloaded classrooms dilute the time and attention the teacher can afford to deliver to each student and toward grading and evaluating each assignment.


BE IT RESOLVED we support funding earmarked for restoring class sizes to their pre-shortfall levels.

2. Resolution Title: Increasing wages for all pre-k – 12 education professionals

Author/Submitting Organization: Santa Fe County Platform and Resolutions Committee

WHEREAS New Mexico has failed to mirror the median pay scales in the United States for Pre-K through 12 educators.

Source: http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/education/governor-proposes-pay-hike-for-beginning-teachers/article_251f2f06-aebe-5083-812e-dd4a8e2a86a0.html
WHEREAS: The current pay scales have resulted in high attrition and low retention rates. 

BE IT RESOLVED: New Mexico meet or exceed the nationwide average salary for educational professionals

3. Resolution Title: End Test-Based Teacher Evaluations

Author/Submitting Organization: Moss Templeton

WHEREAS states are not required to have a teacher evaluation system under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and if a state chooses have such a system, there is no requirement to include student test scores; and
Source: https://www.ed.gov/essa?src=ft

WHEREAS test-based teacher evaluation methods are very often indicators of the life circumstances of the students a teacher has, not of the teacher’s skill as an educator; and


WEREAS test-based teacher evaluation methods incentivize teachers moving away from students and communities with the greatest need because teachers’ evaluation results are put at risk as a result of their students’ background characteristics; and

WHEREAS measuring educator quality by students’ scores on a narrow range of tested subject matter incentives teachers to narrow the curriculum and teach to the test; and


WHEREAS erratic and unreliable results, the norm in current VAM (value-added model) systems, lead to many teachers being inaccurately labeled “minimally effective” or “ineffective”; and
WHEREAS evidence from districts in other states shows that teacher evaluation systems based on peer review and focusing mainly on professional learning can be fair, can be accepted by educators, can improve the quality of teaching and can effectively counsel out educators who should seek a different profession:


BE IT RESOLVED that the Democratic Party of New Mexico supports the development of a teacher evaluation model that utilizes multiple indicators based on classroom and school evidence and that does not include student test results as a measure.