

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW MEXICO'S TEACHER EVALUATION SYSTEM STILL SERIOUSLY FLAWED, DOES NOT HELP EDUCATORS IMPROVE

"As the NM PED state evaluation of individual teachers are distributed this week, we remain dedicated to doing all we can to provide students with an education that inspires their curiosity, imagination, and desire to learn," says NEA-New Mexico President Betty Patterson. "Whether we are teachers, school bus drivers, counselors, school secretaries, coaches, or custodians, all of us set high expectations for students and want to provide them with an environment that nurtures their success."

"We believe that students must learn to read, write and perform math skills along with other basic skills, but they must also learn critical thinking and problem-solving. No bubble test can measure a student's creativity or potential, or a teacher's ability to motivate students, and any teacher evaluation system that heavily relies on inadequate measures of student success is inherently flawed," Patterson said.

Patterson cites some specific systemic problems: "Even though teachers checked class lists, some have more or fewer students being counted for their evaluations than they actually teach. Many teachers were docked for days they attended training sessions, including ones required or provided by the PED and the private contractors profiting from this system."

"Defying the very purpose of evaluations- to improve teacher performance - the NM PED evaluations provide no specific ways or ideas for the teachers to improve. Many teachers feel that no matter how hard they work, that even with student successes they themselves can measure, they can't raise scores on PARCC. This hurts morale and the interest in continuing to teach." adds Patterson

Las Cruces elementary teacher Denise Corrales is concerned for her many colleagues "who actually let that stack of stapled junk actually ruin their day, month, school year. It's the harshest system in the nation. I think at this point moral is once again going to be pretty low for those teachers who allow for that report to tell them that they have failed despite their hard work."

"Mine have had errors every year! I know teachers who quit last year when given their unfair, flawed ratings. It only serves to destroy morale and drive more teachers out," says Ken Strawn, a Las Cruces teacher who is worried for New Mexico students now being taught by long term substitutes as a result."

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