



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Advocates: Kids and Economy are Big Losers in Budget Cuts Reality starting to sink in as School Board recommends cuts

ALBUQUERQUE—New Mexico Voices for Children released the following statement today in response to the budget cuts recommended for APS by the School Board:

"These education cuts painfully demonstrate that our state leaders let our children down by cutting the state's K-12 education budget instead of asking the wealthiest New Mexicans and profitable out-of-state corporations to pay their fair share of income taxes. These tax cuts created a hole that we are filling with harmful cuts to children and families. Not only do our children suffer today, but we are threatening our future state economy. Budget cuts will only make our state's dismal test scores and graduation rates worse. How can we help kids stay in school and do better in reading and math if they are forced to reduce the number of teachers and programs that serve the varied needs of our kids?

"The School Board's recommendation to lay off 120 APS teachers in order to increase class sizes and save money should serve as a wakeup call that the abstract budget numbers have real meaning—and cuts have real consequences.

"Special interest lobbyists for big companies have claimed that tax breaks for out-of-state corporations that do business here are necessary to make New Mexico 'business friendly.' But when those tax breaks come at the cost of education, they make us considerably less competitive with other states.

"Economic development was also the reason given for keeping the top personal income tax rate so low, but there is no evidence the lower rate helped create any jobs in New Mexico. New Mexico's employment boom earlier in this decade was likely fueled by the same thing that fueled the national boom—the housing bubble.

"Investments in education, however, are proven to boost the economy. It's time our state's leaders got their priorities in order and put New Mexico's children at the top of the list."

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New Mexico Voices for Children is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advocating for policies to improve the health and well-being of New Mexico's children, families and communities.
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