



NEW MEXICO FIRST
People. Ideas. Progress.

New Mexico First and Project SHARE NM Newsletter

Stay Informed and Engaged

September 14, 2020

CENSUS DAY OF ACTION

Time for all hands on deck! There really is no time to spare — the Census Bureau changed the deadline to September 30 (a full month earlier than planned). Today, September 14th, is the Statewide Census Day of Action. [NM Counts 2020](#) is supporting statewide media and partnerships, but we need leaders in the community to help encourage census participation on Monday and through the end of the month. Become a NM Census Ambassador. Here's a [toolkit](#) with action suggestions and lots of information. For additional information, contact [Olivia at Media Desk NM](#).



Schooling in the Age of COVID-19

It's time to go back to school – but not as we know it. We know how challenging this is for all of you who have school-age children or work with school-age children. We salute your courage and dedication to our children and youth. And we'd like to help, if we can, by providing links to information and resources that may inform and assist you with this unprecedented experiment in education.

Public Schools. New Mexico's 89 school districts educate over 338,000 of our students in PreK to grade 12, all of whom, along with their parents and teachers, will be expected to switch to online education for part or all of their education. While the Public Education Department has provided [guidance to educators and families](#), each school district is making many decisions independently. That's going to require students and families to contact their school district for the latest information. Contact information for NM's school districts and state-sponsored charter schools is [available here](#).

Food is Fundamental. Hungry minds can't learn. As Lilly Irvin-Vitela and Dr. Bret Smoker reminded us in [a recent op ed](#), "Hunger exacts a toll on learning. Hungry and stressed children are not only less healthy, they are less ready to learn ... Moreover, there is mounting evidence that childhood hunger leads to a higher risk of multiple health problems in adulthood, including depression, interpersonal violence, premature aging and poor academic achievement." The good news is that the ALL NM school children will be receiving free meals through the end of the year. Each district has made its own arrangements for making sure that students and families can pick up these meals. The NM Out-of-School Time Network has a [current list of school meal sites](#) for the state.



Out-of-School Time Resources

Schools aren't alone in meeting these exceptional challenges. New Mexico's out-of-school time programs are also stepping into the breach, adapting their

programs to engage and educate students safely.

One example. [The Boys & Girls Club of Farmington](#) is partnering with the Farmington Municipal Schools and the City of Farmington to provide three afterschool camps during the school year. The 21CCLC and Cares “Brain Camps”, for 2nd to 5th graders will be open every Tuesday-Friday, from 2:45-5:30, September 15th through -May 14th. Middle-school students, grades 6-8 can sign up for the C-Circle of Friends Camp, meeting every Tuesday-Friday, 4:00-6:00 PM, from Sept. 8th – May 14th. All FREE to Farmington Municipal School students and their families.

- [Register here](#) for the Cares Brain Camp (Animas, Esperanza, McKinley)
- [Register here](#) for the 21CCLC Brain Camp (Apache, Bluffview, McCormick)
- [Register here](#) for the C-Circle of Friends Camp (Heights, Hermosa, Tibbets, and Mesa View)

Check with your local out-of-school time programs for COVID safe policies and programs, openings and cost (if any). To find an out-of-school time program in your area, [add your location here](#) and click on “Search.”

Online Learning Resources. The NM Out-of-School Time Network webpage has a long list of [out-of-school time learning resources](#) for students and their families. Many of the entries are related to science, technology, engineer, math (STEM) and nature, but there is an eclectic sampling of other resources for learning. Sing and dance along with videos from [National Dance Institute](#). Listen and read along to favorite [children’s stories in Spanish](#) (with English translations). Go with [Google Arts & Culture](#) on virtual field trips to landmarks around the world.

[PBS Learning Media](#) provides free access to [interactive lessons](#) on a broad range of topics for various grade levels from PreK to grade 12. There is also a [guide for teachers](#), including parent-teachers, on how to integrate these interactive lessons into the “classroom,” whether it is at school, on-line, or at home. And for the younger children, PBS KIDS’ educational resources for younger children, their parents and teachers includes [PBS KIDS television programming](#), [pbskids.org](#), [PBS Parents](#), and [PBS Read!](#) Apps and eBooks abound.

The [Capitan School District](#) has provided links to some of their favorite websites, which staff have found to be of educational value, safe, secure, and reliable. Check out the resources for parents, students, and teachers -- everything from math games to parenting tips.

And don’t forget your local library! Many are now open and offering programming for community residents. Drop in at the Embudo Valley Library and Community Center for [Early Literacy Storytime](#). Find your local library by entering your location into [this search](#).



Teens Stepping Up

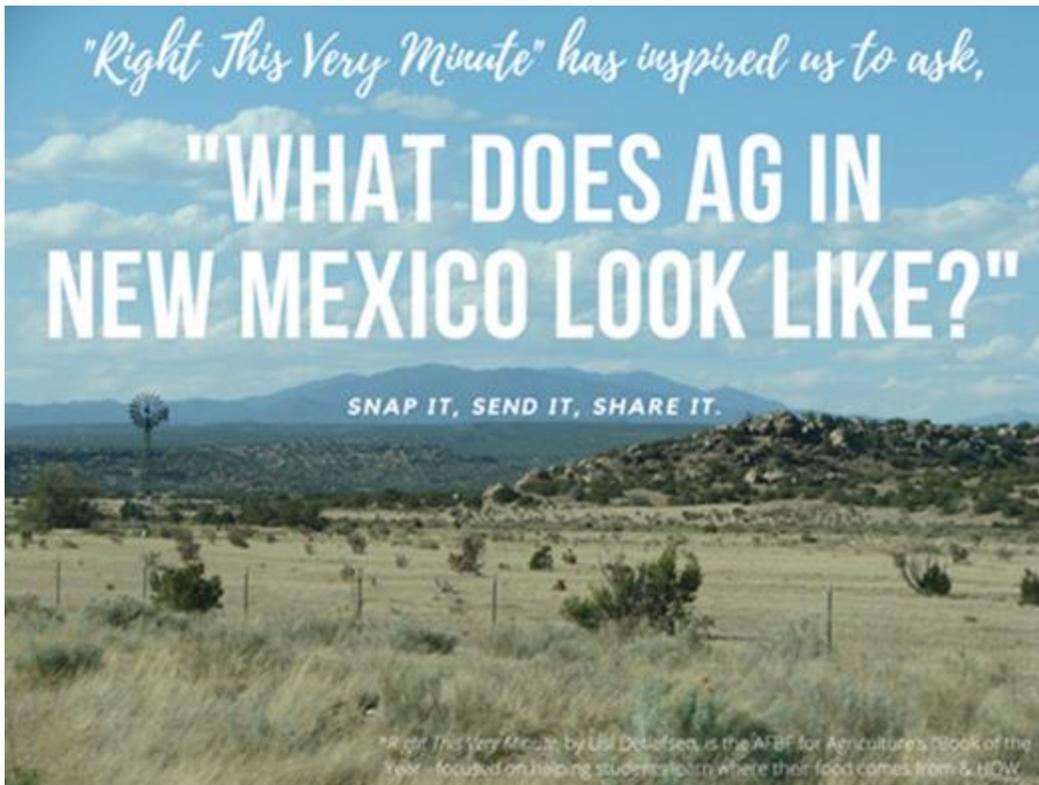
New Mexico's teens are stepping up to the challenge. In Las Cruces, almost 100 high school students have volunteered to offer [FREE live virtual tutoring](#) for K-5 students. The program is the brainchild of Student Advisory Council members, Stephen Ewing and Adelaide Olberding, and student tutors are from Oñate, Centennial, Las Cruces High, Mayfield and Arrowhead Park Early College High School. Beginning on Monday, September 14 tutoring will be offered in Math and English with bilingual offerings for each. Canvas learning support will also be offered to any students or parents who need it. Sign up with [this form](#).

Albuquerque's Teeniors® are tech-savvy teens and young adults who help seniors (or any-aged person) learn technology through one-on-one, personal coaching. Whether it's a smartphone, computer or software, their goal is to

empower you to connect, engage, and learn through technology, while providing paid, meaningful jobs for youth. Teeniors provide COVID-safe, in-person coaching and can offer remote coaching anywhere in New Mexico. Check them out on the [Teeniors® website](#).

School-based Health Centers

There are over 80 school-based health clinics in New Mexico that are working with other partners to promote, facilitate, and advocate for comprehensive, culturally competent health care, including health education, in schools. The New Mexico Alliance for School Based Health Care, NMASCBHC shares a wealth of information and a directory of School-based Health Centers across New Mexico. Operations during COVID have changed, but these resources are still available. To learn more about school-based health centers in your community, visit the [NMASBHC website](#).



The food to table movement in New Mexico has been an important lifeline to NM families, supplying use with local, fresh and nutritious food. But how many New Mexicans know how our food gets to our tables? Here's your invitation to share your story about New Mexico agriculture.

This year, [New Mexico Ag in the Classroom](#) has been inspired by the American Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture's Book of the Year, *Right This Very Minute* (written by Lisl Detlefsen), to take a look around New Mexico and ask, "What does ag in New Mexico look like?"... That's where YOU come in! NMAITC

welcomes farmers and ranchers from across the state to share what agriculture looks like “right this very minute.” This would include a video recording that showcases the crops and/or livestock that are being grown on your farm/ranch operation. The plan and hope is that students and teachers can see the full process (seed to crop/calf to cow) to further their understanding of where their food comes from throughout our beautiful state.

The videos will be uploaded to the NMAITC YouTube page so they can be accessed by the public (specifically teachers, volunteers, and students). This can help students visually see what products grow across NM and how that process can vary, based on where in the state they are growing. Since students and teachers will be connecting virtually for an unexpected amount of time, this will serve as an important asset to our virtual classrooms.

To submit your videos, or if you have any questions, contact Britney Lardner (NMAITC Program Coordinator) at agclass1@nmflb.org.

NMPHA 2020 Virtual Annual Conference: Social Justice is Public Health!

Mark your calendars for Friday, October 2, 2020, from 9:00 am to 3:30 pm (with lunch break). Keynote by Brenda Pereda, MD, MS, Anthony Fleg, MD, MPH & Shannon Fleg, MA. Presentations, small group discussions, networking, & more. CEUs: SW, CHES, CHW & CPS. We'll learn and share together so we can make "good trouble." The conference is FREE to all, though [donations are appreciated-click here](#). For more information and to register, [click here](#).

NEW MEXICO FIRST COUNTDOWN



Voting

We are only 50 days away from Election Day! As the date approaches, make sure to register to vote, request an absentee ballot, and follow the Presidential Elections, as needed. The preservation of our democracy is reliant on our ability to vote. Please share this information with those around you. Have your voice heard and make sure to vote on Election Day!



NEW MEXICO FIRST

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**JOIN OUR CROSS PARTISAN
DEBATEWATCH PARTY**

nmfirst.org

Debate Watch Party!

Hey, New Mexico! It's time to save the dates! The 2020 Presidential Debates are coming up. You could just watch it with CNN and Fox News giving you their opinions. Or, you can join in on a cross-partisan discussion from the comfort of your living room. It's your chance to share in genuine dialogue about the big topics we're all facing and thinking about. All you have to bring is an open mind.

Visit <http://nmfirst.org/events/debates> for more information and to register. We are neighbors. We are New Mexico.

[Register Now](#)

Tip for Civic Engagement - Family Style

From early care and education through K-12, meaningful family engagement in education is predictive of strong educational outcomes. The Center for the Study of Social Policy and the Office of Head Start have evaluated the positive impacts of family engagement. Prioritizing family engagement acknowledges that all families have assets and strengths to share with children/students. One core principle is that families are a child's first and life-long teachers. Family engagement at all levels of education from partnering to teach children and participating in decision-making about programming to advocating for their own child's access to quality education and broader advocacy for all children are examples of family engagement.

For great ideas and resources about strengthening family engagement, visit Head Start's [Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center](#). While the resources are focused on early care and education, the principles are transferable. Family engagement is more than inviting families to meetings, learning events, and sending newsletters. COVID-19 has taught many of us that we need one another more than ever. Schools that are able to engage families in problem-solving will not only be more responsive to the needs that families raise, they'll have the benefit of the resourcefulness and expertise of children's families/guardians.

This section is authored by Lilly Irvin-Vitela, President and Executive Director of New Mexico First. She invites you to connect! Email her at lilly@nmfirst.org.

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Our Mission. Our Values.

Our Mission

To be a catalyst for positive change by engaging citizens in policy and enabling action.

Our Core Values

Meaningfully engaging New Mexicans in public policy; Striving for and respecting consensus; Pursuing and respecting diverse points of views; Ensuring inclusion and transparency; Rising above partisan politics; Changing policy to improve people's lives; Creating an informed citizenry that is powerfully motivated; Reaching out statewide including rural and tribal communities; Partnering with others; Promoting civility and Democracy at its best!

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