

**Help your children now! We need your voice!**  
**Hold our legislators accountable this January to provide the public education**  
**We pay for and our children deserve!**

We are a group of concerned citizens – parents, businessmen and women, community members – advocating for adequate financial funding for NM public education. We are called P.E.A.P.S. – Partners in Education & Advocates for Public Schools.

Public schools in New Mexico have faced many challenges over the past few years, the most daunting of which is a *shrinking budget*. Our NM state constitution requires ‘adequate funding’ for all public schools, which is clearly not being executed.

**Budget cuts hurt our kids, and that hurts us all.**

Budget cuts translate into:

- Increased classroom sizes
- Lay-offs of teachers and specialists
- Fewer textbooks
- Longer wait times at bus stops
- Less academic support
- Reduction in extra-curricular activities
- Fewer chances for children to succeed

The operational budget for Albuquerque Public Schools, like school districts throughout the state, has been slashed over the past few years, and more cuts are anticipated. **In the past three years alone, APS has cut \$100 million** and more than a thousand jobs.

If state funding for public education remains at the same level for the 2012-2013 school year, school districts like APS will see their operational budgets further decrease because of growing expenses such as retirement, utilities, transportation, and instructional materials. Now, more mandates are on the agenda without additional funding!

**Our goal is to guarantee quality education for all of our children by holding the public officials accountable to adequately fund the education budget and not pass unfunded mandates in the upcoming session.**

**How can you help?**

1. **[Sign our petition!](https://sites.google.com/site/peapsforeducation/home)** Visit **<https://sites.google.com/site/peapsforeducation/home>**
2. **Use your voice!** Spread the word – we challenge you to forward our petition to at least two people! We hope you will also ask all your friends, fellow parents, neighbors, and grandparents to support the cause!
3. Join us for our first public meeting at **1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 22, at Dolores Gonzales Elementary, 900 Atlantic St. SW.**

4. **Get educated!** Read the material we share on this website, which provides key points from what we have learned. You will also find information on the proposed issues and budgets.

**We are not afraid to ask tough questions!** We will be heard by our state legislators who will meet in January to decide on public school funding. We are not happy and we don't plan to continue supporting our politicians who will not help our greatest resource and treasures – our children!

**Please help us!**

To make a difference, we must all come together and let our legislators know we will not continue to accept their budget cuts! If you are as concerned as we are about the future of New Mexico's public education, **please join our cause.**