

Info, HigherEd, NMHED

From: Ruth Williams <rwilliams@sfps.k12.nm.us>
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2019 3:13 PM
To: Info, HigherEd, NMHED
Cc: Garcia, Veronica C.; ALMA BEJAR
Subject: [EXT] Written Comment on Proposed Rule 5.7.35 Grow Your Own Teachers
Attachments: Comment on Proposed HED Rule 5.7.35 Grow Your Own Teachers.pdf

Dear New Mexico HED,

Attached please see the comments from Santa Fe Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Veronica C. Garcia on proposed rule 5.7.35 NMAC Grow Your Own Teachers Scholarship Program.

Sincerely,

Ruth Williams

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July 1, 2019

Kate O'Neill, Ph.D.
New Mexico Higher Education Department
2044 Galisteo Street, Suite 4
Santa Fe, NM 87505

Dear Dr. O'Neill,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed rule **5.7.35 NMAC GROW YOUR OWN TEACHERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**. The commitment by the Governor, Legislature and New Mexico Higher Education Department to grow our own teachers and ensure a high-quality and engaged teaching staff is one shared by the Santa Fe Public Schools (SFPS).

On June 17, 2019, the SFPS Board of Education unanimously passed a resolution brought to the Board by President Kate I. Noble directing staff to outline a clear "Grow Your Own" initiative. The Board's resolution notes that motivated and well-qualified educator candidates, including educational assistants, who already live and work here will ensure that the District's candidate pool reflects the area's rich ethnic and cultural diversity.

Our hope is that educational assistants from the District will enter the teaching pipeline and apply for the Grow Your Own Teachers Scholarship Program.

I agree with prioritizing candidates based on those who are in the program and closest to graduation, work in bilingual, early education and special education settings and who intend to teach in a high-need teacher position as defined by a public school. I also agree with the inclusion in the rule of definitions for "half-time" students and "tribal college."

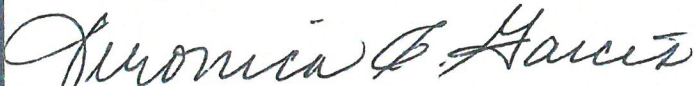
All educational assistants should be incentivized to apply for the scholarship.

New Mexico is clearly in a teaching crisis. The October 2018 report by the New Mexico State University College of Education's Southwest Outreach Academic Research Lab found that 63 percent of open educator

positions are for teachers. Further, many teacher vacancies are filled by long-term substitutes and uncertified instructors. Sixteen percent of New Mexico's student population--53,455 students--were taught by long-term substitutes in the fall of 2018.

The Grow Your Own Teachers Scholarship Program has the potential to build a culturally relevant and bilingual workforce that is critical to our schools. We at the District look forward to welcoming into our schools educational assistants who enter the teaching profession through this opportunity.

Sincerely,



Veronica C. García, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools