



MISSION: *Dedicated to the Growth and Retention of Commerce
Through Committed Partnerships
Enhancing Our Quality of Life*

APRIL 2020



"There are no traffic jams along the extra mile."
- *Roger Staubach*



2020 GBCC Board of Directors
Executive Board

Ray Vigil 505-241-3456
 President, PNM Resources, Inc.

Sonya Sanchez 505-610-1294
 President Elect, Sachs Fifth Real Estate

John T. Ivey 505-307-1946
 Vice President, Haloed Solutions

Karla Garcia 505-864-7401
 Treasurer, Wells Fargo Banks, NM

Anna Duran 505-565-8400
 Immediate Past President, SECU

Board of Directors

Pete Armstrong 505-864-2084
 Member, Armstrong Services

Carmie Carrejo 505-966-2764
 Member, US Bank

Bobbi Chandler 505-864-4472
 Member, VCNB/Media 9

Carl Gallegos 505-205-3910
 Member, BNSF

Jennifer Hise 505-864-1200
 Member, CEMCO, Inc.

Michael Hoodless 505-998-2601
 Member, Nusenda Credit Union

Yvonne Sanchez 505-865-3624
 Rio Grande Financial Network

Roderick Storey 505-865-6623
 Member, NM Gas Co.

Deborah Baca
 Ex-Officio, Belen Consolidated Schools

Jon Lechel 505-925-8547
 Ex-Officio, UNM-VC

Danny Bernal, Jr. 505-864-8221
 Ex-Officio, City of Belen

Rhona Baca Espinoza 505-864-8091
 Ex-Officio, Executive Director, GBCC

GBCC Office Team

JoElla Patterson
 Membership Specialist, Office Manager

HAPPENINGS



SUPPORT BELEN BUSINESSES



**Greater
Belen Chamber
of Commerce**

PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS

Chamber Members,

Wow! What a difference a month can make.

With the current Covid-19 pandemic, the Greater Belen Chamber of Belen will continue to provide its members with the latest updates via email.

Thank you to Rhona and JoElla for disseminating this vital information. It is important that we all work together to get through this crisis. I have no doubt that GBCC members and the city of Belen will come through this crisis stronger as businesses, communities and families. Until further notice and in accordance with directives, we may be cancelling all GBCC events. Please check your emails for updates on all upcoming events. Please contact the Chamber office by phone should you have any questions, concerns or issues. My best to you and your families during this trying time.

Your GBCC President,



Ray Vigil



GREATER BELEN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICE NEWS



*Rhona Baca Espinoza,
Executive Director of Greater
Belen Chamber of Commerce*

*Spring is in the Air!!!!
Happy Spring!!!*

Like busy bees, our Chamber Team is working diligently to service our members as a support and valuable resource. Our partnership with Belen MainStreet Partnership has developed into a huge driving force in Economic Revitalization for our Downtown and beyond. Join us as we work together to preserve our rich history and downtown area but bring necessary improvements to the GREATER BELEN area. We will assist them in their many important projects and ventures.

Our April Networking Luncheon was originally scheduled at Pete's Cafe in Belen on April 1st. Due to concerns with the COVID-19 virus we canceled. But we did reschedule our June Scholarship luncheon at Pete's on June 3rd. Hopefully we will be able to meet then. Pavlos Panagopoulos of Cetera Financial will present on Taxes and Investing. We sold out last year so please RSVP early for the June luncheon.

Plans for our upcoming Tim Lardner Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament are in full swing (no pun intended) and this looks to be another record breaking event. It will be held on Friday, May 29th at Tierra Del Sol Golf Club. Registration and Sponsorship documents are available on our website under ***Events Coming Soon***. Thank you for your consideration in participating in this tournament in what ever capacity you are able. You are very much appreciated. We thank Wells Fargo Banks for being our title sponsor for this event!

Blessings Always,

Rhona Baca Espinoza
Executive Director
GBCC



Pro-Action Security

A huge welcome to Pro Action Security Services to our Chamber Family!!! Located at 7028 Glen Hills Dr. NE in Rio Rancho and can be reached at 1-800-303-6761 or proaction_s@rocketmail.com. Pro Action Security Services providing private security services to businesses and individuals. They would like to offer a 5% Discount to GBCC Members!!! Welcome Pedro Amaya and your crew!!!

Burritos Alinstante

We are so happy to welcome Burritos Alinstante to our Chamber Family!! With two locations in Valencia County, 19337 N. Highway 314, Belen and 1138 Main St. NE in Los Lunas. You can visit their website at :

[www. Burritosalinstante.com](http://www.Burritosalinstante.com) or call at 505-864-6740. They offer the most delicious menu from breakfast burritos and every imaginable combination for your burrito.

**HOMEMADE FOOD IN
A HURRY**

**FROM THE HEART OF NEW
MEXICO**

GBCC Member News & WooHoos!



Pilot Club of Belen is now selling tickets for their Annual Administrative Professionals Luncheon and Style Show. Tickets can be purchased at the GBCC Office or by calling 505-463-5558. It will be held at Calvary Chapel RGV and it all begins at 11:30 am on In August date TBD. Tickets are \$20.00 pp. Treat your office team to a wonderful event!!!

Special Member Info

Membership Renewals!!!!!!!



Belen MainStreet Partnership News

The work of the Belen MainStreet Partnership continues as the Belen

Blooms banners are proudly hanging again, the El Jardin de Belen Community Garden is getting ready for planting, The Wells Fargo Community Grant project for wayfinding signs in our downtown are just about ready for manufacture, The Great Blocks on MainStreet We are looking for local citizens who have a passion for our beautiful downtown for our Board!! Call 505-864-8091 if this sounds like you!!!

◆ 2020 At -a-Glance ◆

- **May 6:** After Hours: TBD, : 5:30pm
- **May 29:** Tim Lardner Memorial Golf Tournament: TDS Golf Club: 8:00am-3:00pm.
- **June 3:** Scholarship Luncheon at Pete's Cafe: 11:30-1:00pm
- **July 1:** Luncheon at La Dos Gringas: 11:30-1:00pm
- **August 1:** New Educator's Luncheon: 11:30-1:30: TDS Golf Club
- **August 8th:** Valencia County Fair Parade: 10am
- **September 2:** After Hours at Mitchell Theatres: 5:30pm
- **September 26:** Rio Abajo Becker Street Festival: 10:00-9:00pm
- **October 2:** Luncheon: Sachs 5th Real Estate 11:30-1:00pm
- **November 6:** After Hours: Belen Art League: 5:30pm
- **December 4:** Holiday Luncheon at First United Methodist Church: 11:30-1:00pm

CEMCO, Inc.
P.O. Box 1849
Belen, NM 87002
505-864-1200

St. Philip's Episcopal
Church
113 La Luna Place
Rio Communities, NM
87002

Dr. Cecil Sandoval, DDS
601 Dalies Ave.
Belen, NM 87002
505-864-8912

Sanchez Medical
703 South Christopher Rd
Belen, NM 87002
505-864-7781

Magistrate Court, Div. II
901 West Castillo
Belen, NM 87002
505-864-7509

Lemuel Martinez, DA
P.O. Box 1750
Bernalillo, NM 87004

Delta Dental of New
Mexico
2500 Louisiana NE Ste 600
Albuquerque, NM 87110
505-883-4777

Through the Flower
107 Becker Ave.
Belen, NM 87002
505-864-4080

US Bank
620 Reinken Ave.
Belen, NM 87002
505-966-0400

Sevilleta NWR
P.O. Box 1248
Socorro, NM 87801
505-864-4021

City of Belen
100 S. Main St.
Belen, NM 87002

Belen Area Food Pantry
513 Becker St.
Belen, NM 87002

BC Financial
1052 B Main Street NE
Los Lunas NM 87031
505-866-1905

Business Women of VC
P.O. Box 588
Los Lunas, NM 87031
505-866-9014

Enchanted Smiles
305 Rio Comm.
Rio Comm., NM 87002
505-864-2978

March After Hours with Rio Communities Optimist Club



Familia Dental's Alejandro and Executive Director Rhona and Vice President John Ivey during plaque presentation for Member of Month



The Rio Communities Optimist Club were great hosts as the food they prepared and the presentation on Optimist International were outstanding!!! Thank you!!! Everyone had a great time and we were blown away with how much our local club does for our community!!!!



March Member of the Month: Familia Dental

The Greater Belen Chamber was so proud to honor Familia Dental located at 1620 Main St. Suite D in Los Lunas!!! Familia Dental offers comprehensive dental services for patients of all ages. From routine dental cleanings to more complex restorative treatments, our dentists and team are here to help you!

Familia Dental offers a number of special offers and discounts on our services.

Please contact their office for more details and to make an appointment with one of our caring dentists.

Call 505-388-4628. Thank you, Familia Dental, for being a great neighbor in our community!!!



Resources & Tools for Business Success



The Greater Belen
Chamber of Commerce

Gain access to over 600 free and low-cost resources to help you start and grow your business!

Need help getting your business off the ground?

Our Start-up Help section includes

- Business Entity Wizard – to help you choose the right type of legal entity
- All of the necessary forms to create a business entity
- Sales tax, quarterly estimated tax and other forms required throughout the year
- Access to free business plan software
- Links to free one-on-one assistance
- Business License and other local requirements

Tired of searching the web for answers?

Find all the resources you need in one place!

- Local, State, and Federal Programs to help businesses
- Easy Ways to "Go Green"
- Marketing and Selling Resources
- Disaster Preparation and Recovery
- Training programs for Owners and Employees
- Going Global
- Business Plan Resources
- Links for specialized Industries

Is your business in compliance with HR law?

Stay up to date on ever-changing state and federal requirements

- Find all the forms you need to become an employer, hire employees and keep your business in compliance
- Job description tools
- Workplace ergonomic tools
- New Hire Email Service – provides new employees with required forms
- Workplace safety and HR resources

Need help gaining a competitive edge?

- Information about local and online business training resources
- Using social media to promote your business
- Six Sigma Quality for small businesses
- Links to one-on-one help

www.Resources4Business.info/Belen





PRESENTS:

THE 2020 TIM LARDNER MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, May 29

**TIERRA DEL SOL
GOLF CLUB IN
BELEN**

**8:00AM
REGISTRATION AND
BREAKFAST BAR**

**9:30 SHOTGUN
START**

**BURGER BAR
DURING AWARDS**

**\$125PP
\$400 PER TEAM**

**INCLUDES BASKET OF
BALLS, CART, TWO MEALS
AND ROUND OF GOLF**



**Greater
Belen Chamber
of Commerce**

Call 505-864-8091

**Belenchamber.com
for more information**



APRIL

All Events have been postponed



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Easter Sunday	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

MAY UPCOMING EVENTS

May 6th: GBCC CHAMBER AFTER HOURS: 5:30 : TBD

May 12th BHS Graduation

May 29th: Tim Lardner Memorial Golf Tournament: 8:00am Registration/Breakfast Bar; 9:30 Shotgun start: Burger Bar to follow tournament during awards

MARCH 2020 TOURISM CENTER ACTIVITY

INCOMING CALLS: During the month of March we recorded 627 calls

WALK-INS/SIGN-INS: We recorded 42 people from New Mexico and 4 other states walking into the Chamber for information about events, services, maps, tourist info and directions to property.

We mailed out 12 relocation packages

Shop These local members!!! Get a Discount!!!!

Abba Technologies: 20% off an I.T. assessment for Chamber Members. 505-889-3337

Bar Y Pet Hotel: 14 day care for the cost of 13 days Call Bobbie, 864-2251

Bella Vida Healthcare Clinic: Non-insured patients are able to be seen for \$40.00 office visit; sports physicals-\$25 Call 916-5446 for more information

Bethlehem Trading Post: 10% discount on store merchandise. Vendor items may be exception.

Black's Smuggler's Winery: Free Wine Tasting for GBCC Members: Call Tony Black: 388-8117

Images By Rosa: FREE one hour sitting for GBCC members, call 505.250.2982 or email imagesbyrosa@aol.com to make an appointment. View the site at <http://imagesbyrosa.exposuremanager.com/>

H2Academic Solutions: 10% discount for Chamber Members. Holly: 505-453-3621

Jazzercise: GBCC Members first month FREE, call 250-2982 or JazzerciseBelen@aol.com

Johnson Chiropractic Clinic, LLC: 10% discount for military and law enforcement and for payment in full at the time of service. Call 505-565-0548

Long John Silver's: Discounts available depending on service: Call 864-4481

Marty's Muffler Shop Inc.: 10% Discount on all repairs 864-8033.

listing. Call 830-2043 or email info@nmbiz.com

Paradigm Physical Therapy Belen: 10% Discount on One Month Gym Membership, Call 861-1200

Performance Automotive: 10% off on all parts and labor for all GBCC Members: Present card at time of service. Call 505-861-1468 for more information

Professional Contracting: Senior Discount: 505-859-4220: Laura Rosales

Rutilio's: Discounts available depending on service Call 864-0093

Scentsy Independent Consultant: Nichole Shiplet: 505-414-3017: \$5.00 off purchase \$40.00 or more.

Sew What?! 10% discount on multi-piece orders, 565-2677

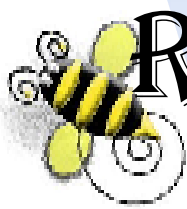
US Bank: 20% off standard checks and reorders. *Belen only!* Call 861-1900

Valencia Animal Clinic: 10% off annual vaccinations, 864-4075

Valencia County News-Bulletin: 40% ad Discount on monthly Chamber Page, 864-4472

Wright Choice Learning Center: Discounts available depending on service Call 864-2530

**GBCC CHAMBER
APRIL NETWORKING
LUNCHEON:**



RESCHEDULED

JUNE 3RD

\$14.00PP

11:30-1:00

PETE'S CAFE

**PAVLOS PANAGIOTOPOULOS IS
THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER
“TAXES & INVESTING”**



U.S. Small Business
Administration



The Three Step Process: **Disaster Loans**

About Disaster Loans

The U. S. Small Business Administration (SBA) provides low-interest, long-term disaster loans to businesses of all sizes, private non-profit organizations, homeowners, and renters to repair or replace uninsured/underinsured disaster damaged property. SBA disaster loans offer an affordable way for individuals and businesses to recover from declared disasters.

STEP 1: Apply for Loan

- Apply: 1) online; 2) in-person at a disaster center; or 3) by mail.
- Apply online at the SBA's secure website disasterloan.sba.gov/ela.
- As a business of any size, you may borrow up to \$2 million for physical damage.
- As a small business, small agricultural cooperative, small business engaged in aquaculture, or private non-profit organization you may borrow up to \$2 million for Economic Injury.
- As a small business, you may apply for a maximum business loan (physical and EIDL) of \$2 million.
- As a homeowner you may borrow up to \$200,000 to repair/replace your disaster damaged primary residence.
- As a homeowner or renter, you may borrow up to \$40,000 to repair/replace damaged personal property.

STEP 2: Property Verified and Loan Processing Decision Made

- SBA **reviews your credit** before conducting an inspection to verify your losses.
- An SBA verifier will **estimate** the total physical loss to your disaster damaged property.
- A loan officer will determine your **eligibility** during processing, after reviewing any insurance or other recoveries. SBA can make a loan while your insurance recovery is pending.
- A loan officer works with you to provide all the necessary information needed to reach a loan determination. Our goal is to arrive at a decision on your application within 2 - 3 weeks.
- A loan officer will contact you to discuss the loan recommendation and your next steps. You will also be advised in writing of all loan decisions.

STEP 3: Loan Closed and Funds Disbursed

- SBA will prepare and send your Loan Closing Documents to you for your signature.
- Once we receive your signed Loan Closing Documents, an initial disbursement will be made to you within 5 days:
 - Physical damage:
 - \$25,000
 - Economic injury (working capital):
 - \$25,000 (In addition to the Physical damage disbursement)
- A case manager will be assigned to work with you to help you meet all loan conditions. They will also schedule subsequent disbursements until you receive the full loan amount.
- Your loan may be adjusted after closing due to your changing circumstances, such as increasing the loan for unexpected repair costs or reducing the loan due to additional insurance proceeds.

For more information or to find a local disaster center, contact SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339).

sba.gov/disaster

August 2018 v1

Required Documentation

The following documents are required to process your application and reach a loan decision. Your Loan Officer and Case Manager will assist you to ensure that you submit the proper documentation. Approval decision and disbursement of loan funds is dependent on receipt of your documentation.

BUSINESSES	HOMEOWNERS AND RENTERS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Loan Application (SBA Form 5) completed and signed by business applicant. • IRS Form 4506-T completed and signed by Applicant business, each principal owning 20% or more of the applicant business, each general partner or managing member and, for any owner who has more than a 50% ownership in an affiliate business. (Affiliates include business parent, subsidiaries, and/or businesses with common ownership or management). • Complete copies, including all schedules, of the most recent Federal income tax returns for the applicant business; an explanation if not available. • Personal Financial Statement (SBA Form 413) completed, signed and dated by the applicant (if a sole proprietorship), each principal owning 20% or more of the applicant business, each general partner or managing member. • Schedule of Liabilities listing all fixed debts (SBA Form 2202 may be used). <p>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT MAY BE NECESSARY TO PROCESS YOUR APPLICATION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete copies, including all schedules, of the most recent Federal income tax returns for each principal owning 20% or more of the applicant business, each general partner or managing member, and each affiliate when any owner has more than a 50% ownership in the affiliate business. Affiliates include, but are not limited to, business parents, subsidiaries, and/or other businesses with common ownership or management. • If the most recent Federal income tax return has not been filed, a year-end profit and loss statement and balance sheet for that tax year is acceptable. • A current year-to-date profit and loss statement. • Additional Filing Requirements (SBA Form 1368) providing monthly sales figures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home Loan Application (SBA Form 5c) completed and signed by Applicant and Co-Applicant. • IRS Form 4506-T completed and signed by Applicant and Co-Applicant. <div data-bbox="1197 628 1860 738" data-label="Text"> <p>APPLY FOR ASSISTANCE AT disasterloan.sba.gov/ela</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1461 773 1575 933" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="1455 940 1589 979" data-label="Text"> <p>Or Call</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1163 990 1890 1031" data-label="Text"> <p>1-800-659-2955 (SBA Customer Service Center)</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1155 1091 1904 1130" data-label="Text"> <p>1-800-877-8339 (TTY: Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing)</p> </div>

For more information or to find a local disaster center, contact SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (TTY: 1-800-877-8339).

sba.gov/disaster

August 2018 v1



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GOLF CLUB IN
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**INCLUDES BASKET OF
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PRESENTS:

THE 2020 TIM LARDNER MEMORIAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, May 29



Call 505-864-8091

Belenchamber.com
for more information



Greater
Belen Chamber
of Commerce

WELLS
FARGO

Tim Lardner Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament

TO: The Tim Lardner Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament Sponsors

FROM: RAY VIGIL, 2020 Greater Belen Chamber Board President, *PNM Resources*, 2020 GBCC Board Members and Rhona Baca Espinoza, Executive Director, GBCC.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration in sponsorship of our tournament and hope that you will support our efforts in 2020 to provide educational assistance to our Belen area students. We are proud that this golf tournament that provides our scholarship has been renamed to honor a mainstay and hero in our community and Chamber office, Tim Lardner. **The Tim Lardner Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament** will be held on **Friday, May 29, 2020** with registration starting at 8:00 am at the beautiful Tierra Del Sol Country Club, breakfast bar and shotgun start at 9:30 am. A burger bar buffet will be provided during the award's presentations after the tournament.

This year you have **several sponsorship options**. Please indicate your preference on the application form enclosed with this letter.

Your sponsorship supports the advancement of the education process in our community and will further the Chamber's efforts to provide scholarships and other educational assistance to our students. There are three entities your sponsorship will benefit:

1) The Greater Belen Educational Assistance Foundation a 501 c 3 non-profit with the purpose of providing educational assistance to students in the greater Belen area . Our goal this year is to raise \$5000 for the Greater Belen Educational Assistance Foundation; all monies contributed to this Foundation are tax-deductible.

2) Belen High School Programs

3) Greater Belen Chamber of Commerce

Your business will be advertised at the Golf Tournament, in the *Chamber Voice Newsletter* and on the Chamber Page in the *News-Bulletin* and on the Chamber web-site @ www.belenchamber.com.

We hope you will join us as a sponsor, golfer, door prize or ditty bag contributor.

See you on **Friday, May 29th, 2020**

Please reply by May 24th to ensure your name or organization's name will be placed on advertising, banners, and hole sponsor signs.

Call 864-8091 if you have questions or Rhona@belenchamber.org. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Ray Vigil

GBCC Board President

Tim Lardner Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament

Sponsorship Levels

Title Sponsor....\$2000.00: SOLD

Provide Hole Sponsor Sign and Hang Your Banner
All posters, flyers, program will include your logo as the Title Sponsor
All Newspaper advertising designates Title Sponsorship
2-Teams of 4 Players

Platinum.....\$1,000.00

Provide Hole Sponsor Sign and Hang Your Banner
Newspaper Advertising
Team of 4 Players

Gold.....\$750.00

Provide Hole Sponsor Sign and Hang Your Banner
Newspaper Advertising
2 Players

Silver.....\$250.00

Hang Your Banner

Hole Sponsor...\$100.00

Provide Hole Sponsor Sign

Tim Lardner Memorial Scholarship Sponsor \$500

Name on Scholarship Banner

All Sponsors

Listing on Program and Promotional Ads

To register or for more Information contact:

Greater Belen Chamber of commerce
712 Dalies Ave.
Belen, NM 87002
864-8091
Rhona@belenchamber.org
www.belenchamber.org

Raffle and Goody Bag Items Needed.



Presents:

The Tim Lardner Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament

Friday, May 29, 2020

8:00 am Registration

9:30am Shotgun - Scramble

\$125.00 per person/\$400.00 Team of 4

Includes golf with cart, range balls and Breakfast Bar AND burger bar lunch

Prizes

1st, 2nd and 3rd place and Closest to the Pin and Longest Drive travertine and granite awards sponsored & created by Rocky Mountain Stone

Tournament Sponsorship

Company Name _____

Level: _____

Check # _____ Amount: _____

Player Registration

Team Name: _____

Player 1 _____

Player 2 _____

Player 3 _____

Player 4 _____

Contact Name _____

Address: _____

Telephone: Home _____ Cell _____

E-mail _____ Check # _____

Please Invoice

MC/VISA

**FREE ENTRY!
DOWNTOWN BELEN**

FOOD TRUCK & MUSIC FESTIVAL

10A-9P

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH



**Becker Street Festival/
Rio Abajo**



**Greater
Belen Chamber
of Commerce**



**Classic Car Show! Wellness Fair! Art Walk!
Fun Vendors! Dance Contests! Karaoke!**

BELENCHAMBER.COM/505-864-8091





Public Education Department

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR

Ryan Stewart, Cabinet Secretary

March 27, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions About the Extended Public School Closure

On Friday, March 27, 2020 Governor Lujan Grisham announced that New Mexico public education will shift to a learn-at-home model as schools remain closed for the rest of the academic year. This decision, which was made in consultation with the New Mexico Public Education Department and the New Mexico Department of Health, is part of a two-pronged plan to protect New Mexicans from COVID-19 and ensure that children are protected, fed and educated and that families are supported through this crisis.

The Public Education Department has put together this document with support from the Early Childhood Education and Care Department and the Children, Youth and Families Department to answer some of your most frequently asked questions.

Q: What is the plan to continue education during the school closure period?

Each School District and public charter school will develop a Continuous Learning Plan that meets the needs of their community.

Q: What does “Continuous Learning” mean?

Following our colleagues in Kansas, the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) has adopted the term “continuous learning,” recognizing that instructional modalities will vary by community and, importantly, should be student centered. Purposefully, terms such as “virtual learning,” “e-learning,” or “distance learning,” are avoided in an attempt to support the individualized learning needs of all students. New Mexico is a state that is grounded in diversity, and this strength should allow us to demonstrate equity, inclusivity, and creativity in supporting the needs of all students.

Q. How will the PED support students who do not have smart devices or Internet connections?

Internet access will be an issue for many families in New Mexico. Staff and students may lack the resources to connect remotely. PED encourages districts and charter schools to reach out to local internet service providers to see what options are available for community members. PED also encourages districts and charter schools to think about learning kits and other hands-on educational materials that meet the educational needs of students as well as family engagement needs.

PED is also looking at potential federal and state funding streams to help districts purchase things like laptops, tablets and mobile hotspots.

Q. How many hours of instruction should we expect each day?

Continuous learning focuses on critical standards and the skills needed for grade advancement. Our recommended guidelines for maximum student commitment in terms of direct instruction *each day* are as follows. Additional reading time or storytelling is always encouraged.

- Pre-K : 30 minutes
- Grades K-1: 45 minutes
- Grades 2-3: 60 minutes
- Grades 4-5: 90 minutes
- Grades 6-12: 30 minutes per teacher (3 hours max in a day)

Q. How will this work for students who receive special education services?

Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) may NOT be universally modified. There is no waiver from IDEA requirements, including IEP and eligibility timelines. Schools should take into consideration alternate methods for providing educational services to children with disabilities age 3-21 who are receiving IEP services, such as, teleservices, learning packets, or virtual/online lessons.

Special education teachers and related service providers will continue to work on IEP and evaluation paperwork within required timelines. IEP meetings may be held via phone or in another video conferencing format such as Zoom or Google Hangouts as appropriate. LEAs must ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, each student with a disability can be provided the special education and related services identified in the student's IEP.

PED recognizes there are students with complex needs for whom the virtual/on-line program may not be a feasible option, even with additional accommodations or modifications. The IEP team will need to discuss and document within the IEP or an addendum the agreed upon alternative plan for providing the requisite special education and related services to those students through Prior Written Notice (PWN).

Q. Will students be required to complete state assessments?

No. A waiver for federally required assessments was submitted and approved by the US Department of Education. The federally required, state-wide, English Language Proficiency assessment (ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS for ELLs) was completed on March 6, 2020 before the school closures.

The PED is working to provide online remote proctoring options for those high school seniors still needing to test for the State Seal of Bilingualism-Biliteracy. More information will be forthcoming.

Q. What does this mean for high school seniors?

High school seniors will earn credits and achieve eligibility for graduation by completing a locally designed demonstration of competency, which may include:

- Passing a locally designed test,
- Completing a locally designed series of assignments,
- Achieving a set cut score on a college entrance exam,
- Demonstrating applied work experience.

Q. Will high school graduation requirements be waived?

The PED waiver will remove the requirements for seniors to attend a minimum of 1,080 hours of instruction. All students are still required to complete at least 24 credits of required and elective coursework. End of semester final grades should be calculated, reported and transcribed. PED is encouraging schools and districts to adopt a pass/no credit grading system for the last grading period.

Q. What do I tell my senior who is concerned about meeting graduation requirements?

Schools must identify students in danger of not being able to demonstrate course completion and focus support on them. Students will have an extension until June 19 to demonstrate competency. Those who fail to do so will be offered credit recovery in the summer and will have the ability to appeal to the local school board and to the Secretary. No student can be denied graduation due to lack of access to demonstrate competency.

Q. What about Prom and Graduation? Are those milestone events cancelled?

Proms will be postponed or canceled pending the prevailing public health order at the time.

Graduation ceremonies will likely be postponed until it is safe to resume mass gatherings. Many districts have already committed to hosting an event, even if the ceremony needs to be postponed for a few months.

Q. How will my student take college entrance exams?

Some of our high school seniors have already taken some college entrance exams and we anticipate that higher education institutions will likely waive entrance exam requirements for this year. Both ACT and College Board are looking at offering exams in the summer.

AP exams will be offered online for all students to access from home. Exams will last only 45 minutes and cover material that students should have covered up to March. If students need support for access or technology, we will work with districts and schools to ensure they are supported. AP exam dates will be announced by the College Board.

Q. Will school employees continue to be paid?

Employees will continue to be paid. Districts should continue to have them perform the activities listed in the [Business Operations During School Closure Memo that PED previously issued on March 17th](#).

Q. What about contractors? Will they continue to be paid?

With an extended school closure, the language in bus drivers' contracts will govern compensation. Bus contractors will be encouraged to continue to operate bus routes in order to deliver food, deliver hardcopy lessons, pick up completed work to bring back to the school, and perform any other necessary functions as requested by schools and districts.

With an extended school closure, contract language will govern contractors' compensation. Special education and other related service contractors will be encouraged to provide virtual services, collaborate with general education teachers, maintain and update documentation, and complete other activities at the direction of their schools and districts.

Q. Will schools continue to offer meal service for students?

PED will continue working with districts, tribal schools, shelters, and CYFD to operate meal programs just as we have done since March 16. PED is making every effort to provide workers with personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure their safety over an extended closure, and PED is mobilizing to deliver masks and gloves to all of our districts.

Additionally, PED is applying to be able to distribute EBT cards to qualifying families to purchase meals with their free breakfast/lunch allotment.

Q. How will PED continue to address the educational needs of at-risk students during this time?

The maintenance of focused attention on at-risk students will continue even as we transition from brick-and-mortar sited learning to continuous learning outside of the classroom. In addition, the work of Equity Councils must continue and the content of the Readiness Assessment provides an opportunity to revisit the steps that can be taken to ensure that student groups identified in the Martinez and Yazzie Consolidated Lawsuit are included in our current processes and systems. Family and community engagement should continue. This is a great time for school and district staff to reach out to families through videoconferencing and telephone calls. Educators are presented with a tremendous opportunity to make individualized connections with students and families and to transform education.

The PED Language and Culture Division will work directly with school districts and charter schools to provide guidance and technical assistance during the extended closure period.

The PED is committed to working with districts and charter schools to ensure students return to an education system that ensures ALL students are healthy, secure in their identity, and holistically prepared for college, career, and life.

Q: How can the needs of the whole child be met during this time? (i.e. language development, music, physical health)

The PED has developed an Educator's Toolkit that can provide practice for students as well as educational support to families to help keep students academically engaged. The resource was developed by members of the PED team to provide guidance around how to support student learning during these unique circumstances. Importantly, this toolkit is designed for temporary school closure. PED will provide further, comprehensive guidance due to extended closure.

PED's Safe & Healthy Schools Bureau has also produced a list of [Physical and Health Education Resources](#) to compliment our [Academic Enrichment Guide for Families](#).

Q: What does this mean for school athletics?

School athletics are expected to resume in the summer with practices, camps, etc. The decision about Varsity Letters will be made locally. The New Mexico Athletic Association (NMAA) rule says that if the child participates in varsity athletics or activities, they are eligible to letter. For high school students, college recruiters are leveraging game film and speaking with students and families on the phone.

Q: Will parents and other New Mexicans be staying at home for the remainder of the school year? If not, what provisions have been made for safe, healthy child care?

Child care (both home- and center-based) remains available to serve our essential workers across the state.

The Governor's Office and ECECD are also incentivizing child care facilities to stay open and matching parents in need of child care with providers who have vacancies.

In addition, we are allowing friends, families, and neighbors (FFN) to register as temporary emergency child care providers (provided they pass appropriate background checks and complete health and safety training).

Q: How has the state worked with Tribal leaders on this plan? How does this affect BIE schools and students from tribal communities that are already under great stress?

The PED continues to collaborate with Tribal Education Directors, the BIE and Indian Education Directors within districts and charter schools to ensure we are provided services to our Native American students and communities. The PED will provide guidance to school districts and charter schools regarding requirements for Tribal Consultation for Spring Budget planning purposes. The NMPED Government to Government meeting will be postponed and rescheduled in alignment with the Health Order. Tribes are strongly encouraged to reach out to the PED as needed during the extended closure period. PED will continue to hold regular calls with Tribal Education Directors and Indian Education Directors and collaborate across agencies to meet the needs of Tribal communities and their students.

Q: Child abuse reports have dropped since the onset of the COVID-19 crisis, possibly because children are not in school for teachers to file reports. What is the state doing to ensure that children won't be more vulnerable to abuse, and will you have the resources to continue that work for the next two months?

Teachers and other mandatory reporters are the eyes and ears of the Children, Youth & Families Department (CYFD). The Department has seen a drop in calls since schools closed. Just as during summer months, we rely on the community to report any suspected child abuse or neglect by calling #SAFE from your cell phone or 855-333-SAFE from a landline. CYFD's Statewide Central Intake remains around-the-clock operations to take reports and provide resources and information.

The Protective Services Division is still investigating reported abuse and neglect 24/7 using special COVID screening protocols. Case workers are still performing scheduled monthly visits using videoconferencing whenever it is safe to do so. CYFD continues to work with the Department of Health and the courts to ensure an appropriate balance of families' rights and connections, the requirements of court-ordered visitations, and the health and safety of the children in our care.

What services are available for victims of domestic violence in light of the stay-at-home order? What are domestic violence shelters and agencies doing to continue providing services?

Domestic violence agencies provide immediate shelter and a wide range of supportive services for victims/survivors of family violence, domestic violence, and dating violence and their dependents. Services involving face-to-face contact may be curtailed while social distancing guidance is in effect from health officials. However, providers will work to respond to people in crisis and provide alternate forms of contact (like dedicated cell phones for people needing help and provision of hotel rooms). The goal is to help families in crisis and to recover from the trauma that arises from surviving unsafe or violent situations.

With the stay-at-home order, what is being done for those that need mental health services in this time of crisis?

CYFD Behavioral Health Services (BHS) leadership collaborated with the Human Services Department to provide a Letter of Direction to Medicaid funded providers for Medicaid services to provide adaptations to allow for telehealth adaptations. Telehealth adaptations can be telephone or video-based visits and any Behavioral Health Provider may provide these services during the crisis with emergency rules in place. BHS is also working with community partners such as the New Mexico Crisis Access Line (NMCAL, 1-855-NMCRISIS) on other technological solutions to provide emergency mental health services across the state.

Q: Does this order apply to colleges and universities?

No. Public colleges and universities are not included in the order. However, the governor strongly urged regents and governing boards to move to online models to the greatest extent possible. Nearly all public higher education institutions in New Mexico are shifting to an online learning model at this time. Students should connect directly with their college or university regarding each institution's operating plan for the remainder of the semester. You can find contact information for your college or university [here](#).



Surviving the COVID-19 Pandemic In Belen



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There is a lot of information out about what individuals should do to protect themselves from the COVID-19. But, we know that businesses are also critical to recovering from this process. The resources below are on the Belen business webpages. Check their Surviving a Recession/Pandemic section.

Pandemic Planning and Business Preparation

- ✓ How the Coronavirus Can Affect Your Business
- ✓ Plan to Stay in Business
- ✓ Coronavirus Updates
- ✓ Create an Emergency Action Plan
- ✓ Businesses and Employers Plan and Response
- ✓ How Businesses Should Handle the Coronavirus Outbreak

Want a Competitive Edge?



Minorities/Women/Youth

Veterans

Manufacturing

Agriculture

Restaurants/Hospitality

Retail

Data Centers

Logistics

Construction

Business of Art

BioTech

Health

Wood Industry

And More Industries

Helping Your Employees and Your Workplace

- ✓ 8 Strategies to Set Up Remote Work During the Outbreak
- ✓ Public Health Management of Persons with Potential COVID-19
- ✓ Help for Employees Who Lost Pay
- ✓ Interim Guide for Business Employers
- ✓ OSHA's Guide for Preparing Workplaces
- ✓ Questions Employers Should Ask
- ✓ CDC Environmental Cleaning Recommendations
- ✓ COVID-19: A Preparedness Checklist

Potential Financial Help

- ✓ Business Loss? Tax Refund
- ✓ Workplace, School, and Home Guidance
- ✓ SBA Disaster Assistance for Businesses Impacted by COVID-19
- ✓ Interim Guidance for Risk Assessment
- ✓ Filing a Business Disaster Claim
- ✓ Coronavirus Updates

More links are being added all the time.

Access everything in 90+ languages!

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<https://www.Resources4Business.info/Belen/Recession.html>