



Did You Know...?

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EPSS: Educational Plan for Student Success

No Child Left Behind (NCLB) holds schools accountable for improved student achievement. The New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) has developed statewide standards of excellence which establish expectations for all New Mexico public school students. These standards require every school district in New Mexico to develop an Educational Plan for Student Success (EPSS).

EPSS is the driving force of the school improvement framework in New Mexico. Districts/schools are required to invite parents to participate in the EPSS process. EPSS unlocks doors and gives families the opportunity to be involved in school district improvement activities at a systemic level. EPSS is your key to making positive changes in your district/school that will help your child succeed.



What is EPSS?

The Educational Plan for Student Success (EPSS) is a long range strategic plan to promote student success and continuous school improvement. EPSS is a *written* guide for the district and schools. It gives a clear picture of where the district is today, set targets or milestones for the future and documents progress toward district/school goals.

Your school district/school EPSS is developed each year based on the identified needs of every student. Progress is assessed regularly throughout the year and the results are submitted to the NMPED Priority Schools Bureau at the end of each school year. The Educational Plan for School Success includes:

- An annual set of measurable goals and strategies to drive academic achievement for all students.
- New initiatives and existing quality programs and services for the school year that are *student focused* and aligned with the New Mexico Standards for Excellence.
- Evidence of support for each EPSS goal that aligns human and financial resources (state and federal funds), community partnerships and staff development activities to achieve these goals.
- Results of mid and annual reviews of assessment information, learner outcomes and other information to show progress toward each goal.

Who develops the EPSS for my school district/school?

All stakeholders, **including parents**, are involved in the development and implementation of the plan. *Yes, parents are an important part of every EPSS!* Our children have more opportunities for success and improve their levels of achievement when everyone in the community is a part of the plan. Parent and community involvement is essential as the school district/school identifies the diverse needs of students and develops strategies for continual improvement.

Every district/school is responsible for establishing their *EPSS steering committee*. This group is responsible for initiating, planning, and coordinating improvement efforts. The EPSS steering committee must include representative stakeholders from district/school, parents in the community and business partnerships.



How is EPSS different from school improvement plans used in the past?

- EPSS is *not* a plan that is developed by one person. Many voices, ideas and research come together to build the Educational Plan for Student Success in each school district. The NMPED requires that representatives from each stakeholder group are involved with the plan.
- The EPSS process requires your district/school to evaluate their current practices in terms of where students are performing according to state standards and benchmarks. As they gather this information, the results will show which strategies are working for students and show areas needing improvement. This information is the base line for developing goals.
- *The annual EPSS goals and strategies must be measurable.* EPSS is not a list of what districts/schools are doing or would like to do. EPSS includes specific student learning goals that are consistent with the mission, beliefs, and core values of the District. These goals must meet identified student needs and must be aligned with state and federal mandates.
- District/schools must review and use their current data (test results, records, parent surveys, etc.) to design *research based strategies* to improve the academic achievement of all students. Data drives the plan. EPSS is not based on a textbook publisher or commercial curriculum.
- Information is continuously collected so that the district/school will be able to interpret the outcomes of the strategies they are using in meaningful ways. The EPSS is evaluated on an on-going basis so that changes or adjustments can be made throughout the year.
- Professional development for the district is designed to prepare *all staff* to meet the EPSS goals.

What does EPSS include?

- Student centered, measurable goals based on analyzed data that shows current level of performance and expected outcomes.
Example: The number of students scoring proficient in reading will increase by at least 3% from 47% to 50%, as measured by the results on the NMSBA.
- Research based strategies and activities to reach the goal.
- Results of mid year and annual review that show the stages of the strategy or activity: planning, progressing, or completed. The name of district/school administrator responsible is also included for each goal area.
- Documentation of systems alignment (including person(s) responsible) that identifies: resources (available and needed), implementation timeline, evaluation timeline, professional development, parent / community involvement and evidence of completion.



How can I learn more about my district/school EPSS?

Your district/school is responsible for sharing the information in their EPSS and reporting progress to parents on a regular basis. *If you haven't seen your district and school EPSS, contact your child's teacher, school principal or district office. Find out how you can get involved with the EPSS process!*

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