

Dear CMS Family, Friends, and Advocates,

I hope this letter finds you well and ready for a Call to Action. I am writing because I have become aware of some rule changes being proposed by the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) which I feel would *negatively impact our current four-day school week schedule*. The proposed rule would require all school districts to meet a minimum of 180 student days per academic year, rather than to simply meet the 1,140 instructional hour requirement that is set out in law.

Currently, CMS has a 150 day instructional calendar. It has served our community well, it meets the 1,140 hour requirement, and it preserves our District's already limited resources. Studies have shown that the longer weekend provided in our four-day school week gives students more rest and time for extracurricular activities, which can lead to better attendance and improved academic performance.

NMPED is attempting to create a requirement that does *not* exist in New Mexico law, and therefore, exert authority they do not have: [HB130](#) (Please follow this hyperlink to find the final version of the applicable law, HB 130: HB 130 . Current instructional time requirements are found in Section 1 beginning on page one of this bill.)

Furthermore, the proposed rule change from NMPED not only challenges the efficacy of our current school calendar, but also threatens our local control. Our school community thrives by being able to tailor our calendar to meet the unique needs and values of CMS students, families, and staff. NMPED's proposed mandate strips away this local control, and undermines our ability to make decisions that best serve our District.

We need your help in retaining the autonomy that has allowed CMS to flourish, and ensures that decisions about our school calendar remain in the hands of those who know our community best—CMS. As school employees, parents, and residents of the District, I hope you share these concerns and can *voice your opinion* about protecting the unique calendar that has been instrumental in helping CES/CMS stay among the top performing 25% of schools across the state, and CHS stay among the top performing 10% of high schools across the state.

Please take a moment to review the NMPED “proposed” changes in the 6.10.5 [Proposed Rules](#) (Follow this hyperlink to find the proposed rule change for 6.10.5 NMAC, School Calendar Requirements). You can share your thoughts by submitting written input on the proposed rules via e-mail or mail.

*The email address is: [Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov](mailto:Rule.Feedback@ped.nm.gov) Note: When submitting feedback, please be sure to specify which rule(s) you are submitting feedback for.*

Together, we make a difference for our students. Thank you for your continued support.  
Tana Daughtery - Superintendent, Cloudcroft Municipal Schools