COVID-19 Response Toolkit gets thumbs up

Written by Staff Reports Friday, 18 September 2020 03:26

ALBUQUERQUE — American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten, American Federation of Teachers New Mexico President Stephanie Ly and Executive Vice President Kathy Chavez released the following statement Sept. 9:

On Aug. 19, AFT President Randi Weingarten and AFT New Mexico President Stephanie Ly alerted Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham that many Pre-K-12 school re-openings around the state have not met the standard set by her administration for safety and consistency. As a union of educators, public employees, and healthcare workers, we outlined the following conditions necessary for a safe return to in-person instruction:

- 1. Low infection rates and adequate testing in any region where in-school learning is being considered.
- 2. A public health infrastructure to provide support to school districts to implement effective disease surveillance, testing, tracing and isolation protocols in schools.
- 3. Public health safeguards in schools. This includes:

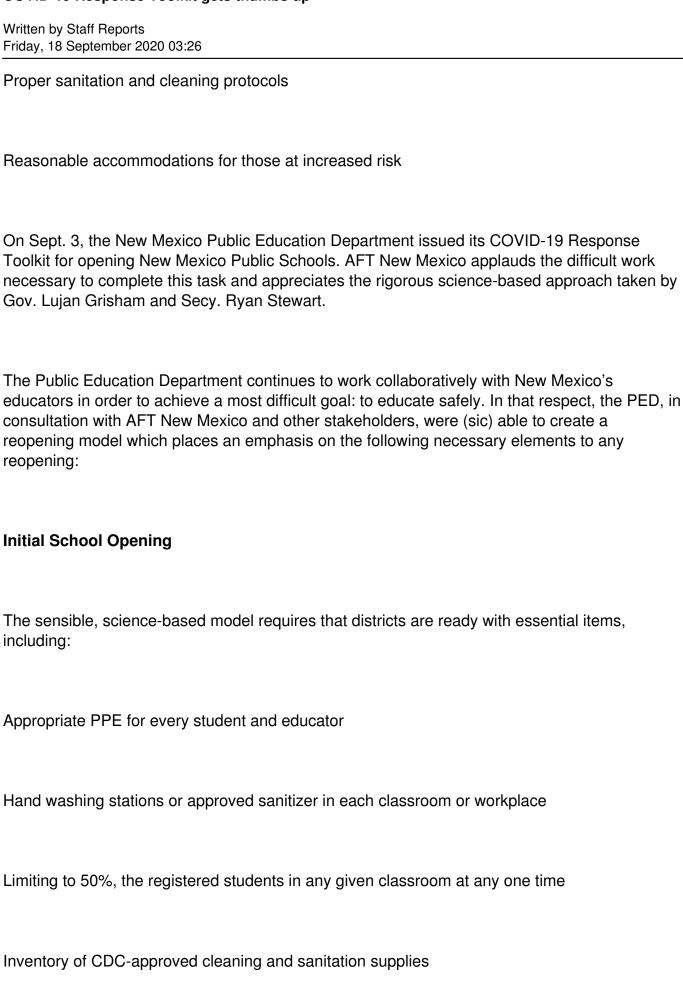
Physical distancing of a minimum of 6 feet

Face coverings required for all, and additional personal protective equipment equivalent to healthcare professionals is provided when close contact is unavoidable

Proper and well-maintained ventilation system

Fully stocked hand washing facilities and availability of hand sanitizer

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Sufficient custodial resources to insure completion of CDC cleaning and sanitation standards

Ventilation systems and procedures designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 with a deadline of Sept. 28, for necessary air filtration (MERV 13 or equivalent) for all spaces where students or staff are present

Positive Test Reporting and Response

Immediate reporting and consultation with the PED for confirmed cases

24-hour reporting to families of students and staff

Sensible and clearly identified standards for school closings and reopenings where cases are confirmed in the school

"AFT New Mexico will continue its relentless advocacy to ensure that we provide our communities with safe education so that we can all continue growing New Mexico's most important natural resource for the future: our children."