

Comments on the Proposal To Delay the Effective Date
Of 2.81.11 NMAC Sections 6-10

I am providing a comment in agreement with postponing this rule change until July 31, 2021. I am affected by this rule change and now with COVID19 and with current budget issues we are having at PHD, I am unable to hire appropriately to help with vacancies before my possible departure of retiring by 12/31/20. This added time would help me tremendously, and my program status. Please take this into consideration.

Vanessa Tavarez-Corral
Las Cruces
4/21/20

The proposed rule change amendment delaying the rule change until July 31, 2021 makes a great deal of sense. Please extend many thanks to the NMRHCA staff and members involved in this amendment to delay the effective date to 7/31/21.

I support this amendment to the rule change to delay the effective date to July 31, 2021 one hundred percent.

Daniel A. Collins
4/21/20

I was quite pleased to receive the email with information about the proposed rule change to the subsidy for healthcare insurance through NMRHCA. I wholeheartedly support the proposed rule change. Thank you for your concerns for State Employees.

Denise M. Narvaez
4/22/20

I wanted to provide my opinion regarding changing the dates/retirement/health changes from January 1 2021 to July 31 2021. I am totally in favor of the change and hope that you all strongly consider adapting the date change.

Thank you in advance,
Linda Elli
5/5/20

I am a public employee that will be affected by the proposed rule change. I will be eligible for retirement in January 2021. Without the amendment change to July of 2021 I will miss out on 21% of the healthcare benefit. This is a significant amount in my position. After eighteen years of service I would lose this percentage by only 28 days. I am sure that I am not the only one that would be affected. Please pass the proposed amended date to July 2021.

Thank You
David Trujillo
5/8/20

Due to COVID 19, the ending to this school year has been difficult and with not knowing what's in store for the fall, I am not going to leave my staff or students in times of turmoil. There is too much to get done and that an administrator takes care of in the way of distance learning. If the rule is not changed, it forces me to retire mid-year. We still do not know what to expect from this pandemic, even come December. It will force many principals, teachers, or anyone facing the same situation, to leave mid-year. This is unfair to staff, students and parents. We are dedicated employees and like to finish strong. With that being said, I am submitting my support for the rule change to go into effect in July 2021, rather than January 2021.

Thank you,
Clara DeArmond
Milan, NM
5/14/20

My name is Candy Salazar. I am a School Counselor in Grants, New Mexico. I am 47 years old and in June of this year, will have 25 years in public education with the great state of New Mexico. To avoid the retirement before 55 deadline which will result in my not receiving any premiums paid until I turn 55, I was being forced to retire by December 2020. Due to COVID 19, the ending to this school year has been difficult and with not knowing what's in store for the fall, I don't want to leave colleagues and co-work, as well as students and their families in times of turmoil. If the rule is not changed, it forces me to retire mid-year. We still do not know what to expect from this pandemic, even come December. It will force many principals, teachers, or anyone facing the same situation, to leave mid-year. This is unfair to staff, students and parents. We are dedicated employees and like to finish strong. With that being said, I am submitting my support for the rule change to go into effect in July 2021, rather than January 2021.

Candy Salazar
Grants, NM
5/15/20

I am writing to you to request the the effective date of the amendment to Rule 2.81.11 of the New Mexico Administrative Code be changed from January 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021.

I am an educator who will be affected by this change and would have to retire mid year as to not forego the eligibility of health care subsidy, leaving my school in search of a replacement. In any time this is difficult, but amid the COVID 19 pandemic, it will be even more difficult. When I sign my contract, I sign as a commitment for the entire year and want to fulfill my commitment to my employer, students, and families. Please consider the impact that this rule change would make on the education of our New Mexico students and extend the effective date to July 31, 2021.

Furthermore, I implore you to reconsider the rule change and consider options that would allow us to keep educators in our state.

Great appreciation for accepting our comments.
Sincerely,

Jennifer Lara
5/18/20

I wanted to express my gratitude to all of you for proposing amendments to delay implementation of the age 55 requirement. This proposal will assist those of us who are financially conflicted as to what the right decision is during these uncertain times? Thank you and I hope you ALL stay well♥

Respectfully,
Annette Thompson-Martinez
5/22/20

Ruidoso Municipal Schools

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Angela Romero, Principal
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Director of Special Education
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Mayra Lucero
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Dr. George Bickert
Superintendent



Mr. Jason Edmister
Associate Superintendent

Clinton Taylor
Director of Finance

April 24, 2020

New Mexico Retiree Healthcare Authority
PO Box 25406
Albuquerque, NM 87125

Dear Board of Directors:

Ruidoso Municipal School District respectfully requests that the effective date of amendment to Rule 2.81.11 of the New Mexico Administrative Code be changed to July 31, 2021, or extended to a later date.

The proposed change is a good first step, but this matter will need to be revisited again in the upcoming fiscal year. Our district has faced difficulty in recruiting and hiring qualified personnel even at the beginning of a school year. If the rule is left as is, with the effective date of January 1st, school districts will be faced with replacing personnel who have retired mid-year when there are few to no experienced applicants to fill the vacated positions.

We are grateful that your entity is accepting public comments regarding this matter and are confident you will make the appropriate decision.

Sincerely,

Dr. George Bickert
Superintendent



Dexter Consolidated Schools

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May 1, 2020

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Member

NM Tax Exempt
#01-50309500-4

Dear New Mexico Retiree Health Care Authority

Please let this letter serve as my support of the proposed rule change which would amend the effective date of existing rule 2.81.11 NMAC – Establishing Subsidy Levels on the Basis of Age and Creditable Service amending sections 6 through 10 to July 31, 2021. The purpose of this amendment is to delay the effective date of the minimum age and years of service requirement to coincide with the school year.


I understand the need for New Mexico Retiree Health Care Authority to remain solvent in the future, and raising the age limit to 55 is a possible solution. The amendment to change the effective date from January 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021 only makes sense since the majority of entities that participate in the NMRCHA are school systems that operate on a July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. Typically, school staff retire at the end of the school year, so changing the effective date on the new rules to July 31, 2021 aligns with current retirement trends. If the rule is left at the effective date of January 1, 2021, this will require many school staff to consider retiring mid-year which is detrimental not only to the school district in having to find replacement staff mid-year but is also detrimental to our New Mexico students in having a change in teachers, administrators, counselors, custodians, etc. mid-year. In addition, in order to meet New Mexico Educational Retirement Board requirements, it would mean school staff would have to retire effective December 1, 2020 to meet the January 1, 2021 NMRHCA requirement. This could result in not only staff leaving mid-year, but staff leaving several weeks prior to mid-year. In the education field, it is hard enough to find and hire staff in the summer months. It is almost impossible when having to find replacement staff during the school year.

As educators, each year when we sign our contracts, we are committing to a full year of service to our school, colleagues, and most importantly to our students. If the existing date of January 1, 2021 stays intact, many educators across the state who are eligible to retire will be left with the dilemma of whether to fulfill their commitment of working a full year resulting in foregoing the eligibility for the subsidy or choose to ignore that commitment to their contract and their profession to retire mid-year to be eligible for the subsidy. This is not a choice that anyone committed to educating students should have to make.

Therefore, I do ask that you strongly consider changing the effective date to July 31, 2021 rather than January 1, 2021 so that this year's educators can complete a full school year without having to make the difficult decision to retire mid-year.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely


Lesa Dodd
Superintendent