OCTOBER 2025

ERB Connect

The latest news from the New Mexico Educational Retirement Board

IN THIS ISSUE

Director's Update

BY DAVID ARCHULETA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Educational Retirement Act Plan Participants,

As the new school year is well underway, I am reminded of challenges teachers and school staff face to support the learning process for students spanning a broad range of needs. These challenges include growing demands related to class sizes, staff shortages, and parental expectations. Therefore, on behalf of the Educational Retirement Board (ERB) and its staff, please allow me to express my sincerest appreciation for all the hard work and effort that goes into ensuring students across New Mexico are prepared for life's journey.

In terms of ERB specific updates, I would like to share the following:

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Investment Performance

As of June 30, 2025, the Educational Retirement Board Trust Fund reached a new watermark with a reported $18.5 billion ending asset value. This represents a $1.4 billion, or 7.9 percent increase in value compared to June 30, 2024. Overall, this increase was supported by a 9.88 percent 1-year return on investment (net of fees), following our 3-year (8.03 percent), 5-year (10.38 percent), and 10-year (8.02 percent) performance. The reported performance exceeds our actuarial target of 7 percent in each period and exceeds our policy index in all periods except for the 3-year reporting period.

ERB's ability to meet its investment targets and outperform its benchmarks remains critical to our ability to meet current and future pension obligations. This involves developing a strategic asset allocation that diversifies investments across different asset classes, supports our funding goals, and minimizes risk. By diversifying our investments we minimize the trust fund's volatility, support our consistency and increase the probability of achieving our long-term funding goals.

New Office Building

I am absolutely delighted to share that our multi-year and 21-month construction journey for the development of a new office complex is finally complete. As this message was being written, ERB's contractor (Enterprise Builders) was connecting to the City of Santa Fe's utility lines and preparing to test the water lines and fire suppression system. The new building will provide convenient access to ERB services and close proximity to our sister agency, the New Mexico Retiree Health Care Authority.

In conclusion, I would like to recognize and appreciate the hardworking staff at the ERB. Similar to my gratitude for educators and support staff across the state, I am thankful for their ongoing efforts. They work to process applications and refunds, devise strategies to ensure the financial integrity of the trust fund, and protect members' personal data. They also recruit and retain talent and travel to communities to communicate important information about ERB and the benefits we provide. It is truly an honor to work alongside a group of talented individuals dedicated to achieving our mission.

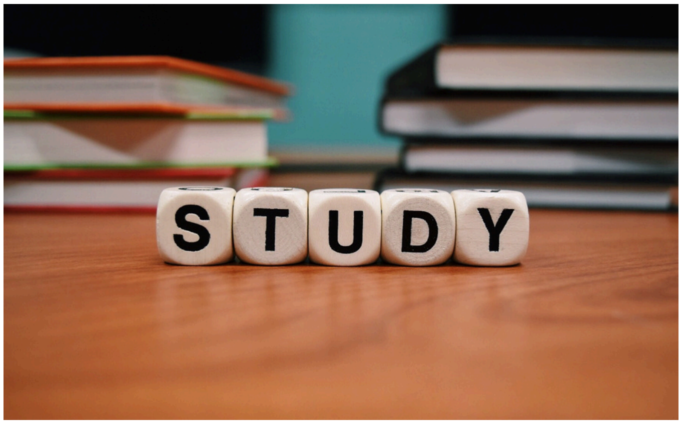
Until the Winter message, I hope everyone enjoys the fall foliage, the smell of green chile, and the sight of hot air balloons.

Sincerely,
David Archuleta

National Security Retirement Month

BY RENEE GARCIA, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Did you know October is National Security Retirement Month? What does that mean? It's a perfect time to review your retirement goals and ensure they're on the right track. Here are a few tips to consider:



Understand your defined benefit plan

1. Check your work history to make sure all your time is counted. You don't want to get close to retirement and find out you didn't work long enough!
2. Use the benefit calculator in the member portal. It can show you how much you could get each month based on your retirement age and who you choose as a beneficiary. Check out our member self-service portal guide to help you understand the different features available to you: [MyNMERB Tutorial]
3. Understand the formula for calculating your final retirement benefit: Your Final Average Salary (FAS) is the average of your highest consecutive 60 months / 5 years, multiplied by your years of service, multiplied by a 2.35% pension factor for tiers 1, 2, and 3 or the graduated multiplier for tier 4.
4. Understand the vesting requirements. Be sure you know the length of time / service contributed you must have to be considered vested.

Plan for the full picture

1. Don't depend only on your pension. While it's a great start, it won't replace all the money you earn before you retire. Think about other ways to save, like an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or a 403(b) plan. Speak with a financial advisor to consider your options and determine what will work best for your situation.
2. Social Security: review eligibility and age requirements. Use a social security calculator to estimate your benefit and see how it fits into your overall plan.
3. Consider healthcare costs. These can be a substantial cost, and your responsibility is to research, select, and set up. (Review New Mexico Retiree Health Care Authority's requirements for those contributing.)
4. Taxes: Talk to a tax advisor to understand your options.

National Security Retirement Month continued on Page 4

Making informed decisions

1. Pick your retirement date carefully. The age you retire can change how much you get each month. Age reductions can significantly reduce your monthly benefit amount permanently if you are considering retirement before the age minimum. For more information on the reduction, please review the Member Handbook to understand.

2.Look at your different monthly payment options to see what you'll receive. If you choose a beneficiary to get a lifetime benefit, know your choices:

Option A
- Your highest monthly benefit amount
- No lifetime benefit for a beneficiary, however, any unused contributions on file will be paid to the beneficiary listed
- Only option for more than 1 beneficiary
- Only option where the beneficiary can be charity, trust, or an organization.

Option B
- Lowest monthly benefit amount
- Only 1 beneficiary can be selected
- Beneficiary will receive 100% survivor's benefit
- Age provision – For non-spouses, your beneficiary cannot be more than 10 years younger than you to get this benefit.

Option C
- You get a smaller monthly amount so your beneficiary can get half of that amount after you pass away.
- Only 1 beneficiary can be selected.

Stay engaged and informed with ERB

- Keep your information up to date with both ERB and your employer(s).
- Sign up for the ERB Connect quarterly newsletter.
- Visit our website for the most current information.
- Check out our monthly webinars or ask for an onsite presentation at your school!

ERB On The Road

BY RENEE GARCIA, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Connect with ERB this Fall! Presentation Schedule announced!

We're excited to announce our fall presentation schedule, designed to help you understand your ERB retirement benefits. Join us for informative sessions where you can get general information about your ERB retirement, and have questions answered.

We're incredibly grateful to our partners in each location for their support in making events in Albuquerque, Chama, Dulce, Las Vegas, Rio Rancho, Roswell, and Santa Rosa possible this fall.

Retirement - What You Need To Know Seminar Topics

- The Defined Benefit Plan
- Understanding the Eligibility Tiers
- Service Credit
- What to know in each stage of your career

Member Webinar Schedule - October to December 2025

BY ERB COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

All webinars are posted on the ERB **Webinar and Presentation** page of the ERB website. Webinars are held on the third Tuesday of each month from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

- Retirement Readiness Webinar 10/14/2025
- Early/Mid-Career Webinar 11/18/2025
- Retirement Readiness Webinar 12/16/2025

Passwords and You

BY TRINITY ANGELINO, ERB IT SECURITY ADMINISTRATOR

Why Reusing Passwords Can Put You at Risk and How to Stay Safe

In today's digital world, passwords protect everything from your bank account to your medical records. But many people, especially those who didn't grow up with computers, fall into one common habit that can be very risky: using the same password for more than one website or account.

Why It's a Problem

Let's say you use the same password for your email, social media, and online shopping. If just one of those websites gets hacked, and unfortunately, many do, criminals can try that same password on your other accounts. It's like using the same key for your house, car, and safety deposit box. If someone copies that key, they suddenly have access to everything.

This kind of attack is called "**credential stuffing**", cybercriminals take stolen usernames and passwords from one website and try them on others. If you reuse passwords, you become an easy target.

Real-World Consequences

- **Bank fraud:** If someone gets into your email or bank account, they could transfer money or steal your identity.
- **Stolen Medicare or insurance info:** Hackers can use your details to file fake claims or get prescriptions in your name.
- **Loss of personal memories:** If they access your photo accounts or social media, they can delete, steal, or impersonate you.

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Passwords and You continued

What You Can Do

- **Use a different password for each account.** Even if it feels inconvenient, it's worth it for your safety.
- **Use a password manager.** These tools securely store your passwords and can even create strong one's for you. Many are easy to use and designed with simplicity in mind.
- **Enable two-step verification.** This adds an extra layer of protection by sending a code to your phone or email when you log in.

Final Thought

You've spent a lifetime protecting what's important to you. In the digital age, keeping your passwords safe is just another way to do that. Don't let a reused password be the reason someone steals your money, identity, or peace of mind.

RETIREMENT TIP

Your MyNMERB Account is your retirement resource.

Register for your MyNMERB Account today using the light blue button on the ERB website menu. In your MyNMERB Account you will be able to:

- View your Work History
- View your Statement of Account
- Use the Benefit Estimator
- Use the Service Purchase Estimator
- Adjust Settings
- And more...

ERB Closure Schedule
November - December 2025

November 11, 2025 - Veterans' Day

November 27-28, 2025 - Thanksgiving

December 25, 2025 - Christmas Day

All ERB offices will reopen the following business day at 8:00 a.m.

ERB CONTACT US

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member.help@erb.nm.gov

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Connect, Like, and Follow Us:

Email ERB Connect comments and suggestions to:
ERB Communications

ERB EXECUTIVE OFFICE

DAVID ARCHULETA
NMERB Executive Director

ERB CONNECT STAFF

RENEE GARCIA
NMERB Communications Director

ERB Office Hours

Santa Fe & Albuquerque
Monday - Friday
8am - 5pm

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