



JANUARY 2026

ERB Connect

The latest news from the New Mexico Educational Retirement Board



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Director's Update

BY DAVID ARCHULETA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Educational Retirement Act Plan Participants,

Happy New Year!

I hope you are having a great start to 2026. As we begin the new year, I want to share some exciting updates from the Educational Retirement Board (ERB).

We Have a New Home

On December 3, 2025, ERB staff officially moved into our new headquarters. Even though construction took longer than expected due to city delays, we are finally all under one roof! Our Legal, Investments, Administrative Services, Member Services, IT, and

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Communications teams are now in the same building. You can visit us in person at our new office: 5211 Las Soleras Drive, Santa Fe, NM.



Legislative Update: House Bill 40 (HB40)

The 2026 Legislative Session started on January 20 and runs until February 19. This year, we are watching **House Bill 40 (HB40)**, sponsored by Representative Cynthia Borrego, Representative Nicole Chavez, Representative Joseph Sanchez, and Senator Elizabeth Stefanics.

This bill suggests giving all ERB retirees a "**13th check**" in fiscal years 2027 and 2028. This would be an extra payment on top of your regular monthly checks and yearly cost-of-living increases.

How it works:

The payment would be **2%** of a retiree's total yearly pension.

Example: If a retiree gets \$26,772 a year, their extra check would be about **\$535**.

We are very grateful to the legislators for supporting our members. We hope the Legislature and the Governor will make this a priority.

Modernizing Our Systems

Now that the move is finished, our team is working hard on a new Pension Administration System (PAS). This is the main computer system we use to track member data and send out retirement benefits. This upgrade will help us work faster and serve you better in the future.



Our Promise to You

Finally, I want to promise that we will continue to manage your retirement program with honesty and high professional standards. Our goal is to treat every member with kindness and respect. We are also working hard to protect your data from cyber threats and keep our investments strong, even when the market changes.

Sincerely,
David Archuleta

At a Glance: What's New for 2026

- **New Office:** We are officially moved in! You can now visit us at 5211 Las Soleras Drive in Santa Fe.
- **Extra Retirement Checks:** We are tracking House Bill 40, which could provide retirees with a "13th check" (a one-time 2% bonus) in 2027 and 2028.
- **System Upgrades:** We are building a new Pension Administration System (PAS) to make managing your benefits faster and more secure.
- **Our Goal:** We remain committed to protecting your pension and serving you with professional, courteous care.

Understanding Our 2025 Financial Health

BY DAVID ARCHULETA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Every year, experts check the health of our retirement fund. They look at how much money is coming in versus how much will be paid out in the future. In December, the Board of Trustees received the latest report for the period ending June 30, 2025.

Think of this report as a "**financial snapshot**" that tells us if we are on the right track to pay all future benefits.

2025 Financial Snapshot

	June 30, 2025	June 30, 2024	Change
Active Member	64,274	62,970	1,304
Retirees & Beneficiaries	56,764	55,706	1,058
Active Payroll	\$4.0 billion	\$3.9 billion	\$0.1 billion
Retiree Payroll	\$1.43 billion	\$1.38 billion	\$0.05 billion
Assets	\$18.6 billion	\$17.2 billion	\$1.2 billion
Return on Assets	9.8%	7.9%	1.9%
Funded Ratio	67.8%	64.8%	3.0%
Funding Period	19 years	22 years	3 year decrease

Key Takeaways from the Report

The fund is growing and becoming more stable. Here are the highlights:

- Growing Membership:** We added **1,304 new workers** to the plan. We also have over **1,000 new retirees**.
- Strong Investment Gains:** Even though we paid out more in benefits than we collected in dues, the total fund grew by **\$1.2 billion**. This happened because our investments earned a strong **9.8% return**.

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- **Better Funding Level:** Our "funded ratio" improved by 3% this year. This measures our assets and compares them to our long-term liabilities.
- **Faster Progress:** We are now expected to reach "full funding" (having 100% of the money needed for all future promises) in **19 years**. That is **3 years sooner** than last year's estimate!

Common Terms Explained

- **Active Payroll:** The total salary of all current workers. ERB takes a percentage of this to help pay for the system.
- **Retiree Payroll:** The total amount of money paid out to retirees and their families.
- **Funding Period:** The amount of time it will take to save enough money to cover all future retirement costs.

The Bottom Line

Your retirement fund is getting stronger. Thanks to smart investments and a growing number of members, we are reaching our long-term goals faster than expected.



Member Webinar Schedule - February to June 2026

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. ASL Interpretation provided.

- Retirement Readiness Webinar 2/17/2026
- Early/Mid-Career Webinar 3/17/2026
- Retirement Readiness Webinar 4/21/2026
- Early/Mid-Career Webinar 5/19/2026
- Retirement Readiness Webinar 6/23/2026

Phone Scams: Know the Red Flags. Protect Yourself.

BY TRINITY ANGELINO – IT SECURITY SECURITY ADMINISTRATOR

In today's digital world, our telephones keep us connected to the people who matter most. Unfortunately, it's also one of the most common tools used by scammers. These criminals are **professional manipulators** who use fear, urgency, and personal information gathered from social media or public records to sound convincing.

If you know the warning signs, you can stop a scam **before any money is lost.**

1. The "Virtual Kidnapping" or Grandparent Scam

This is perhaps the most frightening scam. You receive a call from someone claiming to be a police officer, a lawyer, or even a kidnapper. They tell you that your grandchild or child has been arrested, injured, or kidnapped, and you must send money immediately to ensure their safety.

- **The Trick:** They may call claiming they have kidnapped your relative and might even play screaming sounds in the background. They may also use "spoofing" to make the caller ID appear as though it's coming from your family member's phone.
- **The Defense:** Never send money immediately. Hang up and call your family member directly on their known phone number. Create a "family code word" that only you and your loved ones know to verify identities in an emergency.

2. Phishing for Your Information

Phishing isn't just for emails; it happens over the phone (often called "vishing"). A caller may pretend to be from Medicare, the Social Security Administration, or your bank. They might claim there is a "problem with your account" or that you are "due for a new card."

- **The Trick:** They will ask you to "verify" your Social Security number, bank details, or birthdate.
- **The Defense:** Legitimate government agencies and banks will never call you out of the blue to ask for your sensitive information. If you're worried, hang up and call the official number found on your actual bank statement or the back of your Medicare card.



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3. The "Urgent Problem" Scam

Scammers love to create a crisis. They might claim your computer has a virus (Tech Support Scam) or that you owe back taxes and will be arrested if you don't pay immediately (IRS Scam).

- **The Trick:** They will pressure you to stay on the line and demand payment via gift cards, wire transfers, or cryptocurrency, as these are nearly impossible to trace or refund.
- **The Defense:** No legitimate business or government agency will ever demand payment via a gift card. If a caller is rushing you or threatening you, it is a scam.



Simple Rules to Follow

- Let it go to Voicemail: If you don't recognize the number, don't answer. If it's important, they will leave a message.
- Talk to a Trusted Friend: Before you move any money, call a friend or family member and tell them about the call. Scammers rely on keeping you isolated.



The Golden Rule - Don't trust the Caller ID: Scammers can make it say anything.

- Hang Up & Call Back: If a caller claims to be from a company or government agency, hang up and call the official, publicly listed number (found on your bill, the back of your credit card, or a phone book) to verify the claim.
- It's Okay to be "Rude": You are never required to stay on the phone with a stranger.



Red Flags

- Urgency: "You must act right now!" or "Don't hang up!"
- Secrecy: "Don't tell anyone about this, not even your family."
- Threats: "You will be arrested" or "Your benefits will be cut off."
- Odd Payments: They ask for Gift Cards, Wire Transfers, or Bitcoin.
- Personal Info: They ask for your Social Security number or bank login.



The "Family Emergency" Test

If someone calls claiming a family member is in trouble or kidnapped:

- Stop and Breathe: Scammers use fear to stop you from thinking clearly.
- Ask the Secret Word: Ask for the family "Code Word" (if you've set one up).
- The "Wrong Name" Trick: Use a fake name. For Example, if they are claiming to have your grandson, Ask, "Is this my grandson, Billy?" if your grandson's name is actually Michael. If they say "Yes," it's a scam.
- Hang Up and Call Back: Call that family member directly on their known number to verify they are safe.

ABQ READS Seeks Volunteers

CONTENT PROVIDED BY ABQ READS

ABQ READS is a classroom-based tutoring program that helps struggling kindergarten-first-grade readers boost their literacy achievement to enable lifelong learning.

Did you know that from kindergarten to grade two, children Learn to Read. From grade three on, children Read to Learn. Join Albuquerque Public Schools, the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce and volunteers like you to make a lasting difference in a child's life.

Fast Facts:

- A one-on-one literacy tutoring program at three elementary schools: Whittier, Atrisco and Bel-Air.
- Delivers 90 minutes each week of personalized literacy tutoring for each kindergarten-first-grade Title I student in the program (Sept - May) and supplies every student it serves with up to 20 books for their at-home library.
- Access to online reading resources for at-home reading.



VOLUNTEER TODAY!

abqreads.com
(505) 843- 7323 (READ)
abqreads@greaterabq.com

or

Scan the QR Code



SCAN TO REGISTER

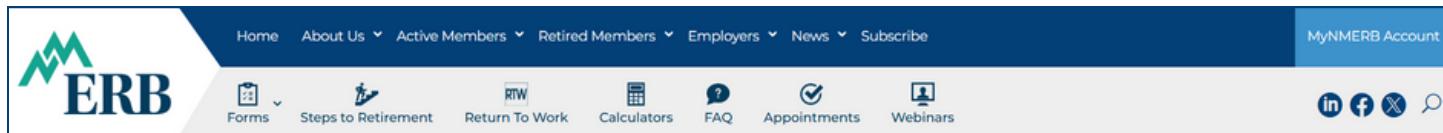
LEGAL NOTE: NMERB encourages volunteer work, however, paid volunteer work may violate Return-to-work rules. Contact NMERB if you have any questions or concerns.

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...



The screenshot shows the ERB website navigation bar with the following items: Home, About Us, Active Members, Retired Members, Employers, News, and Subscribe. On the right, there is a blue button labeled "MyNMERB Account". Below the navigation bar, there is a horizontal menu with icons for Forms, Steps to Retirement, Return To Work, Calculators, FAQ, Appointments, and Webinars. Social media icons for LinkedIn, Facebook, and Twitter are also present.

ERB Closure Schedule May - July 2026

May 25, 2026 - Memorial Day

June 19, 2026 - Juneteenth

July 3, 2026 - Independence Day

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



ERB Office Hours

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

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