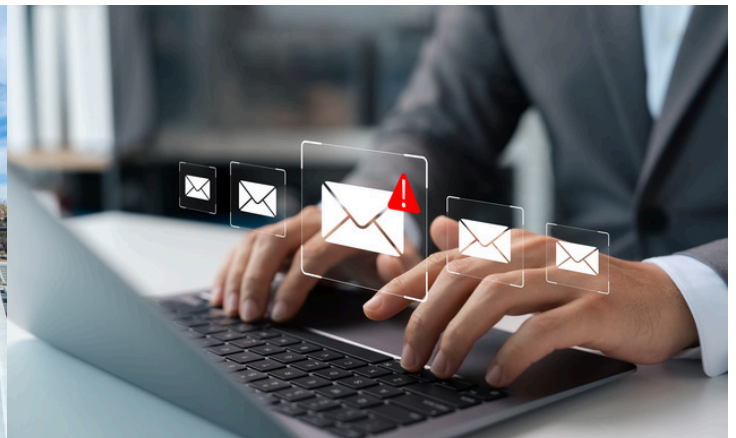




MAY 2026

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 ERB Plan Members,

I hope this message finds you well. As summer approaches, I want to share a few quick updates and reminders for our members who are retired or nearing retirement.

Our New Home

This past February, the Educational Retirement Board (ERB) held a grand opening



[Director's Update continued on Page 2](#)

and ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate our new building. We were honored to have a keynote speech from our Board Chairman, Russell Goff, and a visit from New Mexico's Lieutenant Governor, Howie Morales. ERB staff, our design firm (Dekker), and our contractor (Enterprise Builders) all joined in the celebration.



Pension System Update

Our team is also making great progress on our new pension administration system. This system acts as the secure, central home for all member information. It holds your employment history, service credit, career earnings, and contact details. This four-year project will wrap up in the fall of 2027. Once live, it will improve security, protect data accuracy, and make our services easier for you to access.

Please keep checking our website for regular updates and helpful resources. Have a safe and wonderful summer!

Important Reminders:

Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) The new COLA amounts will apply to your July pension payments. As a reminder, COLA increases are set by state law. The formula looks at inflation and the financial health of the pension fund to make sure the program stays strong for future generations.



Here are the COLA amounts for this year:

- **1.80%** for retirees who have 25 or more years of service credit and a monthly benefit of \$1,834.85 or less (as of June 30, 2025).
- **1.60%** for all other eligible retirees.
- **2.00%** for disability retirees who have been retired for at least 3 years.

Return-to-Work (RTW) Are you thinking about going back to work for an ERB employer? This includes local school districts, charter schools, universities, and certain state agencies. If so, please contact ERB first. We will help you verify your eligibility so there are no surprises or interruptions to your pension benefits.

To learn more, please visit our [Returning to Work after Retirement webpage](#).

Sincerely,
David Archuleta

Is that Email Really from Us? Staying Safe from Third-Party Solicitations

BY RENEE GARCIA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH



Have you recently received an email offering a "pension review" or a "retirement consultation" that looks like it might be from the New Mexico Educational Retirement Board?

We have noticed a seasonal increase in third-party advisors contacting our members. While these firms often use names or email addresses that look nearly identical to ours, it is important to know that **they are not affiliated with NM ERB.**

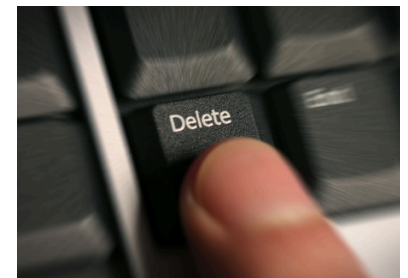
How to Spot a Third-Party Solicitation

These private consultants are often looking to sell financial products or services outside of your state pension. Here are a few things to look for:

- **False Urgency:** They often use high-pressure language, suggesting you must meet with them immediately to "claim" or "review" your benefits.
- **The Fine Print:** Most of these emails include an easy to miss disclaimer at the very bottom stating they are not associated with ERB or any legitimate government agency.
- **Phony Familiarity:** They may pretend to know you, use your name, and imply they already have your records. Don't be fooled, your official pension data remains secure with ERB.

What Should You Do?

If you receive a suspicious email, your best course of action is to **simply delete it**. You are under no obligation to respond to these invitations.



Our Commitment to You

Your trust and security are our top priorities. NM ERB will never send you unsolicited emails asking for sensitive personal information or pressured consultations. When we reach out, it will always be clearly branded from our official office.

We have posted a formal Third-Party Advisor Statement on our website, [NM Educational Retirement Board](#).

[Is that Email Really from Us? continued on Page 4](#)

Still unsure? If you ever have a question about the validity of a communication, please contact us directly at 1-800-663-1919. We are always happy to help you verify that you are speaking with an official ERB representative.



ERB on the Road

BY RENEE GARCIA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Schedule an "ERB on the Road" Presentation at Your Location

We are excited to announce that our "ERB on the Road" fall travel season is officially approaching. While several stops are already on the calendar, we would love to add your school to our itinerary.

Our team provides comprehensive onsite presentations designed to support members at every stage of their career—from those just starting out to those ready to navigate the retirement application process. We also provide dedicated updates on the Return-to-Work program and host an open Q&A session to address general questions.

If you would like to host a session for the members in your area, please coordinate with your administration team to schedule a visit here: [Webinars & Presentations | NM Educational Retirement Board](#)

Member Webinar Schedule - June to December 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 6/23/2026
- Early/Mid-Career Webinar 7/21/2026
- Retirement Readiness Webinar 8/18/2026
- Early/Mid-Career Webinar 9/15/2026
- Retirement Readiness Webinar 10/20/2026
- Early/Mid-Career Webinar 11/17/2026
- Retirement Readiness Webinar 12/15/2026

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.

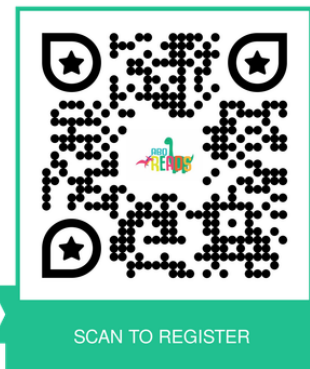


VOLUNTEER TODAY!

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

or

Scan the QR Code



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

Do these two things within 12 months of your retirement date:

Complete a Benefit Estimate form ([link to Forms page](#))

When you are within a year of retirement, submit a request for an audited benefit estimate, to determine what your pre-taxed retirement benefits will be.

Schedule a Pre-Retirement Counseling Appointment

Once you have received the results of the form, Schedule Appointment with Retirement Specialist via the web ([link to Appointments page](#)) to discuss your account and what steps you need to take.

ERB Closure Schedule June - September 2026

June 19, 2026 - Juneteenth

July 3, 2026 - Independence Day

September 7, 2026 - Labor 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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ERB CONTACT US



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Call Center 505-585-3510



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Email ERB Connect comments and suggestions to:
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DAVID ARCHULETA
NMERB Executive Director

ERB CONNECT STAFF

RENEE GARCIA
NMERB Communications Director