



ACES INSIGHTS

May 2025

Christy Takacs, Executive Director

ACES wishes you all a HAPPY SUMMER! We'd like to remind you that we are here all summer long continuing to support you and your school. Please reach out to us for your summer projects, employment vacancies, planning for next year for facility needs, marketing, ancillary services, campus security, instructional support, back office help, and SO MUCH MORE. Be sure to check out our [website](#) and reach out to us ANYTIME!

ACES is SUPER excited to add Lauren Hunter to our incredible team. She is currently assisting with business office support, and will begin growing our Vendor Relations program moving forward. Many of you know and love Lauren, and we are pleased that she has brought her passion for supporting schools and expertise in developing relationships with vendors to ACES. As always, we will continue to work closely with PCSNM in supporting them with opportunities for school leaders and vendors to connect! Welcome aboard, Lauren!

New ACES Staff Member

Lauren Hunter: Vendor Relations

Lauren Hunter, a native of Pennsylvania, has been making connections and building relationships in every career she's held. From starting out in sales as a young student to being a private violin teacher for over 20 years to working in the New Mexico Charter sector in various positions for 10 years, Lauren loves making connections between great people and organizations. Formerly the



Operations Coordinator for Public Charter School of New Mexico (PCSNM) and founding Suzuki Violin Specialist teacher at New Mexico International School, Lauren is excited to support NMACES in continuing to nurture important relationships between charter schools and top quality partners.

Procurement Corner

Well, budget time is either over or almost done, and for most, the end of another school year has come. Hoping you have several opportunities in the next few months to break away from the office and enjoy some of the pleasures of summer. (Don't forget the sunscreen.)

Author and ACES Procurement Program Manager

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Construction projects

Public works and State and federal wage decisions

Since summer is a time when many agencies focus on infrastructure improvements, I would like to provide some information on procurement and contracting requirements specific to construction. To begin, **what is defined as construction?** The procurement code sets forth that ***"Construction" means building, altering, repairing, installing or demolishing*** in the ordinary course of business any:

- road, highway, bridge, parking area or related project;
- building, stadium or other structure;
- airport, subway or similar facility;
- park, trail, athletic field, golf course or similar facility;
- dam, reservoir, canal, ditch or similar facility;
- sewage or water treatment facility, power generating plant, pump station, natural gas compressing station or similar facility;
- sewage, water, gas or other pipeline;
- transmission line;
- radio, television or other tower;
- water, oil or other storage tank;
- shaft, tunnel or other mining appurtenance;
- electrical wiring, plumbing or plumbing fixture, gas piping, gas appliances or water conditioners;
- air conditioning conduit, heating or other similar mechanical work; or
- similar work, structures or installations.
- leveling or clearing land;

- excavating earth;
- drilling wells of any type, including seismographic shot holes or core drilling;
- similar work, structures or installations.

Per state law, construction projects shall be classified as a **local public works project** if the school/agency uses professional architectural or engineering services costing fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) or more or professional landscape architectural or surveying services costing ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) or more, excluding tax.

The New Mexico Public Works Minimum Wage Act applies to employers and employees working on state and locally funded public works construction projects. **Public works projects, and all state or locally funded construction projects costing more than \$60,000, are covered by the Act and requires a wage decision to be obtained and specific wage rates to be paid under the project.**

The New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS) Labor Relations Division sets the minimum wage rates for all Public Works projects each year and is responsible for issuing wage decisions. Further information regarding wage rates can be found at www.dws.state.nm.us.

What is a Wage decision? A state wage decision is the wage rates set for a public works project, or any publicly funded construction project valued above \$60,000. Whenever federal funding is used for construction, a federal wage determination will usually be required. The contracting agency is responsible for requesting a wage decision, either from NMDWS by submitting a request that describes the scope of work and other project information or pursuant to federal funding requirements.

PRIOR to awarding a contract for construction valued over \$60,000 an agency must also verify that the contractor is registered properly with the NMDWS. Bidding documents shall include clear notification that each contractor, prime contractor or subcontractor is required to be registered through the NMDWS and should also contain the wage decision information so bidders know what the required wages will be. (Note this does *not* apply to vocational classes in public schools or to public post-secondary educational institutions.)

Although ACES hasn't ventured into the world of offering contracts specific to construction just yet (looks like it's on the horizon☺) we do currently offer contracts which at times may cover work classified as construction, such as contract ITB 22-001 for On-Call and Preventative Maintenance Facilities Services (HVAC/Plumbing/Electrical and Refrigeration).

ACES is available to assist you in determining if a wage decision is required for your construction project(s), can assist in providing required language for solicitations, and may also be able to obtain a wage decision for you. Let us know if we can help. To request a wage decision on your own, or obtain additional information about state wage decisions, create an account and login to the Public Works and Apprenticeship Application at www.dws.state.nm.us/PWAA.

Procurement Funny of the Day:

Not all construction work is equally enjoyable.

For instance, drilling a large hole is boring, but fastening two pieces of metal together is riveting.



CLIA Waiver

I am pleased to inform you that NMREC-1 has secured funding to resume supporting schools needing a CLIA waiver. This initiative allows us to assist you in maintaining essential health services for your students. Please contact me at 575-760-3794 if you are interested in participating...for FREE.

I look forward to working together to support the health and well-being of New Mexico's students.

Deanna Davis



Sharon Myers

Sharon is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters