



Legal Authority

HPREC Policy Manual

High Plains Regional Education Cooperative Policies**100 Legal Authority****Adopted: November 2, 2001****Reviewed and/or Revised:****100 LEGAL AUTHORITY**

Regional Educational Cooperatives (RECs) are established by the Regional Cooperative Education Act, 22-2B-1 to 22-2B-6, NMSA 1978. The purpose of a REC is to provide education-related services to students of participating education entities.

High Plains Regional Education Cooperative (HPREC) is an educational service agency committed to providing services to children, families, schools and communities of Colfax, Harding, and Union Counties.

101 History

In 1984, the New Mexico State Board of Education (SBE) established ten Regional Center Cooperatives (RCCs) under SBE Regulation No. 84-6. The purpose of the RCCs is to provide services for local education agencies and eligible state supported schools under Public Law 94-142, the Education of the Handicapped Act (IDEA-B). SBE Regulation No. 84.6 permits districts to submit consolidated applications to the State Department of Education (SDE) for certain entitlement and discretionary funds under IDEA-B. Since 1984, RCCs have also established cooperative programs of education services with funds other than IDEA-B entitlement or discretionary funds, including Drug Free School and Communities Act of 1986, Title II-Critical Skills Improvement, Medicaid in the Schools, and the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act of 1990, as well as other direct federal and state/local funding sources.

The 41st Legislative Session authorized the establishment of Regional Education Cooperatives (RECs) and the State Board of Education adopted SBE Regulation 93-23, which establishes the minimum criteria for the establishment, operation, and oversight of RECs. RECs are state agencies administratively attached to the State Department of Education. The State Board of Education authorizes the existence and operation of Regional Education Cooperatives (RECs) formed by local school boards joining with other school boards or other state-supported education institutions. Regional education cooperatives are exempt from the provisions of the Personnel Act [10-9-1 to 10-9-25 NMSA 1978]¹, and other NMSA 1978 statutes.

102 Establishment

High Plains Regional Center Cooperative became High Plains Regional Education Cooperative in 1994 upon approval of its application for REC status by the State Board of Education. Members of High Plains Regional Center Cooperative as approved by the SBE are those entities approved in the New Mexico State Plan for distribution of PL 94-142 funds: Cimarron Municipal Schools, Clayton Municipal Schools, Des Moines Municipal Schools, Maxwell Municipal Schools, Mosquero Municipal Schools, Raton Public Schools, Roy Municipal Schools, and Springer Municipal Schools.

¹ Legal Reference: 22-2B1 to 22-2B-6, NMSA, 1978
SBE Regulations 84-6; 93-23
PL 94-142; New Mexico State Plan