Statewide outdoor classrooms & Outdoor learning

EENM/NMOST Listening Session - 6/3/21
What has EENM network already learned about outdoor classrooms?

- Three years of community conversations -> *Every Kid, Every Day, Every Way*
  - *This shared vision and strategy, the first of its kind in the country, provides a framework for systemic change to support equitable daily access to the outdoors and environmental learning in New Mexico.*
- 30+ community events since March 2020 to support outdoor learning
- May 13th community gathering on outdoor classrooms (in support of *Every Kid, Every Day, Every Way* - and part two coming June 10th
- Bipartisan support of Senate Memorial 1 in support of outdoor classrooms
Statewide Outdoor Classrooms: 
*Design, Build, Learn*

incorporates Policy recommendations # 1, 3, 5 (pgs. 5-7)
State of Outdoor and Environmental Learning

A Landscape Analysis of Opportunities in the Southwest
Ongoing Community Conversations

Bipartisan support of Senate Memorial 1 (Sen. Correa Hemphill)

State of Outdoor and Environmental Learning

NM Outdoor Learning Guidance

Every Kid, Every Day, Every Way

Outdoor Learning in New Mexico during COVID-19

280,000+ Students Annually
What are the Components?

**DESIGN:** Outdoor learning spaces can take many forms and can be tailored to fit the needs of each individual school and community. It is critical to include students, teachers, administrators, school staff, parents/guardians, and community members in the design of these spaces. Design should include plans for maintenance.

**BUILD:** Outdoor classrooms are a very low-cost solution ($2,000-10,000 per school) to improving the quality of education in our state. New Mexico teachers have identified two main priorities in building outdoor classrooms: shade (through native plantings or shade sails) and seating.

**LEARN:** Teachers and staff need to be supported with training, and standards-aligned activities, and Outdoor Learning Coordinator assistance to incorporate evidence-based outdoor learning into their instruction.
How?

An **Outdoor Classroom** at every New Mexico Public School. Cost: one-time expenditure of $7 million (877 schools at an average cost of $8,000/school)

**Outdoor Learning Coordinators** spread throughout the state can greatly aid in the design, implementation, and use of outdoor classrooms. Cost: $5 million annually (98 coordinators at $50,000/coordinator to be housed at nonprofits, RECs, districts, etc. and Outdoor Learning Specialist at NMPED)

An **Outdoor Learning Micro-credentialing Program**: Use outdoor learning as a pilot for micro-credentialing, NM PED works with EENM on establishing content (e.g., standards-aligned outdoor learning, social and emotional learning in the outdoors, culturally responsive outdoor learning, risk management in the outdoors). Cost: $200,000