



**Executive Director Report
January 26, 2026**

Trey Smith, Executive Director (tsmith@eastmountainhigh.net)

A. School Happenings	
Area	Description
Student tragedy in mid January	Staff collaboration, family communication, student projects, Cottonwood Classical sent additional counseling support
Alumni panel	On Wed, Jan. 14, hosted six alumni with interesting careers to speak to about 60 high school students. Mackenzie Bishop, CEO/Owner of Abrazo Homes Hallie Brown, Deputy Director NM Dept. of Finance and Administration Hannah Wood, UNM Political Science Professor Kathryn Jones, KOAT 7 Producer Jimmy Grieco, Water and Environmental Law Tim Bedeaux, Thornburg Foundation Policy Officer
Site visits	Last week, six education leaders from around the country visited our campus on a tour of strong schools in New Mexico Todd Dickson, Founder/CEO of Valor Collegiate Schools in Nashville, has served as my executive coach this year and visited in person last week. Visited classrooms, sat in on meetings.
Basketball success	Boys and girls basketball teams having record-setting seasons.
Open House/Meet EMHS	This Wednesday, meet the teacher opportunity for current families between 5:30-6:30. Open House for prospective families between 6:30-7:30

B. Legislative Priorities	
Area	Description
HB 63 Hold Harmless	House Appropriations, the Legislative Finance Committee, and Rep. Meredith Dixon have made funding shortfalls from last year's at risk calculation a priority. Currently recommended 6 million appropriation in the House budget bill. Getting this through the Senate will be tricky. Focusing on Sen. Michael Padilla, George Munoz in the final days of the session may be important
Capital Outlay	Attempting to pool \$1 million from legislators and another \$1 million from Governor toward expansion construction costs. Any bit helps.

<p>HB 43 80/20 School personnel insurance coverage</p>	<p>4 years ago, East Mountain shifted to 80/20 insurance coverage for employees. One of only a dozen schools statewide to provide that level.</p> <p>Now, a bill attempts to make that required for all school personnel in the state. Increase in the SEG to support the additional costs for schools.</p>
<p>Overall budget</p>	<p>Legislative and executive recommendations for salaries vary between 1-3% increases. Very modest increases overall-state planning for peak oil/gas production and overall less students in the system.</p>
<p>Virtual school budget issues</p>	<p>3,000 virtual students switching from Gallup Schools to Santa Rosa Schools has created a \$35 million budget deficit for PED. One of the proposed solutions is to decrease the unit value for all schools.</p>