



New Mexico State Senate
State Capitol
Santa Fe

SENATOR
ANTONIO "MOE" MAESTAS
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July 16, 2026

Senator Harold Pope Jr.
10549 Universe Blvd. NW. Room 109B
Albuquerque NM 87193

RE: Chaparral Elementary School Funding

Dear Senator Pope:

Chaparral Elementary is your constituent school and sits within your Senate District 23. I am writing to express my concerns and grave confusion regarding the lack of Capital Outlay funding appropriated to Chaparral Elementary School this Legislative Session.

Each Senator had \$4.17 million in discretionary spending in 2026. Can you explain why Chaparral Elementary School did not receive any funding from you this year? As the Representative for House District 16, I always made Chaparral Elementary School a priority. My Senate District 26 is one precinct south of Chaparral Elementary School. If you were overextending in your Capital Outlay commitments, you simply could have asked me to make up the shortfall.

It has been customary for West Side House members and Senators to fully fund APS school requests within our respective boundaries 50% / 50%. These APS public school requests are usually very reasonable and make up less than 20% of our total Capital Outlay allocations. The request from Chaparral Elementary School this year was \$173,000. That's \$86,500 from you, which would have made up only 4.15% of your total discretionary spending.

Here is why I'm confused: As you may recall, during the 2021 redistricting process, all three Senate maps proposed by the Independent Redistricting Commission kept Chaparral Elementary School within Senate District 26. You strongly advocated for moving the Chaparral precinct into Senate District 23. In fact, you were emphatic that Chaparral Elementary School should be represented by you. When, as an elected member of the House, I suggested that it remain in Senate District 26, you responded, "Don't mess with my district."

Capital Outlay funding requires planning and collaboration, which other lawmakers have successfully achieved. Chaparral Elementary School deserves the same attention as other West Side Schools. It is

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unfortunate that the Chaparral Elementary School community was important enough to be moved into your district but not important enough to prioritize for Capital Outlay funding.

You have recently stated while running for higher office that people, “*deserve leaders who will ... fight for the people they serve.*” That you, “*believe leadership means leading from the front.*” Unfortunately, those promises have not been kept as Chaparral Elementary School has been pushed to the back, leaving important projects underfunded and delaying improvements for students and educators in your district.

The community deserves answers about why their school was overlooked. Moving forward, I urge your office to work to allocate future Capital Outlay funding to Chaparral Elementary School. If a community is worth moving district lines for, it should also be worth fighting for when it comes to funding that supports our schools, educators, and children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Antonio Maestas", with a stylized, flowing script.

Antonio "Moe" Maestas
New Mexico State Senator, District 26