



**Executive Director Report  
March 23, 2026**

Trey Smith, Executive Director ([tsmith@eastmountainhigh.net](mailto:tsmith@eastmountainhigh.net))

A. School Happenings	
Area	Description
SAT/PSAT on March 13	9th and 10th took PSAT 11th took SAT
Innovative Staffing Grant	In the 2025 legislative session, SB 210 passed to implement a strategic staffing study  Three year funding (\$111,000 per year) cycle to study if its implementation makes a difference.  Partnership with Opportunity Culture to develop a long term staffing model that pays experienced teachers significant stipends for: -assuming greater student responsibility (outcomes, data) -providing intensive coaching systems.
Athletics and Activities	Snowball-winter dance Basketball State Run-First home state appearance in school history and first girls state appearance in school history. Girls coach of the Year and numerous honors. Spring Sports starting-Great start Recording arts Concert- Packed house for Recording Arts concert Robotics/STEM- preparing for competition in Ft. Worth Speech and Debate- State championships, Speech Coach of the Year, National Qualifiers, Tournament of Champions qualifiers Model UN-competed in New York City
Timberwolf Talks	120 9th Grade Families split over two nights. Informational session, making course requests, and students taking math placement assessment.
Equity Council Meeting	Quarterly meeting to review school's commitments to equity and inclusivity. Reporting out on Martinez-Yazzie subgroup monitoring. General school improvements.
Partnership Breakfast	<b>April 9, 2026. Albuquerque Museum 7:30-9:00am.</b> Quick networking breakfast before the workday begins. Please attend, please invite everyone you know. Recognizing Excellent Schools New Mexico and their half a million dollar partnership with the school.

## B. Legislative Priorities

Area	Description
HB 63 Hold Harmless	HB 2 budget bill includes 6 million for any district or charter negatively impacted by last year's HB63 implementation. Not enough to cover the full loss. But it's something.
Capital Outlay	Secured \$1,550,000 from Governor and legislators in capital outlay.
HB 43 80/20 School personnel insurance coverage	Passed. Should provide helpful budget support for a program we already provide.
Overall budget	1% raise for state employees in the tax bill Interesting note: this year's budget built around \$43/barrel oil price. Current prices over \$100/barrel
Virtual school budget issues	A bill fixed the Gallup virtual problem so that all districts were not punished for the shortfall
STEM Day	Our STEM/Robotics program recognized on the Senate floor. Sen. Thornton recognition.
LFC Visit	Staffers from the Legislative Finance Committee visited EMHS to study our use of instructional time as the state makes recommendations on hours/days/calendars and how schools spend their time.

## C. Executive Director Professional Development

Area	Description
Building Hope Site Visit	Free PD visit in Atlanta, visited two charter schools Attended several workshops, including a highly impactful training on succession planning
Featured panelist	PCSNM Legislative Recap Day on March 17. Asked to be a panelist because of school's significant legislative wins this session.
Editorial	March 16, published editorial in the Albuquerque Journal, publicly thanking the legislator and Governor and holding up East Mountain as a model for the future of education in the state.