

Rosa González-Rogers

As a public school teacher in New Mexico, I fully support the proposed heat illness and injury prevention rule. Our students and staff are increasingly impacted by extreme heat, and the conditions in our classrooms are becoming not only unproductive but also unsafe.

Many of our schools rely on outdated, low-budget swamp coolers that frequently break down or require repair. These systems are no match for the rising temperatures we face. When they fail, classrooms quickly become stifling, leaving students dizzy, lethargic, or even fainting. I've witnessed students fall asleep or struggle to stay alert simply because the heat is overwhelming. It's nearly impossible to teach or learn in those conditions.

Even worse, these aging cooling systems often leak, causing water damage to ceilings and walls. That moisture lingers, creating the perfect environment for black mold to grow, frequently undetected. This poses an additional health risk for students and staff, especially those with respiratory issues or allergies.

Every worker, including educators and children, deserves a safe environment. We need a strong, enforceable rule that provides basic protections, such as access to water, shade, rest, and working cooling systems. Please prioritize the health and safety of New Mexico's workers and future generations by passing a strong heat protection rule.

Sincerely,
Rosa González-Rogers
New Mexico Public School Teacher