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# NEWS RELEASE

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## NM Public Education Department Announces Nearly \$4 Million to Help Struggling Schools

**SANTA FE, NM** – Today, New Mexico Department of Public Education Cabinet Secretary Hanna Skandera announced nearly \$4 million to help struggling schools throughout the state. Through a \$3.86 million federal grant, PED will award districts based on need and a demonstrated commitment to improving student achievement.

“Every student deserves a great education, and every school deserves the resources and support they need to make this vision a reality,” Secretary Skandera said. “This funding allows us to continue helping struggling schools that need it the most.”

If awarded, schools can use the funds to provide professional development for faculty and staff, improve methods used to measure success and achievement, and provide more learning time for students by extending the school day or year, among other opportunities. The Department will request proposals from districts and charter schools in September, and will ultimately issue up to five awards.

New Mexico is among a small number of states to be approved for the grant using a state-developed model to support struggling schools, while most states only offer support based on strict guidelines by the U.S. Department of Education. New Mexico’s model builds on the work of other home-grown initiatives focused on school and teacher mentorship and leadership. That model has resulted in rising grades for these schools, with nearly 80 percent of participating schools increasing a letter grade or more after two years, and 60 percent of participating schools increasing a letter grade or more after just one year.

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