

Making Schools Work: Preparing New Mexico's Future, P-20



2007 Annual Report

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A Letter from New Mexico Education Secretary, Dr. Veronica C. García



Fellow Champions for Education,

Preparing New Mexico's future for success in college or career requires a healthy and aligned education system that nurtures and educates our children from PreK through 20 (P-20). In 2007, we worked with the New Mexico Higher Education Department to define fundamental concepts and skills necessary for outstanding achievement at our state's college and career track institutions. Together with Governor Bill Richardson, legislators, and education and community leaders, we strategically implemented and developed initiatives to bridge expectation gaps between elementary, middle, high school, and post-secondary education; to create seamless transitions from grade to grade; and to align and integrate our entire P-20 education system.

We worked through our strategic framework *Making Schools Work* that earned New Mexico national recognition for education reform. The *Making Schools Work* initiative targets seven areas necessary for education excellence:


 Academic Rigor and Accountability

 Parent Involvement

 Closing the Achievement Gap

 21st Century Classrooms

 School Readiness

 College and Workforce Readiness

 Quality Teachers



A robust education system demands a comprehensive approach to academic success. In 2007, New Mexico earned national recognition for education reform initiatives, our outstanding schools, and for the progress our students are making academically. Increased public PreK enrollment, parent and community involvement initiatives, more highly qualified teachers than ever before, increased professional development opportunities, increased educator salaries, increased access to technology, achievement gap initiatives, higher academic performance standards, and more rigorous high school graduation requirements all contributed to moving New Mexico forward in 2007.

This year, we are in our second year of collecting and analyzing data through our nationally recognized Student and Teacher Accountability and Reporting System (STARS). STARS is a longitudinal data warehouse that will allow us to track and identify trends in educational program impact and academic performance down to the individual student level. Next year, in 2008, we look forward to reporting more in depth on the impact of New Mexico's education reform efforts.








Today, please read on and let us share with you some of our progress and accomplishments in 2007.

Truly,

Veronica C. García, Ed.D.
New Mexico Education Secretary

Making Schools Work: Preparing New Mexico's Future, P-20 National Recognition at a Glance




-  **New Mexico ranks 1st in the nation** for the highest number of low-income students eating free and reduced-price breakfast. *Food and Research Action Center 2007*
-  **New Mexico ranks 1st** for growth in Oral Reading fluency in Reading First Western States. *Federal Reading First Office 2007*
-  **New Mexico ranks 4th** nationally for standards, assessments, and Accountability. *"Quality Counts 2007: From Cradle to Career, Connecting American Education From Birth to Adulthood," Education Week 2007*
-  New Mexico is recognized for having high academic standards aligned to the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP). *US Department of Education 2007*
 - 8th nationally in 4th grade reading
 - 9th nationally in 4th grade math
 - 7th nationally in 8th grade math
 - 11th nationally in 8th grade reading
-  New Mexico is recognized for significant increases in academic performance on the NAEP. *US Department of Education 2007*
 - NM is one of only 4 states to show significant increases in math and reading for 4th grade Hispanic students.
 - NM is one of only 14 states to show significant increases in both 4th grade math and reading for all students.
 - NM is recognized for significant increases in 4th and 8th grade, math and reading for Hispanic students.
 - NM is recognized for significant increases in math and reading for 4th grade students eligible for free/reduced lunch.
-  **New Mexico is named "State of the Month"** for strategies to improve teacher quality, *National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, March 2007*
-  **Tatum High School is named a 2007 Blue Ribbon School.** The first New Mexico public school to receive the award for outstanding achievement. *US Department of Education 2007*

National Recognition at a Glance . . .

Continued!!!

Congratulations to Our Outstanding Schools!

 Of the nation's 3,940 Charter Schools in 2007, only 53 schools in 24 states received national recognition as outstanding schools. Three are in New Mexico: **21st Century Public Academy (APS), Taos Municipal Charter (Taos), and Moreno Valley High School (Cimarron).**

 **16 New Mexico High Schools rank among the nation's top high schools** for ensuring quality education and college readiness for all Students. *"America's Best High Schools" US News and World Report 2007*


Silver Recognition

- Los Alamos High School, Los Alamos
- Sandia High School, Albuquerque
- La Cueva High School, Albuquerque

Bronze Recognition

- Academy Tech. & Classic, Santa Fe
- Bloomfield High School, Bloomfield
- Clayton High School, Clayton
- Cliff High School, Silver Consolidated Schools
- Eldorado High School, Albuquerque
- East Mountain Charter High School, Sandia Park
- Hagerman High School, Hagerman
- Lake Arthur High School, Lake Arthur
- Logan High School, Logan
- Magdalena High School, Magdalena
- Springer High School, Springer
- Tatum High School, Tatum
- Texico High School, Texico

 Hobbs High School, Moreno Valley High School, and Los Alamos High School **rank in the top 5% of the best high schools in the nation.** *"Top of the Class: The complete list of the 1,300 top US schools" Newsweek 2007*

 New Mexico is recognized for standards and benchmarks well aligned to the SAT, PSAT, and AP tests; **rigorous high school graduation requirements boosting college and career readiness.** *National College Board 2007*

 **New Mexico ranks 20th nationally** for new National Board Certified Teachers (74). *National Board for Professional Teaching Standards 2007*



Academic Rigor & Accountability

New Mexico's Public Education system is the foundation for a solid economy, a highly qualified workforce, and a globally connected community. New Mexico's future depends on education. Meeting the spirit and requirements of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law, Governor Bill Richardson, Education Secretary Dr. Veronica C. García, the Legislature, and the Public Education Department work together with communities to attract and retain highly qualified teachers, close the achievement gap, and ensure instruction accountability to all New Mexico schools.

Excellent Standards, Accountability, & Assessments

In 2007, according to Education Week's Quality Counts Report, **New Mexico ranks 4th in the nation for aggressive state policies ensuring high standards, aligned assessments, and strong school accountability.**

New Mexico's **Academic Standards were recognized as "clear, specific, and grounded in content at all levels" in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science.** New Mexico was also recognized for establishing a regular timeline for revising standards.

Our **assessments earned recognition for being well aligned to standards at all levels in English/Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science.**

Finally, New Mexico received **recognition for strong school accountability policies and strategies including:**

- State ratings — New Mexico assigns ratings to all schools on criteria other than AYP.
- Rewards — New Mexico provides rewards to high performing schools.
- Assistance — New Mexico provides assistance to low-performing schools.
- Sanctions — New Mexico has sanctions for low-performing schools.

Aligning Expectations P-20

Ensuring that all New Mexico kids are ready for career or college when they graduate is crucial to designing a successful education system.



La Promesa Elementary in Belen Public School District became a *School on the Rise* in 2007-08. After struggling with math and reading achievement, student proficiency improved 22.5% in math and 3.4% in reading in the last two years.

In partnership with New Mexico's Higher Education Department (HED), Secretary García and the PED are building a seamless PreK-20 (P-20) path to success.

Efforts to close the expectation gap from high school to college or the career force include:

- **Aligning with Governor Richardson's Initiative, and in affiliation with 31 other states, the *American Diploma Project*: focusing on high standards for New Mexico students to compete in the global workforce**
- **Increased graduation requirements under the 2007 High School Redesign legislation including increased credits for graduation and increased experiences tied to college and career transitions**
- **PED and HED taskforces, studies, and strategies involving national experts on defining a consistent approach to higher education requirements, and including workforce expectations in instruction and assessment**

Improving Instructional Materials Support

In 2007, the state **boosted instructional materials investments by over \$4 million increasing from \$33 million in 2006 to \$37.2 million in 2007.** The PED also **welcomed the formation of the Instructional Materials Bureau Advisory Council.** The Council examines review and adoption processes for instructional materials, ensures alignment to New Mexico Standards and Benchmarks, and ensures integration with the P-20 system.

In 2007, the PED conducted the Instructional Material Summer Review and **established a consecutive two-year adoption model for integrated Language Arts and Reading Programs** to better align with integrated state standards at all levels.

Advisory Councils & Public Education Commission

In addition to the Instructional Materials Bureau Advisory Council, in 2007, the PED also welcomed the Parent Involvement Advisory Council.

Effective policy, guidance, and initiatives for school improvement and increased student achievement require a community commitment to education.

Secretary García and Governor Richardson seek guidance from New Mexico’s experts and community leaders. The following Advisory Councils and Committees ensured accountability with experts and communities in 2007:

- Indian Education Advisory Council
- State Bilingual Advisory Committee
- Superintendents’ Advisory Council
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act — Part B State Parent Advisory Committee
- Math and Science Advisory Council
- Secretary’s Assessment and Accountability Advisory Council
- Career Technical Education State Advisory Council
- Instructional Materials Bureau Advisory Council
- Parent Involvement Advisory Council
- Council on Technology in Education

The Public Education Commission (PEC) supports high expectations for students, educators, administrators, schools, and districts. In addition to representing New Mexicans statewide in an advisory role to the Secretary of Education, the PEC acts as the official charter school state authorizer, approves the PED’s strategic plan, and approves career-technical programs tied to the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Federal Fund.

Improving School Choice

Increased opportunities for school choice also keeps schools accountable and competitive and creates more opportunities for meeting the needs of more New Mexico kids.

In 2007, the PEC authorized the first two state-chartered charter schools and renewed two locally chartered schools that are now state chartered.

In partnership with the PED, the PEC developed and will publish new and renewal application kits for charter founders. The kits improve the application process for applicants and evaluators by aligning documents to statutory and regulatory requirements.

Additionally, in partnership with the NM Coalition of Charter Schools, the PED will conduct monthly workshops to prospective charter school applicants to provide technical assistance before the submission of applications.

The number of charter schools in New Mexico increased from 61 to 64 in 2007.

Successful School Improvement Framework

In 2006-07, 381 schools struggling with student proficiency in reading and math were identified as Schools in Need of Improvement. To help those schools, the PED continues to reevaluate the New Mexico School Improvement Framework and to increase support to schools and districts.

In 2007, the comprehensive New Mexico School Improvement Framework and additional support to schools not only included regional, district, and school training and/or consultants, but also included the following:

Program	Funding
Administrator Leadership Academies for Restructuring I & II schools	\$110K
Math and Reading Interventions & Specialists	\$2,611K
Site Specific Training & Intensive Coaching	\$800K
Implementation of Systemic Reform Model	\$925K
Support for Data Management of Student Assessment Data	\$140K
Regional Technical Support	\$180K
Professional Development	\$120K



Closing New Mexico's Achievement Gap

New Mexico ranks 3rd in the nation for the greatest difference between the well-being of our low-income children and high-income children, according to *Kids Count 2007*. New Mexico ranks 2nd in the nation, behind Mississippi, for the number of low-income children living 200% below the federal poverty threshold. Fifty-four percent of New Mexico's children face a socio-economic gap.

New Mexico's ethnic diversity requires intercultural approaches to education. Personal relevance, language, culture, and tradition are critical to student motivation, interest, and retention. Governor Bill Richardson and Secretary García are dedicated to a comprehensive approach to eliminating the achievement gap that targets health, well-being, and multilingual, multicultural academic programs.

Improving Readiness to Learn

Health and wellness are essential to improved academic performance. Nutritious food, healthcare, physical education, and structured early learning opportunities are all contributing to the progress New Mexico kids are making.

In 2007, **Public PreK programs served 2,194 students in 2006-2007**, up from 1,538 in 2005-2006. Strengthened by health and wellness initiatives, we can impact the achievement gap at the start of the P-20 system.

In 2007, New Mexico ranks 1st in the nation for the number of elementary school students eating free and reduced-priced breakfast in school according to the Food and Research Action Center (FRAC). New Mexico is the first state to have 60% of students eating free and reduced price lunch also participate in the breakfast program.

FRAC reports that the school breakfast program reduces hunger; improves nutrition, students' attendance, attentiveness and achievement; and reduces discipline problems in school.

In 2006-07, New Mexico served nearly 96,000 students through the Elementary Breakfast Program.



Z! A Gadsden PreK class learns letter recognition, and sound fluency. Lessons include learning days of the week and all 12 months in English and Spanish.

The PED administered over \$93 million in state and federal funds in 2006-07 providing free and reduced priced breakfast, lunch, milk, and snacks to over 156,000 students daily.

In addition to New Mexico's participation in federal programs and our nationally recognized wellness and nutrition policies, Governor Richardson, the Legislature, and the PED invest in programs targeted at improving our children's well-being.

In 2007, **\$8 million went to elementary PE programs in all of New Mexico's 89 school districts.** Additionally, \$2.7 million brought 22 districts before and after school enrichment programs aimed at improving student wellness and closing the achievement gap by including academic, physical activity, and nutrition components.

Nearly half-a-million dollars increased the number of **school-based health centers statewide from 56 in 2006 to 70 in 2007.** New Mexico school-based health centers not only provide health services, they also house dropout and truancy prevention programs that help students value and choose education and a healthy lifestyle.

Bilingual Education

Honoring diverse cultures and languages in school has been the commitment of our state and education leaders since the State Constitution was approved in 1911.

Since that time, New Mexico continues to be a leader in the nation having passed the Bilingual Education Act of 1973, the Indian Education Act of 2003, and implementing programs that make New Mexico an English-Plus state in policy and practice.

In 2006-07, 54% of New Mexico students were Hispanic and over 11% were Native American. The **PED funded \$49 million in state and federal programs for English Language Learners (ELL), bilingual education, and immigrant students** including: dual language immersion, heritage and language maintenance, and transitional programs for ELL students.

New Mexico now has nearly **6,700 teachers endorsed and instructing in bilingual programs and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) programs. We are serving over 60,000 students in ELL programs** including Hispanics, Native Americans, and immigrants from all over the world.

Our state provides the New Mexico Education Language Proficiency Assessment and is working to offer all state assessments in English and Spanish. In 2007, ELL students showed the strongest gains in math and reading proficiency than any other subgroup and had the second strongest gains in science.

Indian Education

New Mexico is home to 22 Indian Tribes. In 2007, the PED increased the Memoranda of Agreement with tribes to develop **tribal standards and criteria for licensing Native American Language teachers from 10 in 2006 to 13 in 2007:**

Jicarilla Apache Nation	Isleta Pueblo
Navajo Nation	Laguna Pueblo
Ohkay Owingeh	Santa Clara Pueblo
Mescalero Apache Tribe	Santo Domingo Pueblo
Santa Ana Pueblo	Zuni Tribe
Acoma Pueblo	Zia Pueblo
Cochiti Pueblo	

New Mexico increased the number of **newly certified Native American teachers from 69 in 2006 to 113 in 2007.**

Ninety-two Native American teachers and administrators entered programs for **advanced degrees and administrative certificates, doubling the number from 92 in 2006 to 184 in 2007.**

The PED also **increased the number of Joint Powers Agreements with tribes and pueblos for revitalization and preservation of native language from 9 to 12 including:**

Acoma Pueblo	Cochiti Pueblo
San Felipe Pueblo	Laguna Pueblo
Santa Clara Pueblo	Navajo Nation
Santa Ana Pueblo	Ohkay Owingeh
Pojoaque Pueblo	Nambe Pueblo
Mescalero Apache Tribe	Santo Domingo Pueblo

The PED is dedicated to identifying best practices for closing the achievement gap. Eighteen *Exemplary Programs* across four districts were identified for excellent achievement gap strategies and received a total of \$575,000 to implement unique programs in 2007.

Additionally, the PED entered into a Joint Powers Agreement with the Museum of Indian Arts and Culture to develop a NM American Indian history and government curricula guide for elementary, middle and high schools.

The PED continues collaboration through Government-to-Government meetings, the Indian Education Advisory Council, the State Bilingual Advisory Committee, Tribal Education Summits, content and instructional strategy workshops, maintenance and revitalization projects, and rural literacy grants.



A Buffalo Dancer prepares for a Zuni community event at Dawa Yalanne Elementary School to celebrate Native American Day as part of a cultural curriculum.



School Readiness

Structured early learning experiences help prepare New Mexico students emotionally, cognitively, and physically for their K-20 academic paths. Both Governor Richardson and Secretary García are dedicated to preparing all New Mexico children for success.

In 2007, Governor Richardson and the NM Legislature invested \$9.5 million to expand public PreK programs, to build appropriate classrooms, and to supplement tribal and private early childhood programs. In partnership with Children, Youth, and Family Services Department (CYFD), students served in public PreK programs **increased from 1,538 in 2005-2006 to 2,194 in 2006-07.**

Increasing Accountability with Evaluation

The 2005 PreK Act established NM Early Learning Outcomes in seven domains to ensure that all students have the foundations for learning in:

- Literacy
- Numeracy & Spatial Relations
- Self, Family, & Community
- Approaches to Learning
- Scientific/Conceptual Understanding
- Aesthetic/Creativity
- Physical Development, Health, & Well-Being

Together, PED and CYFD developed criterion-referenced Observation and Documentation Assessment process to:

- Document child growth and development in all seven domains
- Inform curriculum and purposeful classroom practice
- Serve as a communication tool with families and the receiving Kindergarten teacher

Assessment data show that children who attended NM PreK before attending Kindergarten identify more letters, make more letter-sound association, and are more familiar with words and book concepts than their peers who did not participate.

The National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) conducted research into the effectiveness of NM PreK programs. They reported



Command Performance! PreK classes visit the House Education Committee during the 2007 Legislative Session. Chairman, Representative Rick Miera, Co-Chairman Representative Richard Vigil, and Representative Nora Espinoza watched the performance the students learned at PreK.

that the **NM PreK initiative had statistically significant impact on students' early language, literacy, and mathematical development.** Their report *The Effects of the New Mexico PreK Initiative on Young Children's School Readiness* found the following:

- Vocabulary growth increased 54%
- Math skills increased 40%
- Literacy/print awareness increased 118%
- PreK students outperform their non-PreK peers in vocabulary and literacy

In 2007, the number of teachers participating in professional development toward earning Early Childhood certifications or degrees increased from 55 in 2006 to 109 in 2007. PED and CYFD work in partnership with the New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children to provide scholarships for a minimum of nine credit hours per year for each teacher.

Increasing Classroom Time

The Legislature invested **\$400,000 for the third year of the Kindergarten Plus (K+) Program in 2006-07.** The first two years of the pilot demonstrated that increased time in Kindergarten narrows the achievement gap between disadvantaged students and their peers, increases cognitive skills, and leads to higher test scores for participants. The pilot targeted schools where 85% or more of the students are classified as eligible for free and reduced priced lunch.



The final word on NM PreK came from a four-year old in Albuquerque who asked his teacher, “Excuse me, is this PreK?” “Yes, it is,” the teacher replied. He said enthusiastically, “Well, I like it!”

The K+ Pilot Program **adds 25 instructional days to the school year, beginning up to two months early, with concentration on literacy, numeracy, and social skills development.** Students in the program are assessed using the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS).

DIBELS data show that the **vast majority of students participating in K+ are entering their regular Kindergarten programs with appropriate entry level skills.**

Twenty-nine schools in the following seven districts participated in the K+ Program in 2006-07:

- Albuquerque
- Bernalillo
- Gadsden
- Hobbs
- Gallup-McKinley
- Peñasco
- Las Cruces

In every school, more students who participated in the K+ Program reached benchmark than students who did not. Benchmark growth in 2007 increased an average of 21%!!

In January of 2007, the Legislature expanded the program to incorporate Kindergarten through 3rd grade for six years beginning in 2007-08, **increasing funding to \$7.5 million statewide.**

Improving Early Reading Achievement

Preparing New Mexico’s future for success in college and career demands that we build solid learning foundations. Early childhood literacy is essential to giving students the skills and concepts necessary for continued learning in elementary school, middle school, high school, and post-secondary.

In 2007, **New Mexico’s ranked number one for growth in Oral Reading Fluency in Reading First Western States,** according to the Federal Reading First Office.

New Mexico increased the number of Reading First Programs from 30 districts and 90 schools in 2006 to **35 districts and 108 schools in 2007.**

In 2007, all Reading First sub-groups are increasing the number of students at proficiency and decreasing the number of students that need intensive intervention. In just the 2006-07 school year:

- **Native American students increased proficiency by 16% and decreased the need for intensive intervention by 8.2%.**
- **Hispanic students increased proficiency by 25.2% and decreased intensive the need for intensive intervention by 8.2%.**
- **White students increased proficiency by 21.2 % and decreased the need for intensive intervention by 7.7%.**



Roswell PreK teachers use hands-on activities to teach fundamental number concepts like telling time, counting money, addition and subtraction. Statewide, PreK students’ math skills increased an average of 40%.



Quality Teachers

Building and maintaining a high quality educator workforce is essential to a quality education for all New Mexico students. Professional development, competitive salaries, and a robust accountability system are part of New Mexico's comprehensive approach to ensuring quality educators and trained administrators. Studies by the Education Trust state that quality teachers in the classroom teaching to high academic standards is one of the most important factors for reaching education excellence for all students.

In New Mexico, Highly Qualified Teachers are educators who meet state requirements for licensure in their areas of teaching. Secondary teachers, grades 7-12, must have 24 hours of college credit in their subject area. Teachers in grades K-8 must have 24 hours in a subject area or pass the New Mexico Content Knowledge Assessment in that area.

In 2007, 94% of all core courses in New Mexico were taught by Highly Qualified Teachers.

Increasing Partnerships

In 2007, Secretary García signed two Memoranda of Understanding with Spain and Mexico to recruit highly qualified teachers for New Mexico's Visiting Teachers Programs. Teachers in the program provide Spanish language instruction to English Language Learners in both elementary and secondary schools in hard-to-staff classes like math, science, and history.

Thirty-seven highly qualified teachers from Spain and Mexico taught in five districts across New Mexico in 2007.

Increasing Salaries and Accountability

New Mexico is nationally recognized for our Three-Tiered Licensure system for educator accountability. The progressive career system ties increased competencies and responsibilities to licensure levels and salary increases.

Each school year, teachers must have a Professional Development Plan and a summative evaluation. Teachers must demonstrate that they are teaching to NM standards, developing



Get Moving! The School Health Education Institute, a PED sponsored conference, trains teachers on education health topics like Nutrition, Physical Activity, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use Prevention, and HIV prevention.

their teaching skills, and increasing student achievement to progress from Level I to Level II and to Level III.

Over the past four years, Governor Richardson and the Legislature worked together to invest over \$82 million in teacher salaries to implement the Three-Tiered Licensure System.

In 2006-2007:

- Level I — minimum of \$30,000
- Level II — minimum of \$40,000
- Level III — minimum of \$45,000

In 2006-07, the average teacher salary in the state was \$44,472 earning New Mexico an estimated rank of 36th nationally. New Mexico ranked 5th nationally for the percentage change in average teacher salaries from 04-05 to 05-06.

In January of 2007, Governor Richardson and the Legislature increased salaries for teachers and support staff by an average of 5% and boosted the minimum salary of Level III teachers to \$50,000 beginning in 2007-08.

With this increase, the National Education Association projects New Mexico will rank 24th in 2007-08 raising the state's standing 16 places in 7 years.

Professional Development and Support

Recruiting and retaining quality teachers with competitive salaries, professional development, and support services is key to a high quality workforce. In 2006-07, the Legislature and Governor Richardson **invested over \$6.5 million in professional development and mentorship programs statewide.**



Surprise! Agriculture Teacher Jesus Trujillo is overwhelmed by his students after winning \$25,000 from the Milken Family Foundation for recognition as a nationally outstanding educator.

Of that amount, **\$4.2 million funded over 25 projects in Reading, Math, and Science Summer Institutes** that incorporate hands-on activities to explore and expand content and develop teaching strategies. Through the Community Foundation, an additional **\$40,000 supported the Santa Fe Science Initiative** that provided hands-on science materials and mentors for elementary teachers.

In 2006-07, the PED formed three Math and Science partnerships with New Mexico State University, the University of New Mexico, and Western New Mexico University. This year, the **\$1.6 million for partnerships expanded programs to include both middle and high school teachers** in intense summer sessions and follow-up throughout the year.

Additionally, PED hosted a conference that focused on professional development and training strategies for professional developers serving math and science teachers. Eleven districts participated.

In the fall of 2007, the PED sponsored the School Health Education Institute. The free workshop for teachers who address health education topics in their primary academic courses included presentations on: **nutrition, physical activity, safe schools, alcohol, tobacco, and drug prevention, sexuality education, and HIV prevention.**

The PED also sponsored the Funded Partners conference bringing education communities to-

gether to discuss programs **aimed at removing social, economic, health, and other barriers to academic success.**

Excellent School Leadership

An essential part of comprehensive professional support is excellent leadership. In addition to fall and spring regional trainings on topics like licensure requirements, ethics, and mentorship programs, the PED also developed a new Principal Evaluation System to ensure quality and accountability for New Mexico administrators.

The PED worked with principals, superintendents, university professors, and teachers union representatives to develop guiding principles, recommendations to refine administrator competencies, evaluation processes, and training for implementation. The ***Handbook for the Highly Objective, Uniform Statewide Standard of Evaluation for Principals*** is completed and will be implemented in July of 2008.

National Recognition

- 2007 Milken National Educator Award: Hagerman Public Schools Teacher, Jesus Trujillo
- 2007 US Department of Education American Star of Teaching Award, Albuquerque Charter School Teacher, Jonathan Koelling
- New Mexico named "State of the Month" for strategies to improve teacher quality, *National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, March 2007*
- New Mexico ranks 20th nationally for new National Board Certified Teachers (74), *National Board for Professional Teaching Standards 2007*



Two hundred educators and administrators attended the Funded Partners Conference aimed at removing social, economic, health, and other barriers to academic success.



Parent and Community Involvement

Secretary García and the Public Education Department know that parents and families are the first teachers in a child's life. Parents, family, and the community are responsible for communicating the importance of attending school, graduating from high school, and achieving success in college and career.

From hygiene and nutrition to motivation and interest, New Mexico's youth count on family and community to help them through the school system from PreK through post-secondary. Family and community are essential to student success. Schools must see parents and families as partners to guarantee that students come to school ready to commit to education and ready to learn.

Increasing Community & Family Partnerships

In January of 2007, **students, parents, legislators, and community members participated in a Community Commitment Kick-Off** in preparation for the testing of New Mexico students.

Representing New Mexico communities, **legislators, parents, and teachers signed a pledge to make education a community responsibility and to support our students. In turn, students signed a pledge to do their best** by completing home work, going to bed on time, and going to school every day.

Governor Richardson and Secretary García understand the importance of community in emphasizing life long learning and commitment to education. In 2003 and 2004, Governor Richardson and Legislators passed legislation allowing WWII and Korean War veterans who went off to war before they graduated from high school to receive a high school diploma.

In June of 2007, **the PED and the Department of Veterans Services hosted a statewide graduation ceremony where First Lady Barbara Richardson and over 600 family members honored a total of 200 veterans, 62 in attendance, who received their diplomas.** These honored veterans sent a message to their families and communities about the privilege of freedom, the precious gift of public education, and the importance of receiving a high school diploma.



Community Commitment Kick-Off! Representative Andrew Barreras, House Education Committee Chair, Representative Rick Miera, and Senator Mary Kay Papen pledge to continue to make education a community responsibility & students from Wood Gormley Elementary, representing all NM students, pledged to do their best .

To boost community involvement in education and to develop effective statewide strategies and policies to build stronger school-family-community partnerships, **Secretary García named a statewide Parent Involvement Advisory Committee with parents and representatives from the following districts and parent and family groups and organizations:**

- ABC Community School
- Albuquerque Public Schools
- Appleseed
- Bernalillo Public Schools
- Center for the Education and Studies of Diverse Populations
- Children, Youth & Families Department
- Clovis Municipal Schools
- Engaging Latino Communities for Education (ENLACE)
- Family & Community Partnerships Division, BabyNet
- Farmington Public Schools
- Higher Ed Dept GEAR UP
- Info CTR
- Las Cruces Public Schools
- NM Broadcasters Assn
- NM Community Foundation
- NM & APS Counseling Unit
- NM SPARK
- NM PTA
- Northern Region GEAR UP
- Parents for Behaviorally Different Children
- Parents Reaching Out
- NM Assn for the Education of Young Children
- University of NM Family Development Program

Also created in 2007, the PED's Parent Involvement Action Committee **ensures integration and collaboration for 21 state and federal mandated and 9 optional parent involvement activities**



Congratulations! Secretary of Veteran's Affairs John García, First Lady Barbara Richardson, and Secretary of Education Dr. Veronica C. García awarded high school diplomas to 62 WWII and Korean War Veterans.

across Indian Education, Rural Education, Special Education, Bilingual Education, School and Family Support, Math & Science, and Title I programs including:

- **Parenting and Interactive Literacy**
- **Parent Engagement Planning**
- **Crisis Planning**
- **Leadership**
- **Native Language Programs**
- **Health Education**
- **Special Education Awareness**

Linking Community, Education, & Economic Development

Sustainable economic vitality and quality of life in New Mexico depends on a well-educated and engaged community. The PED's Rural Education Division promotes school-community building, entrepreneurship, and provides technical assistance and national advocacy.

New Mexico's **rural revitalization program, now considered a national model by the National Community Education Association**, supports projects that partner school curriculum with community needs to revitalize their economy, workforce, and culture. **Thirteen school-community programs are successfully underway in 2007:**

- **Cimmaron**
High-tech laser engraving and souvenir business
- **Jemez Mountain**
Utilizing former forest waste for alternative fuel application
- **Springer**
Main Street beautification, developing bird refuge/grasslands projects, community collaboration for hands-on training in ranching, corrections, and EMT training

- **Anthony**
Planning screen print shop for school uniforms, planning community park, and diabetes education programs
- **Jemez Valley**
Developing outdoor education initiatives, music and arts center, & vocational and certification programs
- **Loving**
Partnering with New Mexico State University for county-wide strategic planning
- **Maxwell**
Developed Maxwell Wellness Center, Maxwell Cubs Learning Center, Dinner Theatre, entrepreneurial programs in graphic arts and consumer science
- **Tatum**
Town beautification, building and trades classes to construct a green house at Tatum Elementary and build one home per year to auction for profit, planning Coyote Ranch Heritage Center and Wind Energy Project
- **Ft. Sumner**
Planning greenhouse for student-grown produce, student-run internet café, science & health projects
- **Dexter**
Student run community publishing projects, entrepreneurial after-school programs, Bottomless Lakes State Park outdoor education & facilities projects. Planning community center & ice cream shop
- **Newcomb**
Plans for code talkers memorial site, oral histories video, history reform, and community library
- **Reserve**
Planning community library, heritage museum. Multi-purpose facility, school greenhouse & Main Street satellite.

Governor Richardson and Secretary García will continue to engage families and communities as valued partners in efforts to promote academic success for all New Mexico youth.



Community Celebration! In Zuni, the entire community is invited to participate in their own dances and to celebrate the foods, dances, music, and culture of other tribes and pueblos that students at Dowa Yalanne Elementary learn about in school.



Investing in 21st Century Classrooms

Mathematical, scientific, and technological skills are a leading concern for U.S. policy makers in today's competitive global economy. New Mexico's students must have access to modern technology to successfully compete in a complex and advanced workforce.

To ensure that New Mexico and its future are not left on the wrong side of the "digital divide," Governor Richardson, Secretary García, and the Legislature understand that schools must have access to technology, develop students' digital literacy, and build students' technology application skills.

New Mexico is the first state in the nation to create a statewide eLearning system that from its inception encompasses all aspects of learning from traditional public and higher education environments to teacher professional development, continuing education and workforce education.

Statewide Cyber Academy

IDEAL-NM provides eLearning services to New Mexico K-12 schools, higher education institutions and government agencies. IDEAL-NM provides a statewide technical infrastructure to facilitate state licensing to reduce costs to districts and ensure statewide compatibility. **In 2007, Governor Richardson and the Legislature passed the Cyber Academy Act that established the New Mexico Cyber Academy and created the basic foundation for operation.**

In addition to bringing technology opportunities to New Mexico students, the Statewide Cyber Academy that serves K-12 students also does the following:

- **Reduces geographic and capacity barriers**
- **Expands course offerings—language, math, science, technology, and career-tech**
- **Resolves conflicts in student schedules**
- **Provides dual credit, credit-recovery, summer school, on-line tutoring, alternative high school completion, and home-bound options**
- **Increases access to highly qualified teachers**
- **Reduces teacher-pupil ratios**



The vision for the New Mexico Cyber Academy is to provide equal access to technological and educational opportunities to all students to help build 21st century skills and to close the achievement gap.

In collaboration with the Higher Education Department, the eLearning consortium New Mexico Learning Network, and New Mexico State University, **the PED piloted its first semester of eLearning services in 2007.**

- **Twenty-five eTeachers in thirteen districts received training and participated in course development.**
- **Seven high schools registered students in twenty-two courses including French, German, English, history, math, economics, and digital video production.**
- **Two New Mexico courses were developed and piloted: Algebra I and New Mexico History (high school).**
- **Teacher, school, and student handbooks were developed.**
- **Domain established at www.ideal-nm.org**
- **Learning Management System is in the final stages of procurement.**

Most commonly, schools give students access to a computer during their regularly scheduled class time; and site coordinators monitor student progress and facilitate any needed help.

One of the founding principles of the New Mexico Cyber Academy is to support local school districts and ensure that there is no competition for students or funding. Students that attend New Mexico Cyber Academy courses remain students of the local school districts. Districts pay the New Mexico Cyber Academy based only on per class, per semester fees that are equivalent to regular course costs.



Secretary García and Lt. Governor Diane Denish congratulate a student participating in the Microsoft Partners In Learning program that brought \$2 million to rural schools to support education, technology, and economic development.

Investing in Technology: Increasing Access

According to Education Week's 2007 report *Technology Counts: A Digital Decade*, **New Mexico earned a B+ for statewide student access to technology.** New Mexico was recognized for the following:

- Percent of students with access to a computer in the classroom
- Percent of students with access to a computer in a lab/media center
- Number of students per instructional computer
- Number of students with access to a high-speed internet-connected computer

Schools must have the up-to-date technology necessary to prepare students for the competitive global economy and to ensure that they can succeed in college and career.

New Mexico's Council for Technology in Education serves in an advisory role to Secretary García. In 2005, the group developed adequacy standards for technology infrastructure that schools must have to support modern technology. Each year, districts are evaluated to receive funding from the Education Technology Deficiency Fund to improve access to technology.

In 2007, 14 districts received a total of \$1.5 million dollars in funds for capital technology improvements including computers, hardware, and software.

To help all schools statewide keep up with changing and improving technology, have access to new applications for technology, and have access to

21st century curricula, a total of **\$5 million dollars was spread across all 89 school districts through the Education Technology fund.** This special fund provides computers, hardwiring, and software.

Additionally, **25% of the funds schools received had to be spent on professional development to ensure teachers can effectively teach with and about technology.**

Two million dollars in 2006-07 funded the fourth year of the Governor's Laptop Learning Initiative that provides laptops to 7th graders and their teachers. **Statewide, 1,355 students and 190 teachers at 21 sites received laptops in 2007 expanding the program to serve nearly 5,000 students at 31 school sites statewide.**

Partnerships

In 2007, **Microsoft U.S. Partners in Learning brought a total of \$2 million to ten rural districts in New Mexico to transform schools into economic catalysts.** Connected to the PED's Rural Revitalization program, each project received funds that support school-community projects in science, technology, engineering, math, entrepreneurship and work-based learning. These 4 projects are building 21st century skills & local economies:

- **Growing Green in Fort Sumner**
- **Mosquero Media Entrepreneurs**
- **Loving 21st Century Economic Revitalization Through Home Construction**
- **Student Film Technician Training** serving 7 districts of the Northwest Regional Education Cooperation #2



A total of \$6.5 million went to districts and schools statewide for updated computers, hardwiring, and software to ensure students' access to technology.



Building College & Workforce Readiness

The National Center for Public Policy and Education, the National Center for Education Statistics, the College Board, and the Consortium for Policy Research in Education all provide research and emphasize that to be successful in today's competitive global economy, all students need education and training that go beyond the high school diploma. Moving students successfully through the education pipeline requires a system that prepares our students from one step to the next.

Nationally, and specifically in New Mexico, there are noticeable expectation gaps between middle school and high school, and high school and college or the workforce. In 2007, the PED continued aggressive strategies to align public education to higher education, workforce, and economic development.

As a member of the American Diploma Project Network, a 31 state coalition dedicated to aligning K–12 curriculum, standards, assessments and accountability policies with the demands of college and work, New Mexico **started the redesign of the high school and middle school experiences.**

Increasing Rigor & Relevance

In 2007, Governor Richardson and Legislators passed the **High School Redesign Act** increasing opportunities and expectations at the high school and middle school levels to align with national policy recommendations for college and career success. The Act requires the following to be phased in beginning in the 2008-09 school year:

High School

- **Four years of math with at least one course of Algebra II or higher**
- **Four years of English**
- **Three years of laboratory-based science**
- **Three years of social studies**
- **At least one Advanced Placement® (AP), dual enrollment, honors, or online course**
- **Participation in the Next Step Planning**
- **A three-part assessment system that measures high school, college, and workforce readiness**

Middle School

- **Algebra I will be made available in 8th grade**



Increased access to AP and online courses give students the opportunity to experience the rigor of college level course work to help transition from high school to college while building 21st century skills.

To ensure that all New Mexico students are on a track to college or career success, the High School Redesign also requires the PED to develop a three-part assessment system that will begin with entering freshman entering in 2008-09.

The PED partnered with superintendents, principals, teachers' union representatives, national specialists, parents, state and community leaders to create the assessment system. The system assesses high school readiness, defines 2- and 4-year postsecondary expectations and measures student performance relevant to college readiness, and incorporates the assessment of skills necessary for success in the workforce.

Creating Paths for Success: College and Career

In addition to raising the rigor of expectations in high school, every student must participate in creating their own Next Step Plan with guidance counselors. The process helps students build bridges to college or career by enabling informed choices about courses and electives that align their interests to relevant college or career tracks.

The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education reports that a powerful predictor of whether high school students will graduate and earn a college degree is the rigor of the high school curriculum they complete.

The Center highly recommends participation in dual enrollment and Advances Placement® courses to allow students to earn both high school and college credit.

In 2007, New Mexico public schools and post-secondary institutions offered **over 120 dual credit programs statewide. Class enrollment more than doubled in 2006-07 totaling 16,294** over 7,215 last year. That means each of the 3,821 students participating enrolled in an average of 2.13 classes.

Governor Richardson and the Legislature supported AP programs with over \$1 million in 2006-07 enabling **over 6,000 students to take one or more AP exams, posting a 9% increase over last year. Hispanic test-takers increased by 15% and Native American test-takers increased by 7%. More than 4,000 students were eligible for college credit in 2007-08.**

Aligning to NM Workforce and Economy

Connecting education to local and global economies is necessary to ensure a healthy workforce and stable economic future for New Mexico. In collaboration with the Department of Economic Development, Department of Labor, Higher Education Department, and New Mexico business leaders, the PED defined 7 Career Clusters and career technical standards aligned to state workforce requirements and economic growth:

- Arts and Entertainment
- Business Services
- Communications and Information
- Energy and Environmental Technologies
- Engineering, Construction, Manufacturing, & Agriculture
- Health and Bioscience
- Hospitality and Tourism

With support from the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Federal Fund, industry recognized **certifications aligned to New Mexico Career Clusters increased from 91 to 148** in 2006-07.

Increasing Career/Technical Opportunities

The *High Schools That Work (HSTW)* program focuses on continuous school improvement by incorporating ten key instructional practices including career-technical studies. **Twelve high schools in eleven districts participated in the HSTW program.**

Several are using the Career Clusters as an organizing framework to provide career-tech studies emphasizing higher-level math, science, and problem-solving.

The **Career Technical Leadership Program** serves New Mexico's Career Technical Student Organizations. Board members of student organizations receive training on strengthening student organizations and funds for student conference set-up and facilitation. **In 2006-07 \$500,000 served students in 6 organizations.**

The New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (NMDVR) collaborates with high schools working one-on-one with students with disabilities to help them transition to the workforce.

In 2007, NMDVR served over 2,000 students, helping them transition from school to work with services including assessment and career counseling, additional education, job development, or on-the-job training. NMDVR also administers the Mentoring Diverse Abilities program that provides leadership training, mentorship, and work experience.

The PED also provides programs targeted to at-risk youth. The *Graduation, Reality and Dual-Role Skills (GRADS)* program targets pregnancy prevention, career readiness, fatherhood, and youth development. **Thirty-two intervention programs served 797 students and 299 of their children in 2007.**



Strategic Planning: Bernalillo High School teachers, freshman principal, and counselor discuss the implications for their practice based on the results of the 2006 *High Schools That Work* student assessment. Background: Cibola High School Freshman Academy Director also looks at assessment scores.



The State of Education in New Mexico

2007 Facts and Figures*

General Overview

In 2006-2007, New Mexico served 329,935 total students, PreK through 12th grade, enrolled in public, charter, non-traditional, and alternative schools. These students attend 817 schools in 89 districts across the state.

New Mexico's districts and students are beautifully diverse representing our state's multiple cultures and perspectives.

Percent of Student Ethnic Enrollment 2006-2007				
Caucasian	Hispanic	Native American	Black	Asian
30.6	54.6	10.9	2.6	1.3

Albuquerque Public Schools was the largest district serving 94,697 students and Mosquero Municipal Schools was the smallest serving 41 students. In terms of socioeconomics, approximately 24% of the state student population is characterized as living in poverty, according to U.S. Census Data.¹

Districts range from a high of 50% of impoverished students to a low of less than 2%. A large number of districts have between 20% and 30% of their students living in poverty, according to the U.S. Census. In 2007, approximately 59% of New Mexico's students were classified as low-income and qualified for free and reduced price meals.

Graduation Rates

In the 2006-07 school year, 16,172 students graduated from New Mexico public schools. The state annual graduation rate for 2006-07 was 87%.²

2006-2007 Gradation Rates by Ethnic Group				
White	Hispanic	Native American	Black	Asian
91%	85%	79%	86%	92%

Finance and Operations

In FY 2007, the PED administered a budget of **\$2.9 billion** composed of a \$42.3 million operating budget, \$43.7 million in special appropriations, \$2.6 billion in public school support, and \$236.3 million in capital outlay funds. The operating budget included \$12.5 million in general fund dollars for agency operation. **Agency operating funds represent less than 1/2 of one percent of the total budget.**

New Mexico is an equalized state, meaning, funds are distributed by the state based on per-pupil calculations as opposed to local tax revenue.

Average Public School Salaries 2006-2007

NM State Average Principal Salary	\$66,222
NM State Average Assistant Principal Salary	\$58,397
NM State Average Salary Instructional Staff	\$44,472
National Average Salary Instructional staff (National Education Association, Rankings and Estimates 2006 & 2007)	\$52,843
NM National Teacher Salary Ranking (National Education Association, Rankings and Estimates 2006 & 2007)	36th

New Mexico Teacher Statistics 2006-2007

Average Student:Teacher Ratio	
• Elementary School	15:1
• Middle School	15:1
• High School	17:1
Total Number of Teachers	21,157
Percent of Teachers Master's Degree or Higher	38.8
Number of Teachers in Levels of the Three-Tier Licensure Program	
• Level 1	3,109
• Level 2	10,198
• Level 3	6,305

*Unless specified, all data reported is maintained in the New Mexico Student and Teacher Accountability and Reporting System (STARS).

¹Enrollment numbers reflect an average of 80th and 120th day district reports also use to calculate per pupil funding.

²Senior year graduation rate is calculated by dividing the number of 12th grade graduates by the number of seniors enrolled on the 40th day district reports.

The State of Education in New Mexico 2007

Academic & Other Measured Performance

Academic Performance

For the second year, in 2006-2007, students in New Mexico schools were assessed in reading, mathematics, and science in the 3rd through 9th and 11th grade by the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment (NMSBA), the New Mexico High School Standards Assessment (NMHSSA) and the NM Alternate Performance Assessment (NMAPA) for Students with Disabilities.

New Mexico provides the New Mexico Education Language Proficiency Assessment (NMELPA) and is working to offer all state assessments in English and Spanish. **In 2007, the PED also developed an implemented the Kindergarten NMELPA that assesses English language proficiency in:**

- Reading
- Writing
- Listening
- Speaking

The assessments measure our students' knowledge of the New Mexico Standards and Benchmarks that educators and the public determined are important for our students to succeed in college, career, and life.

Under the federal No Child Left Behind Law (NCLB), all schools have a goal of 100% student proficiency in math and reading by 2014. Each state sets annual measurable objectives that increase each year until 100% proficiency is met in 2014. If schools meet these objectives they are determined to have made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). In 2007, objectives increased 4%. After two years of not making AYP in the same subject area, schools receive a designation as a School in Need of Improvement.

Status	2006	2007
Making AYP	367 (45.9%)	368 (45.5%)
Not Making AYP	433 (54.1%)	440 (54.5%)
Total	800 (100.0%)	808 (100.0%)*

*School total does not include some non-traditional schools.

In 2007, 381 schools received designations under NCLB and **10 Schools on the Rise, that previously had designations, made AYP for two consecutive years and came off of the School Improvement Cycle.**

Percentage of All Students At or Above Proficiency									
Grade	Reading 2004-2005	Reading 2005-2006	Reading 2006-2007	Math 2004-2005	Math 2005-2006	Math 2006-2007	Science 2004-2005	Science 2005-2006	Science 2006-2007
3	55.0	53.0	54.1	43.0	44.0	43.6	No Data	78.7	79.0
4	35.0	52.3	54.7	29.0	39.9	45.8	No Data	54.8	55.5
5	57.0	55.6	59.3	27.0	33.2	36.4	No Data	42.4	44.1
6	41.0	38.9	37.2	22.0	22.9	26.7	No Data	29.8	33.8
7	50.0	48.8	50.1	20.0	22.6	25.0	No Data	25.8	29.9
8	No Data	49.4	55.8	No Data	25.5	30.0	No Data	23.5	23.3
9	43.0	42.3	43.9	34.0	32.2	36.6	No Data	35.6	38.3
11	No Data	56.6	47.3	No Data	29.7	31.2	No Data	No Data	47.1



Looking Forward

Secretary García, the Public Education Department, and the Public Education Commission are dedicated to continuous improvement, comprehensive reform, and community partnerships to improve education in New Mexico.

Together, with educators, administrators, businesses, communities, and Legislators, Secretary García and Governor Bill Richardson will work to improve overall student performance, close the achievement gap, and invest in initiatives that contribute to economic development and ensure a bright future for New Mexico.

Continuous Improvement at the PED

Secretary García and the PED are committed to continuous improvement for internal operations. More efficient and effective processes enable faster impact to our 89 school districts. In 2007, several internal processes were studied, restructured, and improved with measurable results. For example:

- **Implementation of Electronic waiver processes for 13 topics** including class size, instructional hours, and graduation
- Full implementation of the **Operating Budget Management System** eliminating district financial data entry, **reducing processing time from weeks to hours, and winning 2007 Information Technology Award for Best Solution Custom Software from NM Information Technology & Software Associates**
- **Addition of student assessment data to the Student and Teacher Accountability System (STARS)** bringing the PED and districts closer to having all student data accessible in one data warehouse (over 3.7 million student and staff records, over 1,000 reports, & over 700 users)
- **Improved processes in Licensure enabled the updating of 34 rules, issuing of 14,196 licenses, review of 3,621 Professional Development Dossiers, and answering of 27,528 phone calls**

In 2008, the PED will study more of its internal processes to ensure that we are providing the leadership, technical assistance, and quality assurance for effective and efficient business processes internally, with districts, and with other education partners.



Lt. Governor Diane Denish and Secretary of Education Dr. Veronica C. García spoke in support of expanding state PreK programs and in support of continued partnerships through the Children's Cabinet.

Invest in Partnerships

Education is most effective when whole communities take responsibility for educating New Mexico's future. The education system and student performance support and shapes our state's economy and workforce.

Continued and expanded collaboration with Legislators, community leaders, business leaders, and parents is essential in preparing New Mexico's children to compete in an increasingly complex and diverse global economy.

A Seamless P-20 Education System

New Mexico's future depends on a healthy education system that can successfully lead our students from PreK through post-secondary study.

In 2006, each student was assigned a unique student Identification number that will allow for the collection and analysis of longitudinal data.

Next year **in 2007-08, we will be able to conduct analyses to help identify effective programs, better track the mobility of students within districts and within the state, and will help better identify gaps in curricula.**

With the Children, Youth & Families and Higher Education Departments as our partner, we will continue to strategically address achievement and expectation gaps to guarantee smooth transitions for our students.

Together as education leaders, community leaders, business leaders, teachers, and parents, we will prepare New Mexico's future P-20.



The Public Education Commission

The Public Education Commission (PEC) represents New Mexicans from across the state in an advisory role to the Secretary of Education.

A Shared Vision and Mission

Ten commissioners are elected to serve staggered four-year terms on behalf of the state districts in which they live. The PEC shares the vision of the Public Education Department: "A world-class education system in which all New Mexico students are prepared to succeed in a diverse and increasingly complex world."

The PEC, together with the PED, acts to ensure that all students in New Mexico have the equal opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge that will enable them to be successful and responsible citizens.

PEC commissioners support high expectations for students, educators, administrators, schools, and districts. They communicate these expectations, and work to improve public trust and support for public education.

State Chartering Authority

Improving school accountability by enabling school choice is important to the PED and the PEC. In 2006, the PEC became the governing body for state-approved charter schools.

In 2007, the PEC reviewed 10 state charter school applications approving two: Media Arts Collaborative and Cottonwood Classical Preparatory.

Additionally, the PEC renewed two Charter Schools that will become state chartered schools: Horizon West Academy and North Valley Academy.

Partnership for Strategic Direction

As PED's partner, the PEC works in three targeted committees devoted to research and analysis that address: the Public Education Department's Strategic Plan, Charter schools, and the Career Technical programs under the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical federal fund.

Public Education Commissioners and Contact Information

Andrew Garrison, District 1
8719 Trotter Rd, SW
Albuquerque, NM 87121
agarrison@bernco.gov

Secretary
Millie Pogna, District 2
1808 Propps NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112
mpogna@cs.com

Kathryn Krivitzky, District 3
8106 Rio Grande Blvd. NW
Los Ranchos de Alb., NM
87114
kitty.cat@att.net

Aileen A. Garcia, District 4
27 Wildhorse
Santa Fe, NM 87506
AArmijoGarcia@aol.com

Mavis V. Price, District 5
P.O. Box 1246
21 E Rose Street
Thoreau, NM 87323
lmprice2002@yahoo.com

Vice Chair
Catherine Smith, District 6
P.O. Box 49
Mimbres, NM 88049
catherine-smith1212@hotmail.com

Eugene E. Gant, District 7
2020 South Telshor Blvd.
Las Cruces, NM 88011
oneceltic@aol.com

Vacant, District 8

Chairman
Dennis J. Roch, District 9
P.O. Box 1391
Tucumcari, NM 88401
denroch@hotmail.com

Midge Y. Graham, District 10
670 Kennedy Road
Des Moines, NM 88418
midge@bacavalley.com

Public Education Department Executive Team

Office of the Secretary

Dr. Veronica C. García

505.827.6688

Learning and Accountability

Dr. Catherine Cross Maple, Deputy Secretary

505.827.3876

Finance and Operations

Mr. Don Moya, Deputy Secretary

505.827.6683

Assessment and Accountability Division

Mr. Carlos Martinez, Assistant Secretary

505.827.6528

Charter Schools Division

Dr. Don Duran, Assistant Secretary

505.222.4765

Educator Quality Division

Dr. Mary Rose CdeBaca, Assistant Secretary

505.827.3581

Indian Education Division

Ms. Nancy Martine-Alonzo, Assistant Secretary

505.827.6595

Information Technology Division

Mr. Robert Piro, Chief Information Officer

505.476.0545

Instructional Support & Vocational Education Division

Dr. Patricia Parkinson, Assistant Secretary

505.827.4017

Program Support and Student Transportation Division

Mr. Gilbert Perea, Assistant Secretary

505.827.6640

Quality Assurance and Systems Integration Division

Dr. Sheila Hyde, Assistant Secretary

505.827.6517

Rural Education Division (& Education Technology)

Dr. James Holloway, Assistant Secretary

505.827.6534

Vocational Rehabilitation Division

Mr. Gary Beene, Assistant Secretary

505.954.8511

Administrative Services Division

Ms. Cynthia Marietta

505.827.6621

General Counsel

Mr. Willie Brown

505.827.6641

Public Information Office

Ms. Beverly Friedman & Ms. Danielle Montoya

505.827.6661, 505.476.0393

Special Assistant to the Secretary

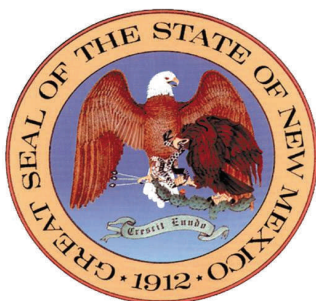
Ms. Lori J. Bachman

505.827-6788

Human Resources

Mr. Stephen Fresquez, Manager

505.827.7803



New Mexico Public Education Department

Jerry Apodaca Building

300 Don Gaspar Avenue

Santa Fe, NM 87501-2786

(505) 827-6688

www.ped.state.nm.us

Other Helpful PED Contacts

Community and Legislative Relations

505.827.7803

Quality Assurance Help Desk

505.827.4296

Licensure

505.827.5821