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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Education Secretary-Designate Skandera Appoints Paul Aguilar Deputy Secretary of Finance and Operations** *Experienced Educator and Administrator Joins the Public Education Department*

**SANTA FE, NM** – New Mexico Public Education Secretary-designate Hanna Skandera today announced the appointment of Paul Aguilar as the Department's new Deputy Secretary of Finance and Operations. In this new role, Aguilar will be charged with overseeing the Department's budget and New Mexico's Public School Support budget, promoting greater efficiency and effectiveness to better serve New Mexico's students, schools, teachers and parents.

"In these challenging economic times, marked by serious budget shortfalls, it has never been more important to prioritize how we spend New Mexicans' taxpayer dollars. Governor Martinez has made yielding a better return on our investment in education a chief priority for her Administration," said New Mexico Education Secretary Hanna Skandera. "Paul will play a key role in our efforts to advance bold education reform while ensuring more dollars are going to our classrooms, and not to wasteful bureaucracy and administration."

Aguilar most recently served as a Principal Analyst at the Legislative Finance Committee of the New Mexico State Legislature where he has provided ongoing fiscal and policy oversight of New Mexico's Institutions of Higher Education, the New Mexico Higher Education Department, Public K-12 Education, the Public Education Department and the Public Schools Facilities Authority. Previously, he served as an Architect Planner with the Public Education Department's Public School Capital Outlay Unit. Aguilar began his career in education as a teacher and then assistant principal in the Bernalillo Public School District. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Elementary and Special Education and a Master's Degree in Education Administration, both from New Mexico Highlands University.

Governor Martinez has made improving education in New Mexico a top priority and is committed to ensuring every student has access to quality schools and teachers. Her "Kids First, New Mexico Wins" plan is comprised of four key initiatives to increase accountability and transparency, set our students up for success by ending social promotion, target our resources where they are needed the most and identify and reward our most effective educators and leaders.

For more information on the New Mexico Public Education Department, please visit <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/>.

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