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NEWS RELEASE

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New Mexico Ranked 32nd and Maintains a C on 2011 Quality Counts Education Report *State Receives an F for K-12 Achievement*

(Santa Fe, NM) -- New Mexico received a Quality Counts ranking of 32nd in the nation and received an overall grade of C in *Education Week* magazine's annual education report card, "Uncertain Forecast" released today.

Overall, the Quality Counts report gave New Mexico a C, 75.7 points out of 100 points. Last year, New Mexico received 76.4 points and was ranked 24th. In 2009, New Mexico received a C+ and was ranked 22nd with a score of 76.9.

"While New Mexico maintained its overall C ranking, there is a lot of room for improvement," said New Mexico Education Secretary Hanna Skandera. "This administration will focus all decisions on what is in the best interest of students. It is unacceptable that New Mexico has an F in K-12 achievement and that our rankings have decreased each year. Partnering with students, parents, community leaders, school boards, teachers, principals, and superintendents, we must raise academic achievement and build on proven success. For every decision that needs to be made, we will ask, 'Are New Mexico students the winners in this decision?' Our focus must be on the classroom, ensuring greater transparency and fiscal accountability while understanding the unique characteristics of our state, communities, districts and schools. If students are first, New Mexico wins."

Education Week tracked six areas of policy and performance for this comprehensive assessment of the state of American education. Below are New Mexico and national rankings for the past two years.

Education Week's Quality Counts 2010						
Category	New Mexico		National Ranking		National Average	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
OVERALL	C	C	24	32	C	C
Transitions & Alignment	A	B+	2	18	C	C+
Standards, Assessment & Accountability	A-	A-	18	18	B	B
Teaching Profession	C	C	21	21	C	C
School Finance	C-	C-	30	30	C	C
K-12 Achievement	D-	F	46	46	D+	D+
Chance for Success	D+	D+	50	50	C+	C+

For more information on this report and New Mexico results, go to <http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2011/01/13/index.html>

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