

Making Schools Work For New Mexico Kids



2006 Annual Report

2006 Public Education Department Annual Report Table of Contents



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

Fellow Champions for Education,

We share a vision. A world-class education system that prepares our children for success in career or college. Since becoming New Mexico's first Education Secretary in 2003, the Governor, Legislature, Districts, PED Employees, community representatives, and I have been working together to change New Mexico public education. In 2006, we laid the essential groundwork needed to support an education system that will create opportunities for New Mexico students.

We started 2006 by renewing our *Progress Accountability Contract* with Governor Richardson for Making Schools Work. Our contract highlights several areas critical to our kids' academic achievement and to a healthy education system. We focused on seven areas that serve as the foundation for success:

- ★ School Readiness
- ★ Parent Involvement
- ★ Quality Teachers
- ★ 21st Century Classrooms
- ★ Academic Rigor and Accountability
- ★ Closing the Achievement Gap
- ★ College and Workforce Readiness



In many of these areas, New Mexico leads the nation in comprehensive approaches to education and received much national recognition in 2006. This year in New Mexico, PreK programs, anti-obesity initiatives, truancy programs, parent involvement initiatives, highly qualified teachers, increased teacher salaries, professional development opportunities, more dollars to the classroom, anti-truancy initiatives, and PreK through 20 alignment initiatives are all measures of achievement.

In the following pages, I will first introduce you to the Public Education Department's executive staff who pool their knowledge, talent, and resources to effect change and move New Mexico forward. Please continue through our annual report and let us share with you just some of our accomplishments. With your support, 2006 was a year for building partnership, laying ground work, and positioning New Mexico to see student achievement improve. Together we are *Making Schools Work*.

Truly,

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

Introducing . . . The PED Executive Staff



Dr. Veronica C. García, Education Secretary



Dr. Catherine Cross Maple
Deputy Secretary, Learning and Accountability



Dr. Karen Harvey
Assistant Secretary, Quality Assurance and
Systems Integration Division



Mr. Don Moya
Deputy Secretary, Finance and Operations



Dr. James Holloway
Assistant Secretary, Rural Education Division



Dr. Don Duran
Assistant Secretary, Charter Schools Division



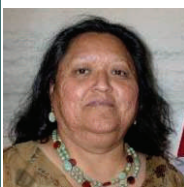
Mr. Gary Beene
Assistant Secretary, Vocational Rehabilitation
Division



Dr. Mary Rose CdeBaca
Assistant Secretary, Educator Quality Division



Ms. Cynthia Marietta
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Ms. Nancy Martine-Alonzo
Assistant Secretary, Indian Education Division



Mr. Willie Brown
General Counsel



Mr. Robert Piro
Chief Information Officer, Information Tech-
nology Division



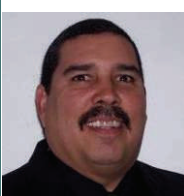
Ms. Lori Bachman
Special Assistant to the Secretary



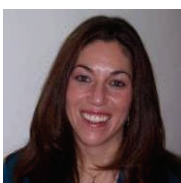
Dr. Patricia Parkinson
Assistant Secretary, Instructional Support and
Vocational Education Division



Mrs. Beverly Friedman
Public Information Officer



Mr. Gilbert Perea
Assistant Secretary, Program Support and
Student Transportation Division



Ms. Danielle Montoya
Public Information Officer

Not Pictured:

Dr. Don Watson, Assistant Secretary, Assessment and Accountability Division

Earning Gold Stars for Making New Mexico Schools Work National Recognition at a Glance



- ★ New Mexico ranks 2nd in the nation for education reform, *“How Well Are States Educating Our Neediest Children?” Fordham Foundation 2006*
- ★ New Mexico ranks 2nd in the nation for school choice, *“How Well Are States Educating Our Neediest Children?” Fordham Foundation 2006*
- ★ New Mexico ranks 2nd in the nation for increasing free and reduced breakfast for our children, *Food and Research Action Center 2006*
- ★ New Mexico ranks 2nd in the nation for nutritional food available to students, *Center for Science and the Public Interest 2006*
- ★ New Mexico ranks 4th in the nation for strong nutrition policy, *Center for Science and the Public Interest 2006*
- ★ New Mexico is one of four states leading the nation in innovative School Improvement Strategies, *“Leading for Learning,” Education Week 2006*
- ★ New Mexico ranks in the top ten states in Grade 3 reading comprehension and top ten in oral reading fluency for all students in Grades 1, 2, and 3, *Federal Reading First Office 2006*
- ★ New Mexico is recognized as one of only 9 states with an approved Highly Qualified Teacher Plan, *U.S. Department of Education 2006*
- ★ New Mexico is one of only 11 states to have standards-based assessments aligned to strong content standards, *“Smart Testing: Let’s Get It Right — How assessment-savvy have states become since NCLB?” American Federation of Teachers 2006*
- ★ New Mexico receives an “A” for science standards and a “B” for math standards, *“The State of State Standards 2006,” Fordham Foundation*
- ★ New Mexico is recognized for standards and benchmarks well aligned to the SAT, PSAT, and AP Tests, *National College Board 2006*



Academic Rigor & Accountability

New Mexico Public Education shapes the lives of individuals and families, as well as our community and economy. Focusing on standards and accountability, the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law calls for education reform. The PED is working hard to attract and retain highly qualified teachers, close the achievement gap, and bring accountability for instruction to New Mexico schools.

In 2006, New Mexico ranked **2nd in the nation for school reform**, according to the Fordham Foundation, leading the nation in three categories:

1. curricular content
2. standards-based reform
3. school choice

Raising New Mexico Standards

Since the creation of the Public Education Department in 2003, Secretary García has been working with educators, administrators, advisory councils, and community and business leaders to raise New Mexico content and learning standards by aligning them to national standards.

In 2006, New Mexico received an **“A” overall for standards and accountability**, from Education Week’s *2006 Quality Counts Report*, scoring 6th in the nation. New Mexico received the grade for having “standards that are clear, specific, and grounded in content.”

Primary through secondary **Science standards received an “A”** from the Fordham Foundation in 2006. That same organization gave New Mexico **Math standards a “B”** ranking us with only five other states receiving A’s or B’s.



Dowa Yalanne Elementary in Zuni school district participated in the school improvement program. Since 2003, Reading proficiency jumped up 50% and Math proficiency jumped 36%. Students posted a 15% gain in both subjects in 2006! English Language Learners make up 90% of the students.

New Mexico is expecting more from its students, teachers, administrators, and parents in terms of learning, instruction, and support.

Increasing Educational Accountability

With new high standards, New Mexico had to develop assessments that would align to standards and measure student learning and progress.

New Mexico was **only one of 11 states to have assessments aligned to strong content standards** in 2006, according to the American Federation of Teachers. The New Mexico Standards-Based Assessments improve school and student accountability by measuring and identifying which students, schools, and teachers need the most help.

It’s not just the assessments that will reform education in New Mexico. Schools must be accountable for performance, instruction, and improvement. In 2006, all students were assigned a unique identification number that will allow the PED, schools, and districts to track performance over time.

In 2006, New Mexico ranked **7th in the Nation for school accountability according to Education Week's 2006 Quality Counts Report**. Strategies earning national recognition were:

- Assistance to low-performing schools
- Sanctions for low-performing schools
- Rewards for high-performing schools

Improving School Choice

Increasing the availability of school choice also keeps schools accountable and competitive and helps meet the needs of more New Mexico kids.

The Charter Schools Act, signed into law in 2006, created dual chartering authority for districts and the State. A Charter Schools Division was created in 2006 at the PED to facilitate oversight and compliance, and ensure quality education for New Mexico kids.

New Mexico ranked 2nd in the nation for School Choice in Education Week's 2006 *Quality Counts Report*. The number of Charter Schools in New Mexico increased **from 41 to 61 in 2006 and \$1 million went to support start-up costs for new Charters**. The PED is working in collaboration with the Public Education Commission to allow the commission to act as the official state authorizer beginning in 2007.

Public Education Commission & Advisory Councils

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

Ensuring effective policy, guidance, and initiatives to improve school performance and increase student achievement requires a community commitment to education.

Secretary García and Governor Richardson seek guidance from New Mexico's experts and stakeholders. The following Advisory Councils and Committees ensured expert and stakeholder levels of accountability in 2006:

- Indian Education Advisory Council
- State Bilingual Advisory Committee
- Superintendents' Advisory Council
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act — Part B State Parent Advisory Committee
- Secretary's Assessment and Accountability Advisory Council
- Career Technical Education State Advisory Council

Successful School Improvement Framework

In 2005-2006, 235 New Mexico schools having difficulty with student proficiency in Reading and Math were identified as Schools in Need of Improvement. To help those schools, the PED established the New Mexico School Improvement Framework. In 2006 New Mexico was one of only four states to be recognized for innovative school improvement strategies by *Education Week*.

The comprehensive New Mexico School Improvement Framework includes:

- Regional leadership training
- Educational Plan for Student Success
- "All Kids Can" School Improvement Conference
- Regional Professional Development Institute for Educators
- Required Professional Development
- Parent and Community Involvement including Advisory School Councils
- District Administration Requirements
- Short-Cycle Assessment Program



Closing New Mexico's Achievement Gap

New Mexico has a significant achievement gap for its low-income and ethnic minority students. Governor Bill Richardson and Secretary García are completely committed to helping all New Mexico kids overcome barriers that would prevent them from attending or performing well in school.

To do this, the PED is taking a comprehensive approach to closing New Mexico's achievement gap attacking issues from two sides:

1. Working to fight against the challenges that basic needs can become when they are not met
2. Exploring and implementing policy and curricula that keep the foundations of culture, language, and tradition that are so important to personal/cultural relevance, interest, motivation, and retention

Secretary García conducted 24 community conversations around the state to address the achievement gap at the local level, to create awareness, and promote community participation in addressing this issue.

Improving Readiness to Learn

Equal access to nutritious food and early learning are keys to increasing kids' chances for success. In 2006, New Mexico was recognized as one of the **top three states in the Fordham Foundation Report "How Well Are States Educating Our Neediest Children?"**

Public PreK programs brought early learning opportunities to over 1,500 kids through 664 licensed providers statewide. This, combined with nutrition initiatives, will help narrow the achievement gap early in the education system.

The PED is phasing in a statewide elementary breakfast. In 2006, **New Mexico ranked 2nd**



Jennifer John, *Educational Assistant*, guides math and reading development in Nizhon Elementary PreK in Central Consolidated Schools.

in the nation for increasing free and reduced-priced breakfast in school according to the Food and Research Action Center (FRAC).

The FRAC reports that students who have good nutrition are able to remember more information, concentrate better, have fewer emotional and disciplinary problems, and get sick less often. **On a daily basis, nutritionally balanced, free or low-cost meals/milk are provided to more than 190,000 New Mexico students.**

The PED passed nutrition and wellness policies in 2006 to make healthy food and active lifestyles part of school. New Mexico ranked **2nd nationally for food available to students at school and 4th nationally for strong nutrition policy** in 2006 by the Center for Science and the Public Interest.

The PED is also implementing statewide physical education and anti-obesity initiatives and increased the number of school-based health centers to 56 statewide.

Dropout & Truancy Prevention

New Mexico school-based health centers not only provide health services, they also house dropout and truancy prevention programs

targeted at low-income and ethnic minority students. Programs focus on teaching kids that they can be successful and responsible individuals who value and choose education and a healthy lifestyle.

In 2005-2006, \$2 million in start-up funds went to school-based health centers and an additional \$500,000 targeted truancy and dropout rates in the following programs:

- Capacity Building, \$120K
- School-based Programs, \$334K
- Truancy Program Evaluation, \$40K
- Truancy Regulation Revision, \$2K
- Truancy Documentary production, \$4K

Indian Education

Governor Richardson and Secretary García are dedicated to establishing programs and policies that support the multicultural and multilingual needs of our students so they will perform to the highest levels of academic achievement.

New Mexico is the only state to be implementing a comprehensive **Indian Education Act**. Signed into law in 2003, it recognizes specific needs of Native American students.

In 2006, the PED had nine Joint Powers Agreements, with the following tribes, for **revitalization and preservation of native language**:

Jemez Pueblo	Pojoaque Pueblo
Acoma Pueblo	Mescalero Apache
San Felipe Pueblo	Tribe
Santa Clara Pueblo	Cochiti Pueblo
Zia Pueblo	Laguna Pueblo

The PED also has 10 Memoranda of Agreement with tribes to develop **tribal standards and criteria for licensing Native American Language teachers**:

Jicarilla Apache	Navajo Nation
Santa Clara	Santo Domingo
Acoma	Ohkay Owingeh
Laguna	Mescalero
Zuni	Santa Ana

In 2006, 57 newly certified Native American teachers entered classrooms and 92 teachers and administrators started programs for advanced degrees and administrative certificates.

The PED is increasing communication and assistance to our Native American students by continuing Government-to-Government meetings, Tribal Education Summits, Indian Education Advisory Council meetings, State Bilingual Advisory Committee meetings, content and instructional strategy workshops, maintenance and revitalization projects, and rural literacy grants.

Bilingual Education

In 2005-2006, 54% of New Mexico students were Hispanic and over 11% were Native American. The PED funded \$40.5 million in state and federal programs for English Language Learners (ELL), bilingual education, and immigrant students. New Mexico now has nearly 3,000 teachers endorsed in bilingual education and 86% of those teachers are instructing in bilingual programs.

Over 62,000 students are served in ELL programs including Hispanics, Native Americans, and immigrants.

Our state provides the New Mexico Bilingual Education Proficiency Assessment and is working to offer all state assessments in English and Spanish. In 2006, ELL students noticeably gained reading and math proficiency in all grades.



Española High School Mariachi Band allows students the opportunity to experience language and culture in music curriculum.



School Readiness

Every New Mexico child deserves to be prepared for success in school and in the world. The Public Education Department's (PED) programs in Pre-Kindergarten and early literacy are preparing our kids to achieve.

Study after study show close ties between quality PreK programs and K-12 student achievement .

Our PreK initiative, in partnership with Children, Youth, and Family Services Department (CYFD), is an essential part of Governor Richardson's commitment to give every New Mexico child the greatest opportunity to succeed.

PED Funded PreK Programs

District	# of Kids
Albuquerque Public Schools	80
Bernalillo Public Schools	54
Central Consolidated Schools	72
Cuba Independent Schools	16
Gadsden Independent Schools	160
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	194
Los Lunas Public Schools	20
Magdalena Municipal Schools	20
Roswell Independent Schools	45
Santa Fe Public Schools	20
Zuni Public Schools	89
PED - 11 Programs 24 Locations 51 Sessions	770
CYFD - 19 Programs 33 Locations 50 Sessions	768
Total # of PreK Students	1538



Matthew says "I'm so proud of you little butterflies! You finally woke up to see us! Did it hurt you? I saw blood on the bottom of the net." He develops explanations, observations, and vocabulary for new experiences and ideas.

Increasing Access to PreK

Funding supplements licensed public, tribal, and private early childhood programs. The first programs were started in communities with the highest percentage of public elementary schools not meeting the proficiency component of No Child Left Behind and serving a majority of kids in low income areas.

Since signing the New Mexico PreK Act into effect in 2005, we are now serving over 1,500 children, with CYFD in state-funded public PreK classrooms. We focus on **whole child development** targeting the following:

- Health care
- Nutrition
- Safety
- Multicultural sensitivity
- Physical development
- Cognitive development
- Social and emotional skills



Austin, Angel, and Charlie learn to investigate the physical world and make hypotheses and predictions by guessing what's inside bubbles.

Increasing Accountability

In 2006, we boosted accountability state-wide by adopting early learning outcomes in literacy, numeracy, and physical development.

We also began partnerships with private PreK providers to ensure the same strength of accountability, alignment, and professional development.

The following institutions were involved in providing **professional development** and technical assistance to PreK program staff:

- The Education Center
- New Mexico State University
- University of New Mexico, Division of Continuing Education
- YWCA – Middle Rio Grande
- University of New Mexico Center for Family and Community Partnerships
- National Institute for Early Education Research, Rutgers
- NM Association for the Education of Young Children (NMAEYC)

The NMAEYC offers TEACH® scholarships for PreK staff requiring a minimum of nine credits per calendar year toward higher degrees or licensure in early childhood education. In just the first year, 108 scholars earned 801 hours of credit.

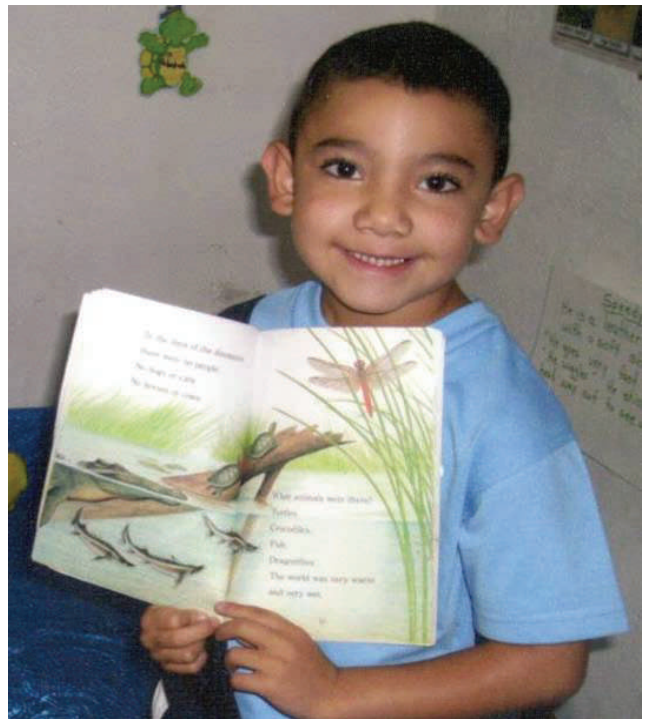
Boosting Early Reading Achievement

Through targeted programs in early childhood literacy, the PED is helping New Mexico's children prepare for elementary school, middle school, high school, and post-secondary success.

In 2006, **New Mexico's Reading First program ranked top ten** in the following categories for early childhood reading by the Federal Reading First Office:

- Grade 1 overall reading achievement
- Grade 2 overall reading achievement
- Grade 3 overall reading achievement
- Grade 1 for students with disabilities
- Grade 2 for students with disabilities
- Grade 3 for students with disabilities
- Grade 1 for English language learners
- Grade 2 for English language learners

The New Mexico Reading First Program is currently in 30 New Mexico districts and 90 schools.



Critical Thinking! After reading a book about dinosaurs and their extinction, Elijah says dinosaurs still exist like the turtles in the tank and the dragonflies outside.



Quality Teachers

Every child deserves a quality education to prepare for success in a diverse and increasingly complex world. Highly Qualified Teachers, quality educators, and trained administrators are necessary to quality education.

A Nationally Recognized Plan for Success!

In 2006, the US Department of Education announced that New Mexico is one of only nine states that submitted a State Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) Plan, calling it “exemplary.” Thirty-one respected teacher quality experts measured the plan using the following six criteria for success:

1. Analysis of data identifying teachers that do not meet HQT requirements, including trends and how to address them
2. Steps local districts will take to help teachers quickly attain HQT status
3. Technical assistance, programs, and resources the PED will offer to help districts implement their HQT plans
4. Actions states will take if districts do not ensure all teachers of core academic subjects are highly qualified
5. The use of an alternative method to ensure all teachers are highly qualified
6. Taking steps to ensure minority students and students from low-income families are not disproportionately taught by inexperienced or unqualified teachers

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



New Mexico Education Secretary Veronica C. Garcia named Tamra Tiong New Mexico State Teacher of Year. Tamra won \$10,000 in technology prizes and professional development. She will compete for National Teacher of the Year in the spring of 2007. She teaches at Dulce Elementary.

In 2000, New Mexico granted 1,051 waivers to teachers who did not meet these requirements. In 2006, the number of waivers granted was 155.

In 2006, 89.6% of all core courses in New Mexico are taught by Highly Qualified Teachers.

Increasing Accountability & Salaries

In addition to an aggressive plan to increase the number of Highly Qualified Teachers, New Mexico has been nationally recognized for our Three-Tiered Licensure system. The licensure framework is a progressive career system that connects increased competencies and responsibilities to licensure levels and salary increases.

Each school year, a teacher must have a Professional Development Plan and a summative evaluation. For teachers to progress from Level I to Level II and to Level III, they must demonstrate, not only that they are teaching to NM standards and developing their teaching skills, but must also show an increase in student achievement.



Milken National Educator Award winner, Principal Graciela Marquez, is swarmed by local news media at Anthony Elementary School. She received a \$25,000 award.

New Mexico also achieved the highest salary rankings in 16 years, rising from 46th to 40th nationally, and is projected to reach 37th for 2006. The average teacher salary in New Mexico is \$41,707.

Competitive salaries mean New Mexico will be able to recruit and retain quality teachers. 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.

National Recognition for Quality Teachers

- New Mexico is ranked 17th in the nation for teacher quality, up from 30th in 2004, *Education Week*, 2005
- New Mexico earned a grade of “B” in a national context for efforts to improve teacher quality, *Education Week* 2006
- 2006 Milken National Educator Award, Albuquerque Public Schools Teacher, Reid Nunn
- 2006 Milken National Educator Award, Gadsden Independent Schools Principal, Graciela Marquez

Professional Development and Support!

The PED supports multiple initiatives for continued professional development and real world relevance. Partnerships with businesses and higher education institutions involve the entire community in sustaining quality education.

2006 Professional Development Initiatives

Initiative/Program	Funding
Beginning Teacher Enhancement/ Mentorship	\$900 K
Professional Development Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re: Learning • Regional Educational Technology Assistance • Strengthening Quality in Schools • Service Learning • Golden Apple • Closing the Achievement Gap • Leadership Academy • Math and Science Academy • Science Education Institute of the Southwest 	\$2.4 M
Three-Tier Licensure Evaluation System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensure and evaluation system for professional instructional support 	\$400 K



Milken National Educator Award winner Reid Nunn, poses with a \$25,000 check at McCullom Elementary in Albuquerque. He is joined by former Milken Award winner, Secretary of Education Dr. Veronica C. Garcia, and Dr. Jane Foley with the Milken Family foundation.



Parent and Community Involvement

Parents are **essential** to school readiness. Parents and guardians are our children's most vital teachers. A healthy and successful education system must see parents as partners. We want schools to support parents and encourage their partnership daily. Parent-School-Community partnerships are necessary for education success.

Increasing State Resources for Involvement

In 2006 the PED made a huge effort to promote and nurture parent-school-community relationships. With the help of Governor Richardson and the Legislature, the PED invested \$750,000 for parent involvement initiatives.

2006 Parent Involvement Initiatives

Initiative	Description	Funding
Tools for Parent Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Web-based tool: "Working Together: School-Family-Community Partnerships" Parent-to-Parent video to accompany the web-based tool Domestic violence curriculum PTA parent handbook for every K-6 parent/guardian 	\$30K \$30K \$220K + sponsorship
Training for Schools and Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract with Relational Learning (13 districts) Contract with Center for Education and Study of Diverse Populations (13 districts) 	\$350K (\$175K ea)
Public Prioritization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Media campaign including radio and television coverage in all 89 districts 	\$120K + sponsorship
Community Input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 community conversations with 3,000 parents and community leaders about needs, capabilities, and strategies 	NA
Total Legislative Investment		\$750K



Celebrating the Grand Opening of Tony E. Quintañña Elementary in Española! The community supported a local bond for two new schools. Representative Ben Lujan said, "Positive connections made beyond the school walls in community efforts like this, are keys to creating a community environment AND empowering our parents, students, and educators."

Increasing Access to Schools and Resources

Reinforcing community accountability to education is critical to academic success. Education is most effective when the school and community promote a shared responsibility in raising New Mexico's children and keeping communities thriving.

Many New Mexico towns and cities are looking to schools as a starting point to revitalize the community. The PED's Rural Education Division promotes school-community building through its rural revitalization program.

Rural schools are generally the largest employers in the most rural communities, have the most advanced and established technology and communication network, and are the largest facilities for community gatherings.

The rural revitalization program provides funds communities use to initiate programs and serve the entire community. Communities consider their resources, assets, and



Clovis School district donated a building for the Lincoln-Jackson Family Center where kids and parents get tutoring, take classes, and get food and clothing.

strengths. As a whole, they create initiatives to revitalize their economy, workforce, and culture. Examples may include establishing public libraries, community thrift stores, tutoring services, or investigating new industry.

Starting with six communities in 2005, the rural revitalization program has more than doubled in size. The following 13 communities participated in the program in 2006:

- Tatum
- Cimarron
- Jemez Mountain
- Jemez Valley
- Maxwell
- Loving
- Springer
- Ft. Sumner
- Anthony
- Dexter
- Newcomb
- Reserve
- Pecos

Emphasizing the Importance of Education & Promoting Positive Parenting

Education has to be number one at home and in the community to be number one in a child's mind. Support from parents, legislators, businesses, and the community is key in communicating the importance of attending school, completing high school, and pursuing a technical or higher education degree.

Education is necessary to support the workforce, build local economies, attract business, raise incomes, and increase competitiveness in a global market.

Getting kids ready to learn starts with a good foundation at home and in the community. The state framework for parent involvement, defined in the PED toolkit "Working Together: School-Family-Community Partnerships," helps communities with tips about positive parenting and communicating the importance of education.

For some children, "parents" may include grandparents, aunts, uncles, step-parents, and/or guardians who take responsibility for a child's education, development and well-being.

According to the "Kids Count" 2005 Data Book, nearly one-third of New Mexico kids live in single parent households. Many of these kids depend on family and community to help them get ready to learn.

Parents! Getting Kids Ready to Learn

What to do . . .	Why?
Love your kids, send them to school.	Every Day Counts! Catching up makes learning hard.
Make sure they eat healthy food. Take time to sign for free/reduced lunch and breakfast.	Hunger makes it hard to concentrate. Kids who eat well have lower rates of tardiness, sickness, and behavioral problems.
Give your kids a good night's sleep: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 pm for elementary students • 10 pm for middle school students 	Being well-rested enables better concentration, enhances performance, and gives kids energy to grow mentally and physically.
Make school important at home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule time for homework first • Encourage them to do their best • Organize backpacks the night before 	Making school important at home teaches kids that education comes first. Help them make school a top priority.



Investing in 21st Century Classrooms

A comprehensive and well-organized approach to education has to include technology to make New Mexico schools work. Strategic investments in technology will improve New Mexico schools with up-to-date access and improve student achievement with advanced teaching materials, expanded curricula, and real-world relevance.

Increasing the availability of technology statewide will be key to help close the achievement gap. Every student should be able to participate in the experience of technology and expanded resources.

Increasing Dollars to the Classroom

In 2006, *Education Week's* "Quality Counts Report" ranked **New Mexico 3rd in the nation for equity of funding resources**. In the report, New Mexico earned a "B+" for promoting equity among districts.

New Mexico uses a formula from world renowned *Standard & Poor's*. The organization argues that more dollars targeted at classroom instruction do make a difference. In 2006, New Mexico sent 76.8% of school funding directly to the classrooms. **Dollars to the classroom increased over 6% in just two years.**

Investing in Technology: Increasing Access

Governor Richardson, Legislators, and Secretary García know that modern facilities with up-to-date technology and materials are necessary to make New Mexico schools work.

To improve New Mexico schools, **\$5 million dollars went directly to schools through the Education Technology fund**. This special fund allows schools to get technology they need including computers, hardwiring, and software.



Investing in 21st century technology gives New Mexico kids access to real-world skills and experiences so they can successfully compete in a complex and advanced workforce. A skilled, knowledgeable, and competitive workforce is key to growing New Mexico's economy.

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

Bringing technology into curriculum is key to building 21st century skills in the classroom. Nearly **\$1 million brought curriculum-based computerized learning systems** to New Mexico schools.

Critical tools and support for New Mexico students helps raise expectations and promote learning. The New Mexico Laptop initiative gave **\$1 million in laptops to 7th grade students in 2006**. This was the fourth year of the laptop initiative now **servicing over 1,500 students at 22 school sites statewide**.

Plan for a Statewide Cyber Academy

Innovative Digital Education and Learning in New Mexico (IDEAL-NM) is a statewide e-learning initiative that will align and leverage existing education technology components that are bringing hardware and capabilities to districts to create a coordinated statewide cyber academy.



Governor Bill Richardson talks with students from Rio Rancho Cyber Academy. They describe challenges technology is helping them overcome including advanced and remedial needs and family and entrepreneurial commitments.

In 2007, Governor Richardson will ask the Legislature for \$10.8 million in 2008 and \$27.8 million over the next five years to organize an e-learning service center and purchase a common statewide technology platform to ensure compatibility and consistency.

Through a coordinated service center, all courses would be aligned to New Mexico's state standards and benchmarks and enable greater alignment for a seamless P-20 education system.

The IDEAL-NM initiative will do three important things:

1. It will **provide a common statewide technical infrastructure** facilitating standardization, compatibility, and state licensing, reducing the cost of software to participants.
2. It will **increase our kids' access to technology and programs enabling** technology literacy and 21st century skills.
3. It will **facilitate more cooperation and alignment** between districts, high school, and higher education institutions.

Currently, New Mexico public schools have 114,000 middle and high school students and only a handful have access to on-line learning opportunities.

We anticipate that if the IDEAL-NM project is funded, within five years all students graduating from a New Mexico high school will have experience with at least one on-line course (based on current NM enrollment in distance education and the national trend of 20% annual increases).

By connecting to services, schools will have access to on-line tutoring, highly qualified teachers, alternative high school completion, higher education, and specialized courses.

These capabilities would meet the needs of advanced, remedial, special education, and home-bound students. Professional development opportunities for teachers would also increase.

The IDEAL-NM concept was developed by a coalition of school districts, higher education institutions, the PED, and other state government agencies.



The Statewide Cyber Academy would require students to report to school periodically and require supervised testing by a licensed teacher. Curricula aligned to New Mexico Standards and Benchmarks are taught on-line by a Highly Qualified Teacher in the subject and supported by teachers on site.



Building College & Workforce Readiness

In 2006, the PED undertook intense collaborations with the Higher Education Department (HED), higher education institutions, educators, and the business community to create and support a seamless PreK through 20 (P-20) education system.

Aligning public education to higher education, workforce, and economic need and development is critical to ensuring New Mexico kids are prepared for college and career success.

Aligning to Higher Education

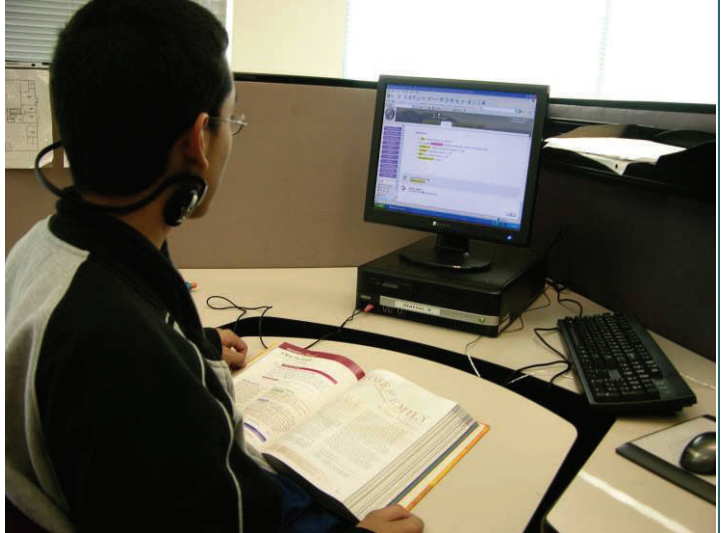
In 2006, the PED created an alignment taskforce and subcommittees in collaboration with the HED. The task force is investigating academic requirements for 2- and 4-year higher education institutions and working to ensure the P-20 alignment.

They met more than ten times in 2006 to focus on the following issues:

- Creating a new high school competency assessment that aligns with college entrance requirements and workforce readiness
- Identifying entrance requirements of New Mexico two and four-year institutions in key areas like English/Language arts and Math
- Identifying common cut scores across institutions for student placement in college course work (i.e. remedial or advanced)
- Identifying key areas of statutory changes needed for redesigning the high school education system
- Increasing rigor in high school coursework

The PED is increasing rigor and relevance in high school curricula in multiple ways:

- Aligning state Math and English standards to the expectations of New Mexico's two- and four-year institutions
- Creating a Math and Science Bureau in 2006 to ensure alignment and relevance in curriculum
- Naming a statewide Math and Science Advisory Council with representatives from K-12,



Dual Enrollment opportunities allow students to earn both high school and college credit. New Mexico schools offered 120 programs with enrollment totaling 7,215 (some students enrolled for more than one subject).

higher education, and the business community

Combined, these initiatives will help better prepare New Mexico students for career and college.

Increasing Opportunities for College Credit

Dual enrollment and Advanced Placement® (AP) courses are designed to allow students to earn both high school and college credit.

In 2006, New Mexico public schools and post-secondary institutions offered **120 dual credit programs statewide. Program enrollment totaled 7,215** (some students enrolled for more than one subject).

The PED supported AP programs with \$382,000 in 2005-2006. With that investment, **over 5 thousand students took one or more AP exams, posting a 6% increase in just one year!** This year, more than **4 thousand students will be eligible for college credit next year.**

Governor Richardson and the legislature boosted that amount to over \$1 million for 2006-2007 to expand the AP program to help high school students earn college credit.

Aligning to NM Workforce and Economy

Connection between job markets, economic development, and education are necessary to ensure relevant pathways to higher education for our kids.

The PED is aligning the P-20 education system to ensure New Mexico kids are ready for college and career. Initiatives in 2006 include:

- Professional development
- Curricula aligned to workforce requirements and economic growth
- Collaboration with the Department of Economic Development, Department of Labor, Higher Education Department and New Mexico businesses.

The **Math and Science Academy (MSA) for teachers, in partnership with Los Alamos National Labs**, develops professional relationships, ensures up-to-date rigor, and adds relevance to curricula in Northern New Mexico rural communities.

The **Science Education Institute of the Southwest (SEIS), a collaboration between UNM and Sandia National Labs**, provides science workshops for elementary teachers.

The PED defined 7 Career Clusters to bring relevance to high school curricula statewide:

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

Career and Technical standards were established for each cluster. These career clusters will provide New Mexico students academic pathways and ideas toward post-secondary opportunities.

The PED is also participating in Governor Richardson's *Work in New Mexico* initiative to better connect New Mexico education, workforce,

and economic development. The initiative focuses on the following:

- Identifying high-wage, high-growth industries
- Defining the skilled labor students need
- Evaluating the higher training and education each job requires

Increasing Career/Technical Opportunities

Earning advanced credit toward career and technical degrees or certification is key to alignment, high school retention, and relevance. In 2006, the PED supported several opportunities by administering programs and initiatives through the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical federal fund.

High Schools That Work use the Career Clusters structure to help guide some students toward a career path. **Thirteen schools and 512 students participated in 2006.** The schools still use assessments in Reading, Math, and Science that are similar to the NAEP (National Assessment for Educational Progress).

The *Graduation, Reality and Dual-Role Skills* (GRADS) program targets pregnancy prevention, career readiness, fatherhood and youth development. GRADS offers International Computing Driving License (ICDL) and Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) programs to ensure certification opportunities for teen parents. **Thirty-two participated in the CNA program and 24 received certificates. Seventy-three participated in the ICDL program and 12 received licenses.** In 2006, an additional \$1 million from the State went to the GRADS program.

Jobs for America's Graduates targets at-risk youth to ensure a smooth transition from school to the workforce. In 2005-2006, **21 schools and 343 students participated in the program. As of January 2006, 77% of New Mexico participants received a high school diploma, 77% found full-time placement in the workforce, and 49% went on to a full-time career, post-secondary study, or to the military.**

The result of these initiatives combined will be a seamless P-20 education system that will support and expand the New Mexico workforce and economy.

The State of Education in New Mexico 2006

Facts and Figures

General Overview

In 2005-2006, New Mexico served 328,111 total students, PreK through 12th grade, enrolled in public traditional and charter schools. These students attend 809 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 2005-2006				
White	Hispanic	Native American	Black	Asian
31.1	54	11.1	2.5	1.3

Albuquerque Public Schools was the largest district serving 94,566 students and Mosquero Municipal Schools was the smallest serving 50 students. In terms of socioeconomics, 24% of the state student population is characterized as living in poverty.

Districts range from a high of 50% of impoverished students to a low of less than 3%. A large number of districts have between 20% and 30% of their students living in poverty. In 2006, 52% of New Mexico's students were classified as low-income and qualified for free and reduced price meals.

Graduation Rates

In 2004-2005, the most recent year for which graduation data is available, 17,353 students graduated from New Mexico public schools. The state graduation rate for 2004-2005 was 87%.¹

Public School Graduates by Ethnic Group as a Percent of Total Graduates, 2004-2005				
White	Hispanic	Native American	Black	Asian
39.6	46.5	10.4	2.1	1.4

¹Senior 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.

Finance and Operations

In FY 2006, the PED administered a budget of \$2.7 billion, which was composed of a \$43 million operating budget, \$38.2 million in Special Appropriations, \$2.5 billion in Public School Support, and \$69 million in capital outlay funds. The operating budget included \$11.9 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. That means funds are distributed by the state based on per-pupil calculations as opposed to local tax revenue.

Average Public School Salaries 2005-2006

NM State Average Principal Salary	\$64K
NM State Average Assistant Principal Salary	\$55K
NM State Average Teacher Salary	\$42K
National Average Teacher Salary	\$49K
NM National Teacher Salary Ranking	37th

New Mexico Teacher Statistics 2005-2006

Average Student:Teacher Ratio	
• Elementary School	15:1
• Middle School	15:1
• High School	16:1
Total Number of Teachers	22,870
Number of Teachers Master's Degree or Higher	8,847
Number of Teachers in Levels of the Three-Tier Licensure Program	
• Level 1	3,689
• Level 2	11,578
• Level 3	6,655

The State of Education in New Mexico 2006

Academic and Other Measured Performance

Academic Performance

Students in New Mexico schools are assessed in Reading and Mathematics 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.

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.

Percentage of All Students At or Above Proficiency				
Grade	Reading 2004-2005	Reading 2005-2006	Math 2004-2005	Math 2005-2006
3	55.0	53.0	43.0	44.0
4	35.0	52.3	29.0	39.9
5	57.0	55.6	27.0	33.2
6	41.0	38.9	22.0	22.9
7	50.0	48.8	20.0	22.6
8	No Data	49.4	No Data	25.5
9	43.0	42.3	34.0	32.2
11	No Data	56.6	No Data	29.7

Quality Counts 2006 Report

In 2006, *Education Week* published their "Quality Counts Report" highlighting state performances nationwide. The report investigated education

systems supporting the shift to standards-based education in relationship to student achievement and overall system improvement.

The report charted progress on states' education systems in four areas: standards and accountability, efforts to improve school climate, and school resources and the equity of school finance systems.

The Quality Counts 2006 Report Report Card for New Mexico		
Category	NM Score	Average State Score
Standards and Accountability	A	B-
Efforts to Improve Teacher Quality	B	C+
School Climate	C	C+
Resource Equity	B+	C
Overall Grade	B	C+



Principal James Lujan and Superintendent Beth Everitt accept an award for Eugene Field Elementary School in Albuquerque. Eugene Field was recognized as a New Mexico School on the Rise for boosting student achievement. Schools on the Rise are those that have made AYP two years in a row after designation as a School in Need of Improvement. They were congratulated by New Mexico Senators, Representatives, and the Cabinet Secretary and Deputy Secretaries of Education.



Looking Forward

Education Secretary Veronica C. García, the Public Education Department, and the Public Education Commission emphasized meaningful partnerships and comprehensive reform in 2006.

Together, with educators, administrators, businesses, and communities, Secretary García and Governor Bill Richardson will continue a holistic and strategic approach to reforming New Mexico's education system.

Building on Successful Programs

The 2007 Legislature was marked by work to expand programs for improving student achievement, closing the achievement gap, and for continuing comprehensive support to educators, administrators, parents, and students. The following are some specific examples of initiatives proposed to the 2007 Legislature:

- High School Redesign for increased rigor and relevance
- Math and Science Act
- Clarification of the Indian Education Act
- Expansion of the School Breakfast Program
- Expansion of PreK programs
- Increased salaries for teachers and instructional staff
- Expansion of parent involvement initiatives
- Creation of a statewide Cyber Academy
- Cyber Academy Act

Collect and Report Longitudinal Data

In addition to expanding programs and initiatives, the Public Education Department will be able to add another layer of accountability to program, school, district, and state performance.



Lieutenant Governor Diane Denish spoke in support of expanding state PreK programs so that every New Mexico child has the opportunity to come ready to learn. She was joined by a number of PreK students on PreK Day at the 2007 Legislature.

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

Student performance can be tracked from PreK all the way through higher education. Longitudinal data will help identify effective programs, better track the mobility of students within districts and within the state, and will help better identify gaps in curricula.

Build Strong Partnerships

Better information, cleaner data, new and expanded programs, and clear legislation will all contribute to comprehensive education reform. However, community engagement in education is necessary for success.

Secretary García and Governor Richardson will continue to build partnerships through legislators, community leaders, business leaders, and parents to ensure that every New Mexican take on the role of stakeholder in education.

Education in New Mexico will shape and drive our state's economy and workforce. New Mexico's future depends on a healthy education system for success in the 21st century.



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.

Expanding Roles and Responsibilities

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.

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