



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
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HANNA SKANDERA  
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

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GOVERNOR

April 21, 2011

MEMORANDUM

**TO:** District Superintendents and Directors of Instruction  
Charter School Administrators and Program Directors

**FROM:** Hanna Skandera  
Secretary of Education *HS*

**RE:** Elementary Arts Program (FAEA) Request for Program Plan (RFA)  
Program Plan Renewal and Initial Program Plan Submission  
Deadline for both Submissions: Monday May 9, 2011

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The New Mexico Public Education Department is pleased to release the Program Plan for Elementary Arts Education for School Year 2011-2012. Districts with an existing Elementary Arts Program Plan need to submit a Renewal Plan to the Public Education Department online in Microsoft Word by Monday, May 9, 2011. We invite districts and Charter Schools new to this program to develop an Initial Program Plan. The 2011-2012 Program Plans may be accessed at [www.ped.state.nm.us](http://www.ped.state.nm.us). A TO Z Directory, open V, Visual and Performing Arts.

We ask districts and charter schools to include an allocation of one to three percent of funds requested for professional development for arts teachers to integrate and continue to develop arts resource skills in their communities. By doing this, schools will engage students in subjects across the elementary school curriculum and improve their knowledge and performance in the arts.

Current research provides evidence that the arts effectively engage all students in learning other academic subjects as well. New Mexico is one of the only states to have envisioned and implemented quality arts education programs for elementary schools with the Fine Arts Education Act (FAEA). Remember to present the Program Plan to your local School Board.

Please continue to share arts program plan strengths, research and data to show how your elementary art, music, theatre and dance education programs are impacting your students, district and community. For further information, please contact Vicki Breen at 505-827-6559 or [vicki.breen@state.nm.us](mailto:vicki.breen@state.nm.us) and go to the website address above.

HS:vb

cc: Dr. Sheila Hyde, Deputy Secretary of Instruction  
Cathie Carothers, Chief of Staff  
Leigh Lenti, Director of Policy