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DR. VERONICA C. GARCÍA  
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

BILL RICHARDSON  
Governor

December 15, 2006

Dear Colleagues:

The New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) has developed Expanded Grade Band Expectations (EGBEs) in the content areas of language arts (reading/writing), mathematics, and science in the following grade bands: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, and 9-12 (9-10 & 11-12 in language arts).

This effort included substantial involvement of diverse stakeholders from throughout the state, including parents, both general and special educators, Alternate Assessment Advisory Council members, district administrators, NMPED staff, and staff from our vendor, the American Institutes for Research (AIR).

These EGBEs establish pedagogical and assessment expectations for students with significant cognitive disabilities and form the foundation for our new alternate assessment, the New Mexico Alternate Performance Assessment (NMAPA). They are to be used to develop goals and objectives for students with significant cognitive disabilities in the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) development process.

I hereby adopt these EGBEs as the NMPED's official grade band expectations for students with significant cognitive disabilities and certify that these EGBEs are linked to grade level expectations and are reflective of the highest professional standards possible for this student population.

Truly,

Veronica C. García, Ed.D.  
Secretary of Education

VCG/DF/ap

Enclosures (19)

cc: Dr. Catherine Cross Maple, Deputy Secretary, Learning & Accountability  
Dr. Don E. Watson, Assistant Secretary, Assessment & Accountability  
Dr. William O. Blair, Deputy Director, Assessment & Accountability  
Dan Farley, Educational Administrator, Assessment & Evaluation