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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: July 19, 2012

New Mexico’s ‘Reads to Lead’ Announces First Grant Award Recipients

Over \$3 Million to be Awarded to Districts and Schools across New Mexico

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) notified seven school districts and one charter school they would be the first to receive new funding from the state’s ‘Reads to Lead’ program. The recipients were among 43 applications for funding received by NMPED. The recipients will implement new programs focused on literacy from Kindergarten through the third grade starting in the 2012-2013 school year. These new funds will be used in combination with successful efforts in place in many of these districts and be specifically targeted to helping the students who struggle most in reading.

“Reading is the foundation for success in every other subject and that’s why we’ve made it a priority,” said Governor Susana Martinez. Recently released assessments reveal only a little more than half of New Mexico students are reading on grade level. “For too long, we have seen the state throw money at our education problems without a real plan in place to help our students and improve their ability to learn in the classroom. These funds are strategically targeted to programs we know will help students the most.”

The first ‘Reads to Lead’ grant recipients are the following:

Districts/Charter Approved for Funding	Funding Amount
Albuquerque Public Schools	\$753,945.80
Bernalillo Public Schools	\$379,760.00
Gallup-McKinley County Schools	\$266,791.00
La Promesa Charter School	\$226,800.00
Los Alamos Public Schools	\$177,068.00
Aztec Municipal Schools	\$126,263.00
Pecos Independent School District	\$101,000.00
Raton Public Schools	\$89,000.00
Total	\$2,120,627.80

“Every one of these districts has demonstrated they will use these funds in a way that will deliver results for our students,” said NMPED Secretary-Designate Hanna Skandera. “We expect these dollars will make a difference with our students that struggle the most.”

In addition to those recipients, there are five districts receiving provisional approval. However, these districts must still provide further information to meet clearly defined expectations for the program:

Districts Provisionally Approved for Funding	Provisional Funding Amount
Espanola Public School District	\$428,920.00
Central Consolidated School District	\$300,000.00
Moriarty-Edgewood School District	\$123,352.31
Lovington Municipal Schools	\$95,000.00
Santa Fe Public Schools	\$36,865.00
Total	\$984,137.31

This new funding is part of the \$8.5 million signed by Governor Martinez for early reading interventions. The New Mexico ‘Reads to Lead’ program will also fund additional efforts that include:

- \$3 million to provide reading assessments for every New Mexico student from Kindergarten through third grade.
- \$1 million for 14 statewide reading coaches to assist educators.
- \$1 million for literacy based professional development available to every teacher in the state.

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