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April 24, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Fine Arts Education Directors, and Charter School Administrators

FROM: Christopher Ruskowski, Deputy Secretary, Policy & Program *CR*

RE: **Fine Arts Education Act RfA**

The New Mexico Public Education Department (NM PED) is pleased to release the Fine Arts Education Act (FAEA) Request for Application (RfA). Awarded arts funds are made available to school districts; they provide opportunities for elementary school students to participate in fine arts programs/activities, including dance, music, theatre, and visual arts. Arts education is important to the entire learning community. Research and practice has shown that participation in fine arts programs encourages cognitive and affective development by:

- focusing on a variety of learning styles that engage students and promotes success;
- training students in complex thinking and learning;
- instructing students in and providing them opportunities to devise creative solutions for problems;
- affording students new challenges; and
- teaching students how to work cooperatively with others and to understand and value diverse cultures.

The implementation of the FAEA requires that school districts and charter schools receiving FAEA funding 1) demonstrate fiduciary, cultural, and individual /civil rights high-quality compliance within the program guidelines; and 2) offer educators, administrators, and those involved in the assessment of district arts programs ample opportunities, easy access, and incentives for engaging in content-specific, fine arts education professional development training and networking.

The RfA is provided as an attachment to this memo and is posted on the PED website at www.ped.state.nm.us, click on the red buttoned *A-Z directory*, scroll to *V*, open *Visual and Performing Arts*, and click on the **2017–2018 Application for Elementary Arts Funding**.

CR/vb

Enc. (1): **2017–2018 Application for Elementary Arts Funding**

cc: Elaine Perea, Director, College and Career Readiness