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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Secretary of Education Reminds School Superintendents, Charter School Leaders on Use of Federal Stimulus Dollars

**(Santa Fe, NM)** Secretary of Education Veronica C. García communicated via e-mail to school superintendents and charter school leaders Monday evening on the use of federal stimulus dollars. Specifically, Secretary García addressed the issue of schools and districts hiring employees with federal stimulus money. The Monday memo is part of an ongoing effort to communicate with school leaders from around the state this spring on the use of federal stimulus dollars in education.

Some of the federal stimulus money has been included in the state's public school funding formula this year, which means districts can use this money as they have used general fund dollars for regular operating expenses. Other stimulus dollars are going to specific programs like special education.

"Although federal guidance encourages schools to spend stimulus money quickly to save and create jobs, districts using federal or grant programs should be cognizant that the stimulus money is nonrecurring revenue," Secretary García said. "This means district hiring officials should be very clear with potential hires that jobs offered with these funds are short term."

García also stressed that new hires must support the intent of the program being funded, and that stimulus dollars must be tracked closely.

García also reminded school leaders of the four principles that guide the distribution of education stimulus dollars. They include spending funds quickly to save and create jobs; improving student achievement through school improvement and reform; ensuring transparency, reporting and accountability; and investing one-time stimulus funds thoughtfully to minimize a so-called funding cliff.

Even with the infusion of stimulus dollars into the public school funding formula, there is still a slight reduction in funding from the previous year. For various reasons, several districts are making cuts to balance their budgets. The decision as to what to cut is a local decision, and not one that will be made by the Public Education Department.

For more information, visit [www.recovery.state.nm.us](http://www.recovery.state.nm.us) or [www.ped.state.nm.us](http://www.ped.state.nm.us).

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