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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: August 21, 2009

Secretary of Education Makes No Changes to Pledge of Allegiance Rule for Public Schools

Santa Fe, NM – Secretary of Education Veronica C. García today announced that she would not make any changes to the Pledge of Allegiance Rule that currently affects all New Mexico public schools.

“A majority of school districts appear to have policies in place that address this issue,” said Secretary García. “Based on the numerous public comments we received, I feel any change in the current rule could create the impression that the pledge is not important in New Mexico’s classrooms, which was never the intent of the proposed rule change. The Department believes that the existing rule and practice in schools respects the rights of all students. Any issues related to rights of students will be handled at the local school district level.”

As part of a clean up of 29 rules, the Public Education Department (PED) held a public hearing in late June to solicit input. Secretary García re-opened the public comment period on the Pledge of Allegiance rule to allow more input due to the low attendance at the hearing. The PED examined and summarized nearly 600 written comments during that public comment period in July.

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