



# New Mexico Public Education Department

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **New Mexico Continues to Rank High Nationally for Setting High Academic Standards and Assessments for Student Performance**

**(Santa Fe, NM)** – New Mexico continues to be among the top states in a proficiency standards report released Thursday by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The report uses the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) as a common yardstick to compare the rigor of state proficiency standards. The study shows the range of differences in state proficiency standards in reading and mathematics.

The study, "Mapping State Proficiency Standards Onto the NAEP Scales: 2005-2007," compares the two assessments by looking at the minimum state scores that determine proficiency, as defined under the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, and the NAEP test in fourth and eighth grade reading and mathematics tests. This particular study has no relationship to student performance. It compares the rigor of an individual state's assessment to the NAEP and other states' AYP tests.

The mapping report rates New Mexico 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation in fourth grade reading, 9<sup>th</sup> in the nation for fourth grade math, 6<sup>th</sup> in eighth grade math, and 14<sup>th</sup> in eighth grade reading.

"This alignment study is an independent validation that New Mexico's academic standards and annual Standards Based Assessment set high expectations for academic rigor for all New Mexico students," said Veronica C. García, New Mexico Education Secretary.

The mapping study analyzed assessments for both grades 4 and 8 in reading and math using data from the 2005-2007 academic years. According to the study, "although there is an essential ambiguity in any attempt to place state standards on a common scale, the ranking of the NAEP score equivalents to the states' proficiency standards offers an indicator of the relative stringency of those standards."

To access a full text of the report go to: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/studies/statemapping.asp>.  
A detailed profile of assessment standards for each state is available at:  
[http://www.nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/researchcenter/profile\\_standards.asp](http://www.nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/researchcenter/profile_standards.asp)

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