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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: January 14, 2010

New Mexico Ranked 24th in the Nation on Annual Quality Counts 2010 Report

(Santa Fe, NM) -- New Mexico received a ranking of 2nd in the nation for education alignment policies and was ranked 24th nationally in *Education Week* magazine's annual education report card, "Fresh Course, Swift Current," released today.

Overall, The Quality Counts report gave New Mexico a C with a score of 76.4, out of 100 points. The national average was 75.9, C. Last year, the state received a C+ and was ranked 22nd with a score of 76.9. New Mexico received an A and ranked 2nd in the country for aligning education from early childhood through college readiness and workforce training. The state also received an A- in Standards, Assessment and Accountability. These categories are two of six distinct areas of policy and performance tracked by *Education Week* to do a comprehensive assessment of the state of American education.

"New Mexico's public education system is holding its own compared to other states, but we can't be satisfied with the middle of the pack overall," said Secretary of Education Veronica C. García. "Student achievement continues to be our focus and we know incremental gains are not enough."

Education Week's Quality Counts 2010

Category	New Mexico	National Ranking	National Average
Transitions & Alignment	A	2	C
Standards, Assessment & Accountability	A-	18	B
Teaching Profession	C	21	C
School Finance	C-	30	C
K-12 Achievement	D-	46	D+
Chance for Success	D+	50	C+

The New Mexico Public Education Department has thrown its hat in the Race for the Top, a national competition for federal dollars that aims to select states with the most ambitious, compelling and comprehensive proposals for educational reform. Winning states will pave the way for states and local school districts across the country to transform the way education happens in our schools.

"I am hopeful that if New Mexico receives this funding it will give a significant boost to improving student achievement," said Secretary García. "The end result will be an innovative and bold educational reform effort that reflects New Mexico's unique qualities and transforms the way students learn. It will invest in teachers and principals through professional development and instill high expectations so that we can close the achievement gap by giving students the tools and information they need to carve their own unique path to success."

The K-12 Achievement category is based largely on the National Assessment of Educational Progress scores from 2009. This national test is administered every two years and is used by a number of groups to evaluate student achievement.

The Chance for Success category includes indicators such as family income, parental employment, and annual income.

“New Mexico must take strong steps to help more adults increase their educational attainment levels,” Secretary García said. “With increased education comes higher-paying jobs and increased chances for success for our children.”

For more information on this report and New Mexico results, go to www.edweek.org/go/qc10

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