



# New Mexico Public Education Department

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: May 7, 2010

### Education Secretary García Announces Names of Nine Public Schools to Receive a Portion of \$11.3 Million Dollars for School Improvement Grants

SANTA FE – Education Secretary Veronica C. García today announced that grants totaling \$11.3 million dollars in federal School Improvement Grants (SIG) will be distributed by the Public Education Department (PED) to nine Tier 1 public schools labeled as persistently lowest-achieving schools to improve their student achievement.

"I congratulate these nine schools for submitting applications for this funding and meeting the challenge to dramatically turnaround their schools," said Secretary García. "The schools should begin planning their programs and strategies for the 2010-2011 school year."

The \$11.3 million grant funding to the schools is part of the \$28,534,742 in School Improvement Grant funding New Mexico received last month from the U.S. Department of Education. The funds, allocated to schools over a three year period, can be used for school expenditures that will help students be successful. The funds are part of the \$3.5 billion that was made available to states this spring from money set aside in the 2009 federal budget and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Obama administration's strategy includes: identifying and serving the lowest-achieving Title I schools in each state; supporting only the most rigorous interventions that hold the promise of producing rapid improvements in student achievement and school culture; providing sufficient resources over several years to implement those interventions; and measuring progress in achieving results.

School districts, with a designated Tier 1 school, submitted applications for between \$50,000 and \$2 million a year that would be used for 2010-2011. Funding for the subsequent years of this three year grant is contingent on implementation of the plans and meeting performance measures. PED provided technical assistance to districts via a series of 11 webinars and individual feedback, and final applications were due on April 23, 2010.

PED reviewed the applications analyzing the plans based on the capacity and will of the school and district to implement the strategies, allocate and align funds for sustainability. In one case, the district chose not to apply for the funds for two of their schools because of their capacity to implement the models effectively. These funds were awarded to schools in school districts that demonstrated the greatest need for the funds and the strongest commitment to use the funds to provide adequate resources in order to raise substantially the achievement of their students.

The grants are authorized under section 1003(g) of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (Title I or ESEA) for use in Title I schools identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. The grant requires the school and districts to determine which model will be implemented based on data and a needs assessment.

Based on the review of the application and all documents for evidence of the identified criteria, the following schools have been selected to receive funding in the first year of the funding cycle:

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Lybrook Elementary School	Jemez Mountain Public School District	Conditionally approved for funding	\$500,000
El Camino Real Charter	Albuquerque Public School District	Conditionally approved for funding	\$1,100,000
Ernie Pyle Middle School	Albuquerque Public School District	Conditionally approved for funding	\$2,000,000
Ramirez Thomas Elementary School	Santa Fe Public School District	Conditionally approved for funding	\$1,250,000
Newcomb High School	Central Consolidated School District	Conditionally approved for funding	\$1,500,000
Naschitti Elementary School	Central Consolidated School District	Conditionally approved for funding	\$ 500,000
Laguna-Acoma High School	Grants-Cibola County School District	Conditionally approved for funding	\$1,500,000
R. Sarracino Middle School	Socorro Consolidated School District	Conditionally approved for funding	\$ 975,000
Crownpoint High School	Gallup-McKinley County Public School District	Conditionally approved for funding	\$2,000,000
<b>TOTAL ARRA &amp; NON-ARRA FUNDS</b>			<b>\$11,325,000</b>

Each school’s award is “conditionally approved for funding.” This means that PED will work directly with the district, school and the school staff in the final determination of budgets, programs, and staffing decisions referenced in each of the applications. The PED’s Priority Schools Bureau will review and approve each action step and budget decision as the schools move forward in implementing plans to assure that students receive the full benefit of these significant resources. Each district must establish annual goals for student achievement on the State’s assessments in both reading/language arts and mathematics.

Following strict definitions from the U. S. Department of Education (USDOE), PED identified three tiers of schools that are the lowest achieving. Of the 418 schools in New Mexico that are Title I schools and have not made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the last five years, PED used the definition of persistently lowest achieving schools as defined by USDOE to designate the 20 Tier 1 schools as the first schools eligible to apply for the funds.

Schools not receiving School Improvement Grant funds may be eligible for Race to the Top funding.

All school applications and reviewer comments are posted on the PED website under the title School Improvement Grant Results on the front page of the website [www.ped.state.nm.us](http://www.ped.state.nm.us) or at: <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/div/psb/dl10/sig/index.html>

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**ATTACHMENT:** Highlights of SIG Application Strategies

NMPED Attachment to accompany 5-7-10 news release:

## **Highlights of School Improvement Grant Application Strategies**

### **Lybrook Elementary School – Jemez Mountain School District**

25 additional days of instruction for all students.

90 minute core program with 30 minutes additional intervention in Reading and Math

### **Crownpoint High School – Gallup-McKinley**

Implementation of an additional hour of instruction daily for all grades

Implementation of positive behavior support program

Turn around coach to improve instruction leading to great student achievement

### **El Camino Real Charter School – Albuquerque Public Schools**

Expansion of the bilingual program for the school

Extension of the schools technical resources

Early start (two weeks) for all incoming Kindergarteners

3 day jump start for all incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders

### **Ernie Pyle Middle School – Albuquerque Public Schools**

Extended summer programs and extended day programs, aligned with the core curriculum

Extended instructional day

Plan for “looping” to strategically address continuum of programs for students

### **Ramirez Thomas Elementary School – Santa Fe Public Schools**

Implementation of an additional one hour of instruction daily for all grades.

Using the New Mexico Leadership Institute teach effectiveness tool, screen existing teachers for commitment to the Turnaround Model and increasing student achievement.

Implementation of the Columbia Writing Project across all grades and all subjects.

### **Newcomb High School – Central Consolidated Schools**

Extended learning opportunities through homework help, Distance Learning opportunities and Credit Recovery programs

Alternative Energy Smart Labs to be placed at selected Chapter Houses, powered by solar energy

Implementation of a community Health Clinic

Addressing cultural differences through staffing and Professional Development

### **Naschitti Elementary School – Central Consolidated Schools**

Summer instructional program for students

Expand the extended academic year to include 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> graders (already have program for K – 3<sup>rd</sup> graders)

Addressing cultural differences through staffing and Professional Development

### **Laguna-Acoma High School – Grants Cibola Schools**

Implementation of Read 180 for students below proficiency

Implementation of a zero period and 8<sup>th</sup> period to supplement instructional program, Saturday school and credit recovery programs

Transportation for students to attend extended learning opportunities (Saturday school, summer programs, etc.)

### **R. Sarracino Middle School – Socorro Public Schools**

Three additional hours of instruction each week

Daily common planning time for each grade level team which will serve as an organization hub for school improvement efforts.

### **Programs to be implemented in nearly every grant application:**

Job-embedded professional development

Math and / or Reading Coaches

Instructional coaches and turnaround coaches

Realignment of curriculum; development of pacing guides and formative assessment tools

Developed or renewed community partnerships

Increased substantive parent involvement