



## Education Initiatives/ Making Schools Work: Foundations for Success

### New Mexico's current rankings (*Quality Counts 2009, Education Week*)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> nationally, earning an A for transitions and alignment (C National Average)
- 16<sup>th</sup> nationally, earning an A- for standards, assessments and accountability (B National Average)
- 17<sup>th</sup> nationally, earning a C+ for initiatives in the teaching profession (C National Average)
- 30<sup>th</sup> nationally, earning a C for school finance (C+ National Average)
- 46<sup>th</sup> nationally, earning a D- for K-12 achievement levels (D+ National Average)
- 51<sup>st</sup> nationally, earning a D+ for chances for success for students (C+ National Average)

### Making Schools Work Education Agenda Focus

- Academic Rigor and Accountability
- Closing the Achievement Gap
- School Readiness
- Parent and Community Involvement
- Quality Teachers
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classrooms
- College and Workforce Readiness

### Academic Rigor and Accountability

- ★ Voters approved two amendments to the state Constitution in 2003 to improve education in New Mexico.
  - ★ The first established a Public Education Department, with a secretary accountable to the governor.
  - ★ The second tapped into the state's Permanent Fund to increase investments to education.
- ★ 16<sup>th</sup> nationally for strong policy on standards, assessments and accountability. Education Week, Quality Counts 2008
- ★ New Mexico is recognized for mathematics standards highly aligned with the 2009 National Assessment for Educational Progress. Regional Educational Laboratory, 2008
- ★ Student achievement in New Mexico shows steady improvement.
  - ★ In reading, the percentage of students scoring proficient and above on standardized tests have increased from 50 percent in 2005 to 53 percent in 2008.
  - ★ In math, the percentage of students scoring proficient or above has improved from 30 to 36 percent from 2005 to 2008.
  - ★ In science, the percentage of students scoring proficient or above has improved from 40 percent in 2005 to 43 percent in 2008.
- ★ On June 9, 2008, the New Mexico Standards Based Assessment was fully approved by the U.S Department of Education. New Mexico was the 33<sup>rd</sup> state to receive this approval after a rigorous peer review process.
- ★ New Mexico invested \$2.5 million in 2008 for summer reading, math and science institutes. This program gave professional development to 3,560 teachers, and impacted an estimated 254,150 students.
- ★ Boosted instructional material investments by \$1.8 million to \$39 million in 2008
- ★ New Mexico's student data system, STARS, is presented as a model to the Education Commission of the States, 2008
- ★ Georgia O'Keefe Elementary School of Albuquerque and Velarde Elementary School in Northern New Mexico are honored as 2008 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education.

- ★ Six new charter schools were approved by the Public Education Commission in 2008, bringing the total of approved New Mexico charter schools to 73.
- ★ The Math and Science Act of 2007 ensures alignment, rigor, and relevance in curriculum and establishes Math and Science Bureau and Advisory Council in statute
- ★ 4th nationally for strong policy on standards, assessments, and accountability. Education Week, Quality Counts 2007
- ★ Recognized in June 2007 by the U.S. Dept. of Education for having high academic standards aligned to the NAEP
  - ★ 8<sup>th</sup> nationally in 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading
  - ★ 9<sup>th</sup> nationally in 4<sup>th</sup> grade math
  - ★ 7<sup>th</sup> nationally in 8<sup>th</sup> grade math
  - ★ 11<sup>th</sup> nationally in 8<sup>th</sup> grade reading
- ★ NAEP Results 2007
  - ★ 4th grade shows progress in math and reading
  - ★ 8th grade shows progress in reading and holds steady for math
  - ★ NM one of only 14 states to improve in both math and reading
  - ★ NM one of only 4 states to show significant increases for Hispanic students in grade 4
  - ★ NM showed significant increase in 4th and 8th grade Hispanic students scoring basic and above in math and reading
  - ★ NM 4th grade students eligible for free/reduced lunch showed significant increases in both reading and math
- ★ Earned a “B+” for resource equity to schools. Education Week, Quality Counts, 2007
- ★ New Mexico is one of only 11 states to have standards-based assessments aligned to strong content standards, American Federation of Teachers, 2006
- ★ In 2006, established the Math and Science Bureau and named a statewide Math and Science Advisory Council with representatives from K-12, higher education, and the private sector
- ★ Increasing School Choice—Amended Charter School Act to provide for dual chartering authority, 2006
- ★ NM 2nd in the nation for school choice, Fordham Foundation, 2006
- ★ NM 2nd in the nation for education reform and leading the nation in three categories: curricular content, standards based reform, and school choice, Fordham Foundation, 2006
- ★ “A” science standards, “B” math standards, science standards ranked 6th in the nation, Fordham Foundation, 2005
- ★ Adopted the Student & Teacher Accountability & Reporting System (STARS), assigned each student a unique student ID creating the capacity for longitudinal studies and increased accuracy, 2005
- ★ Replaced criteria-based test with standards-based test, 2005
- ★ Established a more accountable school budget system

## **Closing the Achievement Gap**

- ★ New Mexico is the first state in the country to formally adopt a textbook for teaching the Navajo Language, 2008
- ★ Eight native languages were being taught in New Mexico schools, 2008
- ★ Native American students are showing progress closing the achievement gap.
  - ★ From 2005-08, American Indian students in all grades tested have improved from 33 percent scoring proficient or above in reading to 39 percent, more than any other group.
- ★ In 2007-08, New Mexico served more than 83,300 students through the state-appropriated Elementary Breakfast Program.
- ★ Launched Project 2012, a program to boost math and science achievement in New Mexico, 2008
- ★ The Public Education Department administered more than \$93 million in state and federal funds in 2007-08 to provide free and reduced-price breakfast, lunch and snacks to more than 210,000 students daily.
- ★ Increased the number of school-based health centers from 70 in 2007 to 84 in 2008. These health centers received more than 40,200 visits and served nearly 19,000 youth over the course of the 2007-08 school year.
- ★ A statewide school safety hotline was launched in November 2008. Students can make anonymous calls to 1-866-SPEAK UP to anonymously report weapon threats or crimes at school and in the community.

- ★ Physical education programs for elementary students were expanded to cover an additional 38,600 children in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup>-grade in 2008.
- ★ Language and culture camps funding increased from \$105,576 in 2007 to \$140,757 in 2008.
- ★ Language and culture camps participants increased from eight schools in 2007 to 12 schools in 2008.
- ★ The total number of Native American teachers increased from 603 in 2006-07 to 866 in 2007-08.
- ★ The total number of Native American principals increased from 19 in 2006-07 to 35 in 2007-08.
- ★ New Mexico invested more than \$42 million in bilingual education in the 2007-08 school year.
  
- ★ English Language Learners show steady progress over the past four years:
  - ★ Since 2005, this group of students has moved from 16 to 22 percent proficient or better in math
  - ★ 31 to 35 percent proficient or better in reading
  - ★ And 22 to 27 percent proficient or better in science.
- ★ More than 57,000 students were enrolled in bilingual programs, including nearly 15,000 students in dual language classes, 2008
- ★ Dual Language programs are established in 115 schools and 15 school districts, 2008
- ★ Increased Memoranda of Agreements with tribes to develop tribal standards and criteria for licensing Native American Language teachers from 13 to 14 in 2008
- ★ NM ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the nation for the percentage eligible low income students eating free and reduced-price breakfast, Food and Research Action Center, 2007
- ★ Doubled the number of Native American teachers and administrators in programs for advanced degrees or administrative certificates from 92 in 2006 to 184 in 2007
- ★ Increased the number of newly certified Native American teachers from 69 in 2006 to 113 in 2007
- ★ Over 82% of eligible students in grades K-12 participated in the school breakfast in 2006
- ★ 2nd nationally for increasing free and reduced breakfast, Food and Research Action Center, 2006
- ★ 2nd nationally for food available to students & 4th nationally for strong nutrition policy, Center for Science and the Public Interest 2006
- ★ Regulated vending and removed junk food from schools, 2006
- ★ Health Education performance standards were adopted in rule in 2006
- ★ Physical Education performance standards were adopted in rule in 2006
- ★ All 89 school districts have developed wellness policies including developing school health advisory committees and nutrition and physical activity components, 2006
- ★ The PED is providing all schools with a tool “The Healthy Schools Report Card” that will assist them in evaluating the effectiveness of the local wellness policies as well as provide data that will assist schools and the state in implementing school health programs that work, 2008
- ★ After-School Enrichment Programs and anti-obesity programs serving over 7,000 eligible students are in place in 19 schools promote and support critical thinking and collaborative techniques that allow students to successfully develop academic skills, pursue useful knowledge and help prevent obesity.
- ★ In 2008 the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program, in collaboration with Feed The Children organization, distributed nearly 2,000 backpacks with school supplies, food and other essentials for homeless public school students.
- ★ In 2008 the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program, in collaboration with the Children Youth and Families Department and Feed The Children organization, distributed 2,400 diaper bags filled with essential baby supplies to funded McKinney-Vento Homeless Education school district sites, domestic violence shelters, GRADS and Head Start Programs across the state.
- ★ During the 2008-09 school year the Family and Youth Resource Program funded 20 out of New Mexico’s 89 school districts that will serve 90 schools. It is estimated that 24,000 students and 16,000 adults will attend group trainings or events coordinated or provided by this program.
- ★ Internet Safety guidelines and information sheets were developed and disseminated to all district superintendents, school principals and charter school directors. 2007
- ★ A bullying prevention policy rule requiring districts, schools and state supported educational institutions to address bullying of students by adopting and implementing policies was adopted in 2006.
- ★ Recognized as one of the top three states by Fordham Foundation Report, 2006: “How Well Are States Educating Our Neediest Children?”
- ★ One of four states recognized for innovative school improvement strategies, Education Week, 2006
- ★ Created the Schools in Need of Improvement Bureau, 2004
- ★ Created the Rural Education Division, 2006
- ★ Created the Division of Indian Education, 2006

- ★ Implementing the only comprehensive Indian Education Act in the nation, 2006
- ★ Created the Rural Education Division, 2003
- ★ Created Art in the Schools Program
- ★ In process of replacing High School Competency Test with 11<sup>th</sup>-grade assessment

## **School Readiness**

- ★ In 2009, 152 PreKindergarten programs served 4,745 four-year-olds to help them better prepare for success in school and life. (This includes programs administered by the Public Education Department and the Children, Youth and Families Department.) New Mexico invested \$17.6 million in PreK in 2008. Research shows that New Mexico's Pre K program had a substantial impact on math, vocabulary and early literacy skills for students. And the impact of the program was meaningful when those students entered kindergarten.
- ★ K-3 Plus was funded at \$7.2 million for 2008-2009, serving 6,996 students in 92 schools and 25 school districts.
- ★ National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) reports students in New Mexico PreK:
  - ★ Increased vocabulary growth by 54%
  - ★ Increased math skills by 40%
  - ★ Increased literacy and print awareness by 118%
  - ★ PreK students outperform their non-PreK peers in vocabulary and literacy
- ★ K-Plus pilot program in its third year shows:
  - ★ DIBELS assessment data in K-Plus shows participants are entering Kindergarten with appropriate reading level skills
  - ★ DIBELS data suggest K+ participants will out perform their non-KPlus peers in Kindergarten
  - ★ Benchmark growth increased an average of 21%
- ★ NM ranks number 1 for growth in Oral Reading Fluency in Reading First Western States, Federal Reading First Office, 2007
- ★ Developed criterion referenced Observation and Documentation Assessment processes, 2007
- ★ NM ranked in the top ten states in reading achievement by the Federal Reading First Office in three categories: grades 1, 2, and 3; grade 3 for Students with Disabilities; grades 1 and 2 for English Language Learners, 2006
- ★ Provided for cameras and GPS systems on school buses, 2006
- ★ Adopted Statewide early learning outcomes (i.e. Literacy, Numeracy, Physical Development), 2005
- ★ Full day kindergarten fully implemented and funded, 2004

## **Parent Involvement**

- ★ The Public Education Department in 2008 joined the National Network of Partnership Schools at John Hopkins University – a national leader in showing schools and families how to better work together.
- ★ Named statewide Parent and Family Involvement Advisory Council with parents and representatives from 23 organizations and parent and family groups, 2007
- ★ Created an agency Parent Involvement Action Committee to ensure integration and collaboration for 21 state and federal mandated and nine optional parent involvement activities, 2007
- ★ Implemented a parent involvement media initiative, 2006-2008
- ★ Parent involvement district and school training, 2006-2008
- ★ Completed a teen father video in collaboration with Human Services Department, 2007
- ★ PTA parent involvement workbook targeting K-6 for every parent, 2007
- ★ Supporting 13 rural school-community programs that partner school curriculum with community needs to revitalize economies, workforce, and culture, 2007
- ★ NM's Rural Revitalization program considered a model by the National Community Education Association, 2007
- ★ Developed/distributed "Working Together: School-Family-Community Partnerships" (Parent Involvement Tool Kit), 2006
- ★ Parent to parent video, DVD, in English and Spanish, 2006
- ★ Developed a state domestic violence curriculum, 2006

- ★ 24 community conversations with 3,000 parents and community members, 2005
- ★ Education Partners group established, 2005

## Quality Teachers

- ★ In 2008, 94 percent of core courses were taught by Highly Qualified Teachers, an increase from 67 percent in 2003-04.
- ★ New Mexico ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for percentage increase in average teacher salaries from 1997-98 to 2007-08.
- ★ The number of National Board Certified Teachers in New Mexico increased by 73 in 2008, and New Mexico ranked 21<sup>st</sup> in the country for newly board-certified teachers.
- ★ The 2008 Legislature boosted salaries by an average of 2 percent for teachers and licensed support staff.
- ★ NM named “State of the Month” for strategies to improve teacher quality, National Commission on Teaching and America’s Future, 2007
- ★ New Mexico increased national salary rankings from 46<sup>th</sup> to 36<sup>th</sup> from 2005 to 2007
- ★ NM ranked 5<sup>th</sup> nationally for the percentage change in average teacher salaries in 2007
- ★ Invested \$6.5 million in professional development and mentorship programs in 2007
- ★ 2007 Legislature established a \$50K minimum for level 3 teachers
- ★ NM ranks 20<sup>th</sup> nationally for new National Board Certified Teachers, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, 2007
- ★ In 2000, 1,051 waivers were granted to teachers not meeting licensure requirements. In 2007, 32 waivers were granted.
- ★ Education Week 2006 – Grade of B on efforts to improve teacher quality
- ★ NM one of only nine states with an approved highly qualified teacher plan, U.S. Dept. of Education, 2006
- ★ Implemented new Three-Tiered Licensure system, investing \$82 million in teacher salaries for increased compensation for increased competencies, 2006
- ★ In 2006, provided \$470,000 for salary increments for National Board Certified Teachers
- ★ In 2005, Education Week showed New Mexico moved from 30<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> in teacher quality.
- ★ Transition to Teaching Program established, 2004

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Classrooms

- ★ New Mexico ranks 6th in the country for online learning policies and practices. Center for Digital Education, 2008.
- ★ New Mexico’s online distance learning system, IDEAL-NM, celebrated its grand opening in August 2008. To date, IDEAL-NM serves more than 800 students from 45 districts and seven charter schools. Examples include biology, financial literacy and New Mexico history among the 53 courses offered.
- ★ In 2008, \$6 million was distributed to the state’s 89 school districts via the Education Technology Fund, which helps schools keep up with improving technology.
- ★ The Governor’s Laptop Learning Initiative for 7<sup>th</sup> graders provided computers to 869 students at 16 sites statewide in 2008, expanding the program to serve 5,869 students at 48 sites statewide since the program’s inception five years ago.
- ★ NM earned a “B” for statewide student access to technology, Education Week, Technology Counts 2008
  - ★ Percent of 4th-graders with access to computers (96 percent)
  - ★ Percent of 8th-graders with access to computers (79 percent)
  - ★ Number of students per instructional computer (3.0)
  - ★ Number of students per high-speed Internet-connected computer (3.1)
- ★ NM becomes the first state in the nation to create a statewide eLearning system that, from its inception, encompasses all aspects of learning from traditional public and higher education to teacher professional development, continuing education and workforce education, North American Council for Online Learning, 2007
- ★ Invested a total of \$6.5 million statewide for updated computers, hardwiring, and software to ensure student access to technology, 2007
- ★ Cyber Academy Act 2007 -- aggressive education technology strategy
  - ★ Reduces geographic and capacity barriers
  - ★ Expands course offerings—language, math, science, technology, and career-tech
  - ★ Resolves conflicts in student schedules

- ★ Provides dual credit, credit-recovery, summer school, on-line tutoring, alternative high school completion, and home-bound options
- ★ Increases access to highly qualified teachers
- ★ Reduces teacher-pupil ratios

## College & Workforce Readiness

- ★ In 2008, the average ACT composite score for New Mexico high school graduates rose for the fourth year in a row to 20.3
- ★ New Mexico's High School Redesign initiative moves forward to dramatically raise standards and accountability in state high schools. The College and Workplace Readiness Assessment System involves short-cycle tests for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>-graders in reading, language arts and mathematics. This effort is aimed at tracking student progress toward educational standards, and highlighting areas of improvement during the academic year. This allows teachers to help individual students change course and make improvements. Also, beginning this year, 11<sup>th</sup>-graders will take a college placement test, a workforce readiness assessment or an alternative, standards-based test. 2008
- ★ Dual Credit Programs – which allow high school students to enroll in college courses and earn credit for both – were expanded to more students and now allows students to take dual credit courses in the summer. 2008
- ★ More than 3,700 NM students will be eligible for college credit earned on AP exams in 2008
- ★ Hispanic AP test takers increased 8.5 percent in 2007-08
- ★ Native American AP test takers increased by 10.9 percent in 2007-08
- ★ African American AP test takers increased by 9.3 percent in 2007-08.
- ★ High School Redesign 2007 increased graduation requirements, increased alignment between K-12 and higher education:
  - ★ Four years of math with at least one course of Algebra II or higher
  - ★ Four years of English
  - ★ Three years of laboratory-based science
  - ★ Three years of social studies
  - ★ At least one Advanced Placement® (AP), dual enrollment, honors, or online course
  - ★ Participation in the Next Step Planning
  - ★ A three-part assessment system that measures high school, college, and workforce readiness
  - ★ Algebra I will be made available in 8<sup>th</sup> grade
- ★ Collaboration with Higher Education Department and Children's Cabinet through taskforce initiatives providing more accountability for a seamless and aligned P-20 system of education, 2007
  - ★ American Diploma Project
  - ★ Dual Credit Council
  - ★ P-20 Alignment Council
  - ★ Math and Science Advisory Council
  - ★ Career Technical Education State Advisory Council
- ★ NM standards and benchmarks well aligned with SAT, PSAT, and AP tests, National College Board 2006 and 2007
- ★ PSAT test takers statewide increased by 98% in 2007
- ★ NM Division of Vocational Rehabilitation served over 2,000 students transitioning from school to work, 2007
- ★ Provided 32 intervention programs through Graduation, Reality, and Dual-Role Skills targeting pregnancy prevention, career readiness, fatherhood, and youth-development, 2007
- ★ Created by executive order, the Workforce Oversight Coordinating Council identified seven Career Clusters aligned to New Mexico's growing economy, 2006
- ★ Increased the number of industry recognized certifications aligned to NM Career Clusters from 98 to 148, 2007
- ★ Invested \$10 million in career educational technical centers in 2006
- ★ Called for alignment of high school exit and college entrance exams, 2006
- ★ Established a new cohort reporting system for graduation rates, 2005