

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Education Secretary García and Race to the Top Design Team Announce Assurances In Tying Student Growth to Teacher/Principal Evaluation**

*Plans will build on Three-Tier Licensure System*

**Santa Fe** – Education Secretary Veronica C. García and the Race to the Top Design Team today announced assurances to the education community regarding the development of plans to expand New Mexico’s Three-tier Licensure System to include stronger evaluation based on student growth.

“New Mexico is committed to a fair system that uses multiple measures of student growth, strong assessments, and includes professional and leadership development for teacher improvement. Today we established assurances that will allow broad commitment and support to move forward with the development of a model that builds on our existing three-tier evaluation system,” said Secretary García.

Sharon Morgan, President of New Mexico National Education Association for New Mexico said, “The work of this team recognizes our agreement that student learning matters, as that is what teachers are here for. At the same time, it recognizes that our students and teachers are more than a test score.”

Christine Trujillo, President of New Mexico America Federation of Teachers for New Mexico said, “The initial apprehension I had about the Race to the Top design process was immediately diffused as the committee started its construction of the plan. The opportunity to clarify, debate, collaborate, and work as a team to ensure that teacher voices are part of the process is critical. Today’s work succeeded in that.”

In partnership, the Race to the Top Design Team specifically building the section on tying student growth to teacher/principal evaluation announced the following assurances to the education community:

- 1) New Mexico will strengthen the link between teacher/principal evaluation and student growth making it a significant factor in the annual evaluation process currently included in the three-tier licensure system for all teachers in all content areas.
- 2) While significant, student growth will not be the only factor in the teacher and principal evaluation system.
- 3) The New Mexico Public Education Department is participating in the National Center for Education & Economy (NCEE) and Smarter Balance consortia to transition to Common Core Standards and transition to newer, fewer, and better assessments of

student growth. Under this commitment to transition, the current standards-based assessment will not be the tool used to measure student growth.

- a. New assessments will be grounded in a thoughtfully integrated learning system of standards, curriculum, assessment, instruction, and teacher development.
  - b. Practitioners (teachers and principals) and other stakeholders (parents, community, school boards, legislators, etc.) will be included in the evaluation system design.
  - c. Practitioners will be included in student assessment design.
  - d. Participation in the Smarter Balance consortium is a commitment to the transition to multiple measures of student growth and teacher impact including but not limited to:
    - i. Assessments conducted at multiple points in time
    - ii. Formative assessments
    - iii. Summative assessments
    - iv. Actual student work
- 4) Adoption and implementation of the common core standards, new assessments, and change to the three-tier teacher evaluation system is anticipated to take between 18 and 36 months.
- 5) The Race to the Top Grant will request funds to provide professional development and leadership development throughout the transitions to common core standards, newly aligned assessments, and expanded teacher evaluations.

Members of the Race to the Top Design Team for section D-2 are:

Veronica C. García, NM Education Secretary; Christine Trujillo, President AFT-NM; Charles Bowyer, Executive Director NEA-NM; Ellen Bernstein, President ATF; Douglas Wine, Principal East Mountain High School; Andy Lotrich, AFT-NM; Gerry Harge, Transition Team Office of African American Affairs; Linda Sink, Associate Superintendent APS; Sylvia Wittels, Educational Volunteer and Concerned Citizen; Claire Dudley, Office of the Lt. Governor; Alton Autrey, Principal Grants High School; Sharon Morgan, President NEA-NM; Lorenzo García, APS School Board Member and Youth Development Inc. Staff; Sheila Hyde, Assistant Secretary Quality Assurance and Systems Integration, Public Education Department; Phil Baca, Licensure Bureau Chief, Public Education Department.