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NEWS RELEASE

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New Mexico's AYP Rankings Signal the Need for Reform

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) released the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) rankings for 831 public schools on Friday. The AYP rankings reveal that nearly **87%** of New Mexico's schools are not making adequate progress under the federal No Child left Behind (NCLB) Act. When it comes to student proficiency, only 42% of New Mexico students perform at grade level in Math and Science and only 50% are proficient in Reading.

"The message couldn't be clearer; our children need education reform now," said Secretary-designate Hanna Skandera. "Educators know almost 87% of our schools aren't failing," Secretary Skandera continued, "and that's why we need reforms like our A through F school grading system."

While the pass or fail nature of NCLB makes it difficult to get a clear picture of school performance, what the rankings do point out is the need for increased focus in core subject areas such as literacy. One example is in 3rd grade reading where only 53% of children are performing at grade level. The consequences of passing those children on to the next grade become evident as the rankings show only 47% of New Mexico 4th graders are proficient in Reading.

"These rankings show we're not getting the job done and that's not acceptable for our children," said Secretary Skandera. "We now have an opportunity to be honest about what our kids need and acknowledge what we've done in the past isn't working," she continued.

In the Fall, the Public Education Department plans to submit a waiver to the U.S. Department of Education to replace the NCLB accountability rankings with New Mexico's own A through F grading system. Federal education officials have signaled their intention to grant such waivers to states who want to expand on reforms while still raising accountability for students.

For detailed NCLB rankings for all of New Mexico's 89 school districts, the public can visit the PED website: <http://ped.state.nm.us/ayp2011/>

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AYP Quick Facts 2011

New Mexico Public Education Department

School Adequate Yearly Progress – 5 Years										
Status	2007		2008		2009		2010		2011	
Made AYP	368	45.5%	262	32.3%	261	31.8%	193	23.3%	111	13.4%
Did Not Make AYP	440	54.5%	549	67.7%	560	68.2%	634	76.7%	720	86.6%
Total	808	100.0%	811	100.0%	821	100.0%	827	100.0%	831	100.0%

School Adequate Yearly Progress – School Types										
Status	Public		State Chartered		Locally Chartered		Total			
Made AYP	91	12.1%	11	33.3%	9	18.8%	111	13.4%		
Did Not Make AYP	659	87.9%	22	66.7%	39	81.3%	720	86.6%		
Total	750	100.0%	33	100.0%	48	100.0%	831	100.0%		

School Adequate Yearly Progress – School Grade Configurations										
Status	Elementary Schools		Middle Schools		High Schools		Alternate Configuration		Total	
Made AYP	25	8.2%	7	6.3%	29	17.8%	50	19.8%	111	13.4%
Did Not Make AYP	280	91.8%	104	93.7%	134	82.2%	202	80.2%	720	86.6%
Total	305	100.0%	111	100.0%	163	100.0%	252	100.0%	831	100.0%

District Adequate Yearly Progress		
Status	Total	
Made AYP	3	3.4%
Did Not Make AYP	86	96.6%
Total	89	100.0%

Year indicates the end of the assessment year 2010-11, and the beginning of the school year to which AYP findings apply 2011-12.