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December 5, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: District Superintendents and Charter School Administrators

FROM: Debbie Montoya,  Deputy Secretary, School Transformation

RE: Comprehensive Support and Improvement Schools, Targeted Support and Improvement Schools, and More Rigorous Interventions

Under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), New Mexico is required to identify three different categories of schools: Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) and chronically-failing schools that have been identified for More Rigorous Interventions (MRI). Each category comes with different rules and requirements.

To be identified as CSI, the school is in the lowest-performing five percent of Title I schools as identified by overall points earned on the School Grade Report Card or is a school that has a 4-year graduation rate (high schools only) less than 67% for two of the past three years. Each of these is prescribed under federal law. In total, 86 schools have been identified as CSI—from 32 districts and 20 State Authorized Charter Schools.

To be identified as TSI in the 2017-2018 school year, Title I or non-Title I schools have at least one low performing subgroup of students (defined as a subgroup that is performing as poorly as all students in any of the CSI schools). Schools with at least one low-performing subgroup will be identified for Targeted Support and Improvement under ESSA. Schools may have more than one subgroup identified. In total, 111 schools have been identified as TSI. School improvement efforts for TSI schools are developed and supported at the local-level.

The MRI category includes four schools: Hawthorne Elementary and Whittier Elementary in Albuquerque Public Schools have each earned six continuous “F” grades since 2012. Los Padillas Elementary in Albuquerque Public Schools and Dulce Elementary in Dulce Public Schools have each earned five continuous “F” grades since 2013.

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In mid-December, Superintendents and Charter Directors will receive a data profile for each identified CSI, TSI or MRI school(s) in their district. Each profile will include information about the factors that contributed to determining the school being identified in each status. Information on support and training is forthcoming for district and school leaders as well.

New Mexico will make more than \$10 Million in Title I funding available to support the most struggling schools (CSI and MRI schools). Both Targeted and Comprehensive schools also receive preference for the new Direct Student Services grant.

A listing of schools identified as CSI, TSI, and MRI and the Request for Applications have been posted on the ESSA webpage <http://www.ped.state.nm.us/ped/ESSA.html> and is attached to this email.

If you have questions, please contact Elisabeth Peterson, at Elisabeth.Peterson@state.nm.us

CR/DM/enp

cc: Christopher N. Ruskowski, Secretary-Designate of Education
Matthew Montano, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Teaching and Learning
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