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SECRETARY DESIGNATE

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

February 8, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Charter School Administrators

FROM: Timothy W. Hand, PhD, Deputy Secretary

RE: Assessment and Accountability Systems

Greetings from your new team at the New Mexico Public Education Department. A shift in administration brings with it shifts in philosophy, values, and vision. As Secretary-Designate Trujillo, Governor Lujan Grisham, and Lieutenant Governor Howie Morales lead our state moving forward, the Public Education Department aims to develop a service-oriented approach to department operations. This shift raises the bar for accountability by establishing a collaborative approach anchored to high standards for both outcomes and developmental support. This philosophy of reciprocal accountability involves local educational leaders in the design and implementation of accountability systems and includes intense technical, policy, and resource support from the Public Education Department. It is our aim to approach our collaborative efforts with a supportive orientation and follow up with oversight rooted in our shared values and reciprocal accountability.

As we build this system of accountability together, our focus is on lifting schools up as opposed to shutting schools down. There are a number of administrative rules and approved Every Student Succeeds Act requirements that match the philosophy, values, and vision of the previous administration. We appreciate the tireless efforts of the previous administration and everyone across the state over the past few years and look forward to the next iteration of student success in the state.

Two fundamental changes to the current accountability system took place as soon as Governor Lujan Grisham took office - the elimination of the PARCC assessment and the elimination of using PARCC scores in teacher evaluations. There is already legislation being debated in the Roundhouse geared toward transforming the educational system in New Mexico. Our team is also

hard at work at developing proposed amendments to our ESSA plan to better match the reciprocal philosophy of accountability. We have also convened a group of educational leaders to review current administrative rules to help us determine which rules need to be suspended, which should be repealed, and which should be replaced. A transitional assessment is already in place for this year's statewide assessment and a diverse group of educators with broad sets of experience is being established to reimagine what our assessment system looks like for 2020 and beyond.

Teacher effectiveness ratings, school closure, value-added modeling, end of course exams, state-level graduation requirements, and assessment protocols are intricately woven throughout administrative rule and ESSA compliance. ESSA amendments are due to the federal department of education by March 1st and we will be distributing the proposed amendments for public comment next week. The review of administrative rules will also conclude this month in order to provide any updates on graduation and assessment requirements for the end of this school year. Clear guidance will be provided for teacher evaluation and school support and accountability systems well before they are implemented in the fall.

In order to respect the rule of law and the requirements necessary to continue to receive our federal Title funds by complying with current ESSA regulations, current administrative rule and PED guidance documents are still in effect temporarily and the department will be in consistent communication with you in the next few weeks as these requirements evolve and as we work collaboratively to align practice with the values of New Mexico education. In the coming days, guidance memos will be distributed for clarification purposes and a conference call will be scheduled with our educational leaders across the state. We are in this together. The future is bright. Please join us as we work to reimagine our educational system and put the diverse assets of our New Mexican communities at the center of our work - together.

/TWH

cc: Karen Trujillo, PhD, Secretary-Designate
Gwen Warniment, PhD, Deputy Secretary
Kara Bobroff, Deputy Secretary
Katarina Sandoval, Deputy Secretary
Daniel Manzano, Chief of Staff