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February 25, 2019

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents and Charter Directors

FROM: ^{ENP} Elisabeth Nixon Peterson, Director, Priority Schools Bureau

RE: Principals Pursuing Excellence Cohort 7 Application Release

The New Mexico Public Education Department is pleased to announce the release of applications for Cohort 7 of the Principals Pursuing Excellence (PPE) program for the 2019-2020 School Year.

PPE is a two-year program aimed at leveraging the expertise of New Mexico's educational leaders to support and empower New Mexico's school leaders as they work to dramatically improve student outcomes in their schools. PPE is focused on building leadership capacity in New Mexico's schools and districts through multilayered professional learning and coaching for school and district leaders. All roles, including superintendents and district leadership, participate in executive education convenings to further cultivate the competencies and skills of turnaround leaders.

Over the past six years, over 240 school leaders have participated from 45 New Mexico districts, as well as nine state charter schools. This school and district turnaround program is nationally recognized for its innovative and high-impact support around school instructional leadership. Collectively, PPE schools have served over 100,000 New Mexico students.

From 2015 to 2018, schools in cohorts 1 through 4 erased 85% of the achievement gap in reading outcomes with non-PPE schools. The same group of schools eliminated 81% of the achievement gap in math outcomes. These results were accomplished while these schools served disproportionately more than the state average of English Learners, Native American students, students with disabilities, and students from low-income communities. Through a focus on high expectations, culture-building, and embedded professional learning, these schools are demonstrating what is possible for students and communities across our great state.

With the support of their district, Performance Coach, and Lead Coach/District Thought Partner, each PPE School Leader works with their core team to assess school needs based on data and establish an Annual and 90-day Plan containing effective turnaround strategies (e.g. data-driven instruction, school culture of learning, observation and feedback). To support successful implementation and monitoring of the school's 90-day Plan, each School Leader principal receives ongoing coaching and mentoring during monthly onsite visits and frequent check-ins.

Applications for **Cohort 7 School Leaders, Performance Coaches, Lead Coaches, and District Thought Partners** are available on the Priority Schools Bureau's [PPE webpage](#).

- **By midnight on Friday, March 15, 2019:** Scan and submit complete application by email to ppe.ped@state.nm.us
- Only complete applications will be reviewed.

For further information, please contact PPE Program Manager and School Improvement Specialist Regina Timms by email at regina.timms@state.nm.us or by phone at (505) 827-3835.

KT/KS/hp

cc: Karen Trujillo, Secretary-Designate of Education
Katarina Sandoval, Deputy Secretary of Academic Engagement
Gwen Warniment, Deputy Secretary of Teaching, Learning and Assessment
Kara Bobroff, Deputy Secretary of Identity, Equity and Transformation
Tim Hand, Deputy Secretary of Policy and Strategic Initiatives
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