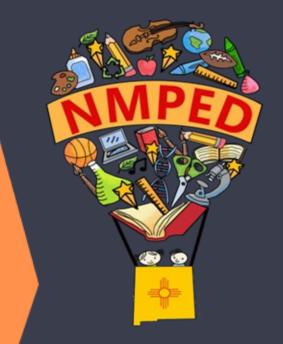
Presentation for the Legislative Education Study Committee

# **Public Education Department Agency Priorities**

Arsenio Romero, Ph.D., Secretary of Public Education

July 25, 2024

Investing for tomorrow, delivering today.

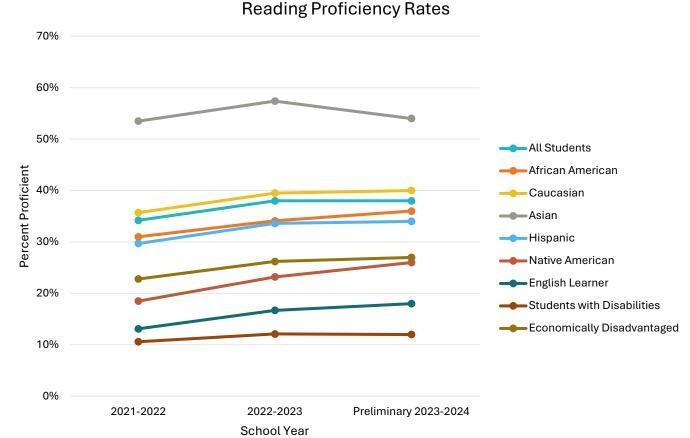


A Presentation by the New Mexico Public Education Department

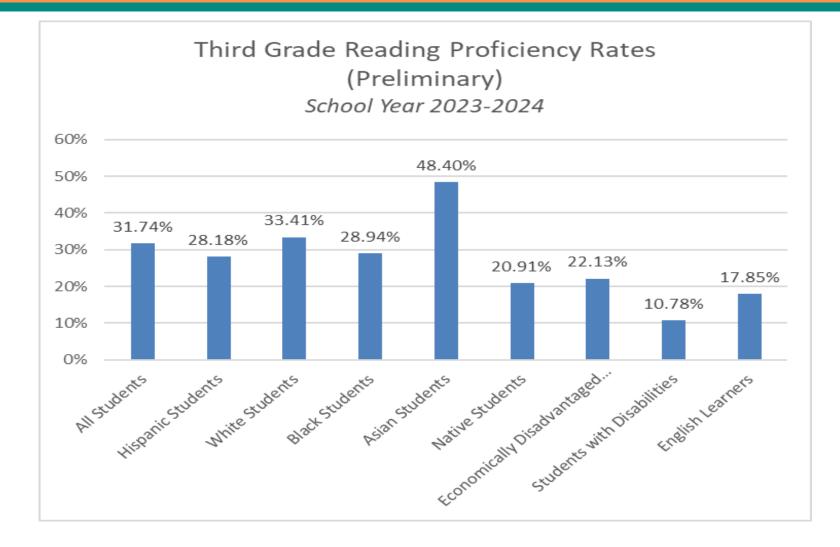
### Academic Achievement – English Language Arts

English proficiency rates increase

- All groups
- Native American students
- English learners



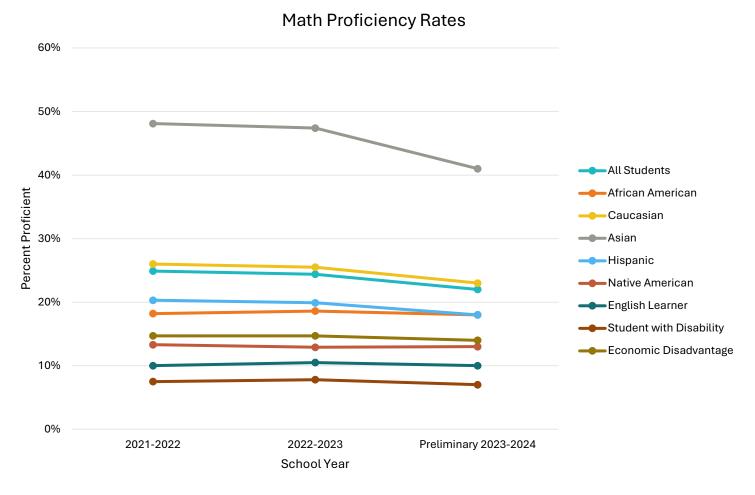
### Academic Achievement – English Language Arts



### **Academic Achievement - Mathematics**

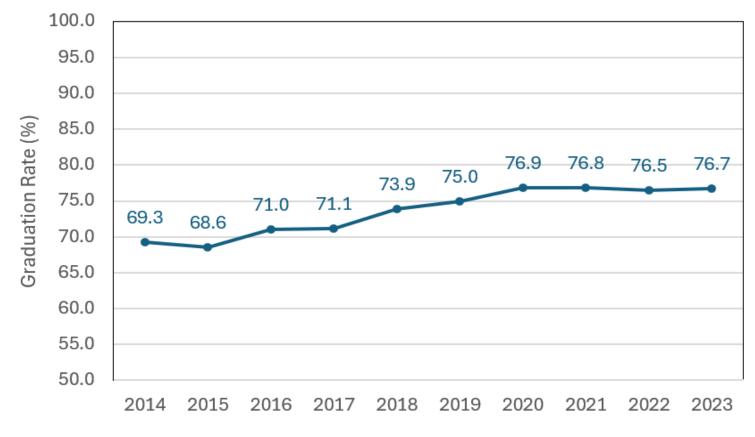
Math proficiency rates

• Little change overall



### **Graduation Rate**

New Mexico 4 Year Adjusted Cohort Graduation Rate, All Students



- All Students

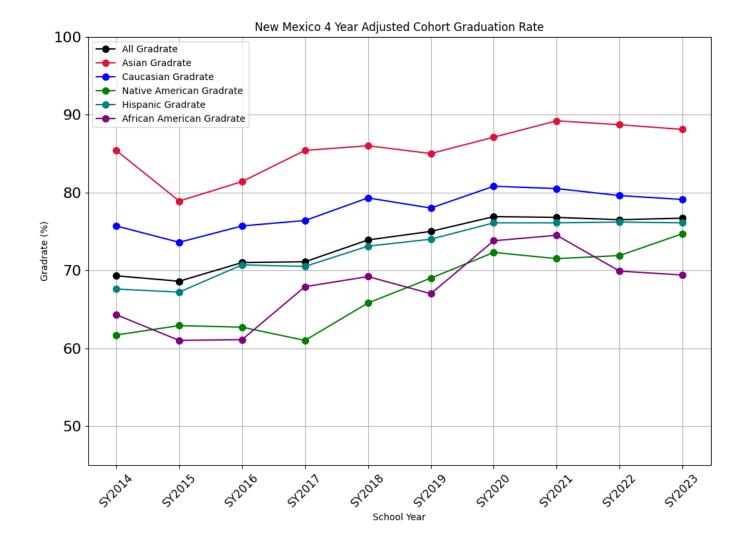
### Graduation Rates – Race and Ethnicity

#### Closing the gap

- Native American students
- 10 years of steady improvement

#### Focus for improvement

- Continue to close gaps, particularly for African American students
- Build on 10 years of growth in rates of graduation



# **Agency Priorities**

- Improving Student Outcomes
- Literacy Initiatives
- Supporting Educators
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)
- Artificial Intelligence
- Career Technical Education (CTE)
- School Improvement and Transformation
- Attendance and Exclusionary Practices
- Behavioral Health

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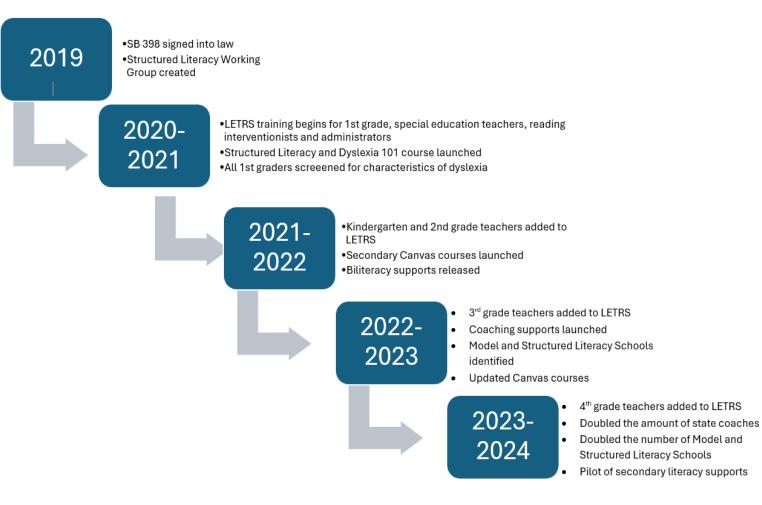
### Improving Student Outcomes

- Improve evaluation efforts
  - Increase agency resources
  - Identify high-impact strategies that improve outcomes
- Support effective and proven initiatives and programs, such as:
  - Structured Literacy
  - STEM Initiatives
  - Career Technical Education

## Literacy Initiatives

#### **Structured Literacy**

combines a proven effective system for teaching reading with what cognitive science tells us is happening in the brain as we learn to read – it involves a dynamic, multisensory approach to learning. Research shows structured literacy approaches benefit all students and are especially effective for students with learning disabilities such as dyslexia.



# Summer Reading Program

The New Mexico Summer Reading Program is a statewide instruction and reading intervention program. The legislature appropriated \$30 million for the summer reading program and \$30 million in capital outlay funding for a building in a permanent location for this ongoing work.

### New Mexico Summer Reading Program

### **Daily Enrollment Program Update**

Number of Students Enrolled

Number of Instructors Applied

9533

**95%** 

2775

Percentage towards goal of 10,000

Percentage towards goal of 2500

111%

Participating Entities (some have multiple sites)

Number of Sites

117

28 Districts, 15 Charter Schools, 16 Community Partners, 3 Colleges and Universities, and 7 Tribal Schools

MEXICO







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# Supporting Educators

### **Clinical Practice**

- Paid student teaching
- Teacher residencies
- Principal residencies

### **Educator Fellows**

- **Beginning Teacher Mentorship** 
  - Lift, Launch

### School Leader Support

• Lead, Thrive, Rise, Soar

### **Educator Preparation**

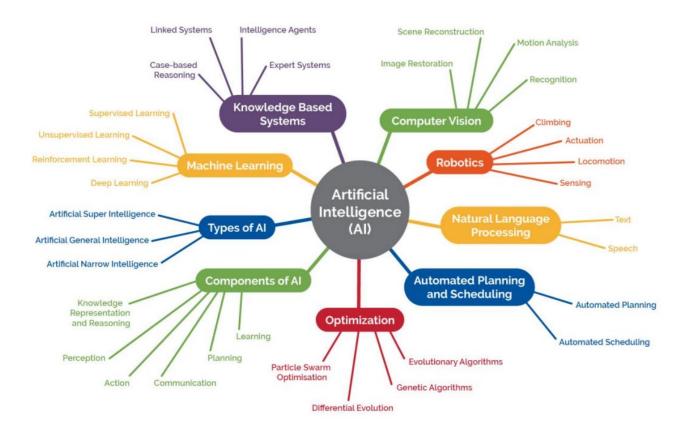
- Course code alignment
- Science of reading

## Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

- Update and implement the elementary science specialist endorsement
- Create a stipend for the elementary math specialist endorsement to ensure educators are well prepared and effective
- Professional learning that focuses on culturally and linguistically responsive education
- Hiring outdoor learning specialists and offering microgrants for constructing outdoor classrooms

### Artificial Intelligence

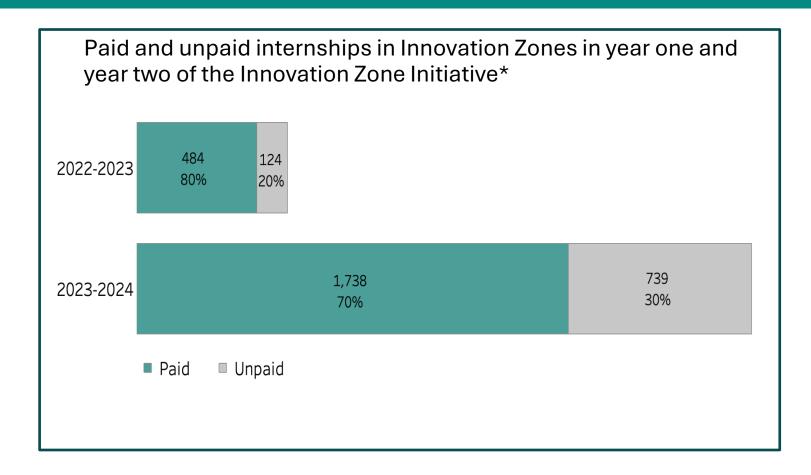
- Collaboration with New
  Mexico State University
- Policies and guidance
- Use cases



From: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Teaching and Learning

### **Career Technical Education**

- Summer Enrichment
  Internship Program
- Innovation Zones



### School Improvement and Transformation

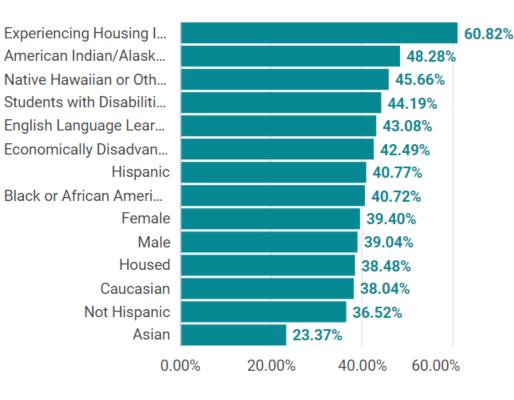
- Supporting schools most in need of improvement
- 144 schools in Comprehensive Support and Improvement and Most Rigorous Intervention status
- This federally required work includes:
  - Site visits to assess school programs and structure, adoption of evidence-based programs, and ongoing monitoring visits
  - Intensive mentorship and coaching for teachers and school leaders to identify root causes of low performance and to set improvement goals

### Attendance and Exclusionary Practices

Amend the Attendance for Success Act to:

- Focus interventions
- Reduce burden
- Reduce exclusionary practices
  - Reduce chronic absenteeism
  - Improve behavioral health
  - Create positive learning environments
  - Reduce crime and drug use
  - Improve academic outcomes

#### Chronic Absentee Rate - School 🛈



### **Behavioral Health**

- Even more important after the pandemic
- Crucial for both health and academic outcomes
- \$5M for behavioral health in 2023/2024 school year supported
  - Curriculum for behavioral health
  - Training on restorative practices
  - Grants to schools for innovative behavioral health practices
  - Wellness rooms
- \$0 for behavioral health in 2024/2025 school year

### Legislative Considerations for FY26

- Strengthen requirements for educational leadership preparation and licensing
- Require math professional learning
- Reduce exclusionary practices
- Update the Community Schools Act
- Require a common IEP template

#### Fund:

- Math and STEM
- School improvement and transformation
- Attendance initiatives
- Literacy, including high school reading support
- Drug counselors in high schools
- Education acts, including the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act
- Behavioral health
- Career Technical Education (CTE)
- The full cost of public school insurance

### Thank you!

