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**July 12, 2018**

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## **Education and Community Leaders Join Governor Martinez to Announce Unprecedented Increases in Statewide Student Achievement Results**

**Albuquerque, NM** – Today, Governor Susana Martinez was joined by school and community leaders to announce that nearly 25,000 more students are reading and doing math on grade level since the PARCC assessment was first implemented in 2015 – 11,012 more students are achieving at grade-level in math and 13,308 more students are proficient in reading.

“Over and over again New Mexico students have proven that when we raise the bar – they will rise to the challenge and succeed,” said Governor Martinez. “New Mexico students are once again proving that when we set high standards and give them challenging opportunities, they will always rise to the occasion.”

Students across the state are performing better. Farmington Municipal Schools is now the state’s highest-performing large district in reading at 42.6 percent proficient, surpassing Rio Rancho Public Schools. Reading proficiency in Farmington increased by 14.8 percent between 2015 and 2018. Additionally, Gadsden, Hobbs, Lovington and Gallup each increased the number of proficient readers by 10 percent. Gadsden achieved an 8.8 percent growth in math, the greatest gain among the state’s largest ten districts since 2015.

“New Mexico truly is on the rise, and on-pace to be the fastest-growing state for education growth in the nation by 2020. Districts and schools across the state are embracing higher standards and data-driven practices to improve teaching and learning,” said Education Secretary Christopher Ruskowski. “The results we are seeing are incredible – let’s keep moving our kids toward success.”

Native American children have outpaced all others in terms of reading growth, advancing 8.2 percentage points since 2015. Hispanic students advanced 4.8 percentage points in reading and 4.1 in math over the same period.

“Gallup-McKinley County Schools is elevating its instructional delivery for our students to new heights—and we will not rest until our students outpace their peers in the state in reading and math,” said Mike Hyatt, Superintendent of GMCS. “We’ve made double-digit gains in reading and we are exceeding statewide growth in math—but as a community we will not be satisfied until our students are outperforming similar-size districts and closing the achievement gap for our Native American students. We’ll celebrate our progress we made this year—and then we’ll get back to work. Our students, can achieve anything that we put our minds towards.”

New Mexico’s progress in reading and math is measured by the PARCC assessment, one of the only tests in the nation that meets the highest standards for quality under the federal government’s comprehensive peer review process, measures third through eleventh grade students’ real-world skills – including problem-solving, critical thinking, and reasoning – in English Language Arts (ELA/Reading) and Mathematics.

Throughout her term, Governor Martinez has been committed to ensuring all New Mexico students receive a quality education. More students than ever before are graduating from high school and taking Advanced Placement exams. She has also funded Pre-K programs at record levels – five times the amount it was funded when she took office.

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