

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NM House GOP Whip calls on NM school boards to reject MLG's racist curriculum

Santa Fe --- As part of an effort to stop the implantation of new K-12 social studies standards approved by the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED), state House Republican Whip, Rep. Rod Montoya (R-Farmington) recently sent an open letter to New Mexico's local school board members and school superintendents encouraging them to reject these new academic standards. Rep. Montoya is asking local school officials to take this unprecedented step because PED's new social studies standards are nothing more than an a poorly disguised effort to indoctrinate New Mexico children with the failed concepts of Critical Theory and Critical Race Theory.

Rep. Montoya's open letter further outlines how the new K-12 social studies standards were developed by PED by disregarding the many concerns expressed by parents, elected officials, school administrators, and teachers, and instead PED is acting like a rogue special interest group that is determined to divide New Mexico by race and income.

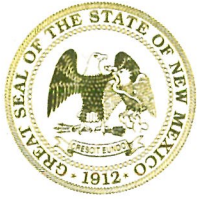
"Local school districts should never be forced by Santa Fe education bureaucrats to adopt academic standards and related curriculums that are designed to fulfill a political agenda that teaches children that they should feel responsible for historical events that took place hundreds of years before they were born. Nor should any student be taught that our country is so inherently racist and the economic system is so rigged against them that they are incapable of achieving any real success on their own," Rep. Montoya wrote in the letter.

Rep. Montoya's open letter also noted how similar progressive political agendas have recently been pushed in schools across the country and how concerned parents, school employees, and taxpayers have strongly opposed such pro-Critical Theory and Critical Race Theory teachings and have been successful in defeating those efforts. In turn, Rep. Montoya's letter explains how New Mexico local school boards and superintendents should also expect widespread support from New Mexico residents and families if they also aggressively oppose these unacceptable social studies mandates. Rep. Montoya encouraged local school districts to develop their own social studies curriculums that reflect local traditions and values.

At the close of the letter, Rep. Montoya wrote, "These new K-12 social studies standards are just the beginning of an effort to diminish the authority of parents, school boards, and superintendents in determining what education is best for their kids. If the New Mexico Public Education Department is successful in forcing these new standards into our schools, local control of education in our state will be never be possible again."

A copy of the letter is attached to this press release.

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Santa Fe

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Energy, Environment & Natural Resources
Labor & Economic Development
Rules & Order of Business

INTERIM COMMITTEES:
Capitol Building Planning Commission
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Mortgage Finance Authority Act Oversight
Advisory Member:
Economic & Rural Development
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Legislative Finance Committee
Revenue Stabilization & Tax Policy Committee

Open Letter to New Mexico Local School Board Members and School Superintendents

Dear School Board Members and Superintendents:

Since the fall of 2020, the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) has been undertaking a determined effort to rewrite our state's K-12 social studies standards. I (along with tens-of-thousands of New Mexicans) continue to be extremely opposed to the substance and direction of these standards and how our students at all grade levels will be taught the important subjects of history, civics and economics.

House Republicans sent a letter to PED during the public comment period in November outlining the numerous proposed standards that contained a strong and obvious progressive bias towards historical events and issues concerning New Mexico history, race relations, capitalism, sex education, religious beliefs and social norms. We requested several topics be eliminated or modified to remove highly controversial and offensive subject matter which specifically advances a political agenda, but the final standards made only minor modifications. The letter we sent represented the view of constituents across New Mexico who demanded we intervene – yet PED, not surprisingly, ignored all of these concerns.

House Republican Leadership recently sent a second letter to PED, expressing our continued opposition to the final social studies standards, and re-stated our belief that this is nothing more than a poorly disguised effort to indoctrinate students with Critical Theory and Critical Race Theory.

Critical Theory takes the position that western civilization must be criticized and ultimately changed, that our capitalist system must be replaced with socialism and that all social and moral norms must be replaced with progressive beliefs. These new standards also highlight components of Critical Race Theory which advance the false belief that our country is racist at its core and perpetuates systemic inequity.

I am writing you today because it has become obvious the Department of Education is determined to disregard the concerns of elected officials, school administrators, teachers and parents with these new

standards. PED is operating like a rouge special interest group with total disregard for the public they are supposed to serve. They seem more concerned with indoctrinating our children with anti-western sentiment and appear to be set on dividing the public by race and by income. As local school officials, you are morally obligated to reject these standards and to proceed serving your community as the autonomous school official you were elected to serve as.

Local school districts should never enact standards that have been developed with such obvious political objectives. Neither should school districts adopt curriculum that will exacerbate racial tensions. It is unconscionable to teach some children to feel responsible for historical events that took place hundreds of years before they were born. Equally disturbing is the effort to teach other children that they have no personal agency or self-determination; or to teach that the educational system is so rigged against them that they are incapable of achieving any real success on their own.

Absent an all-out rejection of these standards, you should expect grassroots citizens to fortify around an effort to give parents more educational choices – establishing a new approach of directing education dollars to follow students. Parents need to be assured that their child's education will be free of unwanted indoctrination efforts of any sort.

We have seen political fallout across the country from school boards and departments of education that have pursued their own agendas against the will of the public. You can expect broad support from your communities for standing up for parents and for their children. On the other hand, you shouldn't be surprised when a strong backlash comes from parents and community members if these reckless standards are implemented.

The next 16 months will determine the future course of public education in New Mexico. These K-12 social studies standards are just the beginning of an effort to diminish the authority of parents, school boards and superintendents. Local control of education will not be easily recovered if PED succeeds in this coup.

Thank you for considering my plea of rejecting these obviously biased standards. Parents and local school officials should determine what is best for their students and their individual communities.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rod Montoya', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Rod Montoya
House Republican Whip