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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 1, 2022
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Senate Republican Leader Greg Baca Responds to Shocking Student Assessment Results

SANTA FE – The Public Education Department (PED) today released the results of the Spring 2022 student assessments. According to PED, 75% of our students are not proficient in math and two in every three students are not proficient in reading or science.

“The results of these assessments demonstrate what we already knew to be true—that our children bore the brunt of this Governor’s draconian closures,” said Senate Republican Leader, **Senator Greg Baca** (District 29-Belen). “These students, especially those in our minority and underserved communities, had their lives and education put on hold because of politics, and no amount of political spin can change that. The only appropriate response from the Governor and her administration is a retreat from their current policies and an apology to the students, families, and teachers who suffered as a result of this failed leadership.”

This morning, the National Assessment of Educational Progress released results that indicated these types of school closures erased two decades of academic progress in reading and math, with reading scores falling to a 30-year low.

“It may take decades to recover from the damage done and the sad reality is, it did not have to be this way,” added **Senator Baca**. “We now know that our Hispanic, Native American, and Black students were disproportionately impacted largely because their schools were closed for in-person learning for so long. Tragically, New Mexico was the poster child for school closures, and as a result, our students are even further behind than we feared.”

Today’s results come after months of delay and drama regarding their release, and after students have already begun the fall semester.

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