



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 28, 2014

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****Media Advisory****

Governor Susana Martinez to Visit Juan de Oñate Elementary School in Gallup, Announce School's Participation in School Turnaround Program

Gallup — Governor Susana Martinez will visit students at Juan de Oñate Elementary School in Gallup to welcome students back to school and announce the school's participation in an intensive school turnaround program. The University of Virginia (UVA) Turnaround Program offers in-depth training to teachers and administrators in participating schools to improve student outcomes. Other schools in New Mexico that have gone through the program have shown significant growth and improvement in student proficiency.

"We are proud of the progress students and teachers are making here," said Governor Martinez. "Students here at Juan de Oñate Elementary have improved 5 percentage points each in math and reading in the last year alone. This turnaround program has helped other schools in New Mexico, and I know it will help staff and students here as they look to make additional, lasting progress. Helping our struggling students and schools succeed - that's the goal of our reform efforts, and it's why we are sending more education dollars directly into our classrooms to improve student learning."

The Turnaround Program offers New Mexico educators from struggling schools in-depth training in proven strategies to turn around their school. Schools with a grade of D or F are eligible to participate.

SBA scores this year indicate that the UVA School Turnaround Program has been successful in helping local schools increase student achievement. Students of schools participating in the UVA program saw dramatically more students moving up in proficiency levels than in non-UVA schools.

Between last year and this year, there was a net gain of 11.8 percent in the number of students in participating schools who moved up at least one proficiency level in reading, and a net gain of 8.6 percent in the number of students who moved up at least one proficiency level in math. This represents over ten times and seven times more progress, respectively, in these struggling schools, when compared to all other schools.

There are currently 31 schools from 7 districts participating in the program. School leaders in Gallup have joined participants from across the state, including Hatch, Lordsburg, Las Cruces, Aztec, Hobbs and Farmington.

Reforming education to improve student achievement continues to be a top priority for Governor Martinez. As a result of the most recent state budget signed into law by the Governor, spending on public schools in New Mexico will increase by \$147.7 million, a 5.75% increase over the last fiscal year, to a total of \$2.7 billion invested in public education in New Mexico. This will be the highest level of spending on education in state history. Included in the new money for public education is the expansion of several education reform initiatives designed to get dollars into New Mexico classrooms to directly help struggling students and schools, and support efforts to better engage parents, graduate our students, and reward successful teachers. As a result, the state will expand the use of parent portals, provide more interventions for struggling students and schools, recruit more math and science teachers in areas that badly need them, pilot various initiatives to reward teachers for strong performance in the classroom, further expand the number of early college high schools, and continue the state's already successful efforts to improve student access and success in AP courses.

When: 1:15 p.m. Thursday August 28, 2014

Where: Juan de Oñate Elementary School
405 Vega Street
Gallup, NM 87301

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