

Governor Bill Richardson Announces \$6.7 Million in Federal Funds to Implement Reading Programs in New Mexico Schools

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson announced today ten New Mexico school districts will each receive a share of \$6.7 million in federal funds to implement the "New Mexico Reading First" initiative. The funding is part of the "No Child Left Behind" project sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education.

"This is directly aimed at one of my primary goals- ensuring that every child can read by third grade," said Governor Bill Richardson. "The funding will be spread across the state, particularly in rural school districts where it's needed the most. It's a big step forward in our efforts to improve the quality of education for all New Mexico children."

The program will be administered by the State Department of Education, and is a comprehensive approach to teaching reading, including:

- Researched-based reading programs for students K-3 that focus on oral language development, vocabulary development, reading fluency, and reading comprehension
- Professional development that provides all teachers, including special education teachers, the knowledge and skills required to effectively teach reading
- Leadership and management training and assistance plan to ensure that all essential components of reading instruction are embedded into the instructional program, and
- Evaluation and assessment for all components of the New Mexico Reading First Program

The U.S. Department of Education issues the money on an annual basis. School districts apply to the state for funding, and can re-apply the following year if they do not receive an award.

School districts handle the disbursement of the funding to the schools. This year, funding was awarded to:

ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

\$1,796,386

Alamosa Elementary
Atrisco Elementary
Dolores Gonzales Elementary
Duran Elementary
Hodgin Elementary
La Mesa Elementary
Tomasita Elementary

Whittier Elementary

CHAMA VALLEY INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS **\$437,544**

Chama Elementary

Tierra Amarilla Elementary

CUBA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS **\$225,000**

Cuba Elementary

ESPANOLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS **\$1,125,000**

Abiquiu Elementary

Alcalde Elementary

Fairview Elementary

Hernandez Elementary

Tony Quintana Elementary

GRANTS-CIBOLA COUNTY SCHOOLS **\$675,000**

Mesa View Elementary

Milan Elementary

Mount Taylor Elementary

LAS CRUCES PUBLIC SCHOOLS **\$450,000**

Columbia Elementary

Valley View Elementary

LOVINGTON MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS **\$450,000**

Ben Alexander Elementary

Lea Elementary

Llano Elementary

SANTA FE PUBLIC SCHOOLS **\$450,000**

Agua Fria Elementary

R.M. Sweeney Elementary

WAGON MOUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS **\$207,897**

Wagon Mound Elementary

WEST LAS VEGAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS **\$895,393**

Luis E. Armijo Elementary

Don Cecilio Elementary

Tony Serna, Jr. Elementary

Union Elementary

Valley Elementary