

Governor Bill Richardson Announces the Governor's Progress Agenda (G.P.A.) Outlines Process for Education Reform

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today began the process to reform New Mexico's education system, announcing the formation of a task force to create the Governor's Progress Agenda (GPA), the road map that will be used to implement changes in the State Department of Education.

The Governor named 100 New Mexicans to the task force, 54 from rural areas of the state.

The Governor's prepared remarks from a news conference today at the State Capitol:

"The voters have spoken, and progress begins today. I am announcing a bi-partisan task force that will work for the next year to ensure that the concerns of all New Mexicans are addressed as we begin to implement long overdue reforms in our schools.

Lt. Governor Diane Denish and former Republican Governor Garrey Carruthers will serve as co-chairs.

The message of the election is clear- New Mexicans want the Governor to be accountable for education, to ensure the additional funds from the permanent school fund go directly into education, and also that rural schools not be left behind. This prompted me to appoint 53 task force members from rural areas, including some who opposed the amendments. We're all New Mexicans now. It's time to move forward.

This task force will develop the "Governor's Progress Agenda" (GPA), and will prioritize issues and set a detailed timeline as we re-engineer the Department of Education, and our education system as a whole.

It is time for higher scores, more graduations, and greater accountability. I will demand results.

The task force will be charged with:

- Restructuring the State Department of Education to better support schools
- Identifying mechanisms that ensure the distribution from the permanent fund is spent in the classroom
- Developing the portions of the school code that require re-writing

- Advise on FY05 Public School support package
- Create charter vocational high schools
- Open up eligibility for charter schools to receive capital outlay funds
- Holding hearings throughout the state, and survey every school district to see what's working and what isn't.
- Make recommendations for the restructuring and streamlining of the State Department of Education
- Recommending the newest and most innovative programs to improve education

There are several pressing issues that must be immediately addressed.

- As I promised during the campaign, I will order a complete audit and performance review of the entire education budget: one-point-eight-billion dollars. We must make sure we're investing in the classroom and not administration.
- I have established the Office of Educational Accountability to put a system in place to make sure the money approved through Amendment 2 is going to directly to education- higher teacher salaries and higher standards, advanced placement, full day kindergarten, and books and materials.
- I will establish a Rural Schools Division within the State Department of Education.
- I will, as I promised, establish an Indian Education Division and appoint a director.

As of October 14th, the State Board of Education will no longer exist. The ten members of the new Public Education Commission will serve in an advisory capacity.

I will now ask the Public Education Commission (PEC) to advise me and the Secretary of Education on education issues. I will meet with the PEC on a bi-monthly basis.

I want to create a stronger, and more responsive partnership with all our local school districts, and give them the support and resources they need to do better.”

Governor Richardson's Progress (GPA) Agenda Task Force

Co-chairs

1. Diane Denish, Lt. Governor, Hobbs
2. Garrey Carruthers, Dean, College of Business, NMSU

Vice-Chair

1. Carlos Atencio, Executive Director, Northern Network for Rural Education, Rio Rancho
2. John Darden, School Board Member, Las Cruces
3. Charles Hayes, Superintendent, Lordsburg

4. Jackie Riggs, President, NM Roundtable, Albuquerque

Steering Committee

5. Dorothy Armijo, President School Board, Pecos
6. Ellen Bernstein, President, AFT, Albuquerque
7. Kip Bobroff, Professor, UNM, Indian Law, Albuquerque
8. Leslie Boggs, President, PTA Executive Board, Albuquerque
9. Kaye Brilliant, NEA, Albuquerque
10. John Carey, President, ACI, Albuquerque
11. Yvonne Crooker, Principal, Thoreau Elementary School, Gallup
12. Dale Dekker, Architect, Dekker/ Parish/ Sabatini, Albuquerque
13. Veronica Garcia, Executive Director, NM Coalition of School Administrators, Albuquerque
14. Donovan Gomez, State Board of Education, Chairman of Indian Education Advisory Committee, Taos
15. Alfred Herrera, School Board Member, Espanola
16. Eduardo Holguin, President, NEA, Albuquerque
17. Gary King, Former State Representative, Moriarty
18. Bill Moffat, Chairman, School of Business Officials Association, Los Lunas
19. Carolyn Monroe, President, Albuquerque Title Co., Albuquerque
20. Tony Montfiletto, Amy Biehl Charter School, Albuquerque
21. Angela Czubak, Principal, Red River
22. Stewart Paisano, Governor, Sandia Pueblo
23. Kaye Peery, Superintendent, Maxwell
24. Susan Quintana, Golden Apple Teacher, Pojoaque
25. Tom Sullivan, Superintendent, Farmington
26. Christine Trujillo, AFT, State Board of Education member, Albuquerque
27. Manuel Valdez, Superintendent, Chama
28. Gloria Rindon, Director, LESC
29. Bob Moulton, Dean, NMSU College of Education, Las Cruces
30. Trevor Loy, Fly Wheels Adventures, Santa Fe
31. Randy Manning, President, NM School Board, Kirtland
32. Janet Martin, Teacher, Angel Fire
33. Leah Sandoval, Student, UNM, Pojoaque

Task force Members

34. Bill Garcia, Retired Intel, Rio Rancho
35. Jim Anderson, Superintendent, Los Alamos
36. Carol Angel, Parent, Springer
37. Del Archuleta, State School Board Member, Albuquerque
38. Loretta Armenta, Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce, Albuquerque
39. Fannie Atcity, Teacher, Shiprock
40. Kris Baca, Executive Director, SNMERC, Carlsbad
41. Ray Baca, Roswell Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Roswell
42. Harold Bailer, President, NAACP, Albuquerque
43. Charles Bowyer, Intergovernmental Affairs, Santa Fe

44. Ginger Blalock, UNM Special Education, Albuquerque
45. Ken Carson, President, Bank of Belen, Belen
46. Sue Cleveland, Superintendent, Rio Rancho Schools
47. Lisa Domenici, Former Teacher, Albuquerque
48. Karen Griego, Director, ENLACE, Albuquerque
49. Joe Guillen, State School Board Member, Espanola
50. Debra Gurule, Golden Apple Teacher, Cuba
51. Clinton Hardin, Senator, Clovis
52. John Heaton, Representative, Carlsbad
53. Carroll Leavell, Senator, Jal
54. Vicente Llamas, Educational Consultant, Las Vegas
55. Owen Lopez, Executive Director, McCune Foundation
56. Ed Lujan, Chairman, Board of Directors, Hispanic Cultural Center, Albuquerque
57. Chet Lytle, Former President ACI, Albuquerque
58. Paula Maes, APS Board Member, Albuquerque
59. Yolanda Manzano, School Board Member, Silver City
60. Kilino Marquez, Superintendent, Grants
61. Margaret Marshall, School Board Member, Quemado
62. Rick Miera, Representative, Chair, LESC
63. Bud Mulcock, Lobbyist, Albuquerque
64. Cynthia Nava, Senator, Chair, Senate Education Committee, Gadsden
65. Richard Pickering, Education Analyst, Santa Fe
66. Ana Mae Pino, Education Consultant, Pine Hills
67. Linda Preciado, Kindergarten Facilitator, Carlsbad
68. Frank Renz, Executive Director, Two-Year Post Secondary Presidents, Santa Fe
69. Manny Rodriguez, Superintendent, Roswell
70. Richard Romero, President Pro Tempore, Albuquerque
71. Stan Rounds, Superintendent, Hobbs
72. Kevin Shendo, Director, Education, Jemez Pueblo
73. Ann Shiells-Leviner, School Board Member, Socorro
74. John Spradling, Herff Jones-Campus Specialist, Los Lunas
75. Mimi Stewart, Representative, Albuquerque
76. Sumner Price, Golden Apple Teacher, Las Vegas
77. Duffy Swan, Chair, Golden Apple Teachers, Cedar Crest
78. David Townsend, Former Co-Chair EITF, Alamogordo

79. Jo Lou Trujillo-Ottino, Commission on Higher Education, Albuquerque
80. Alan Weingarten, School Board Member, Moriarty
81. Phyllis Wright, Former Teacher of the Year, Las Cruces
82. Judy Zanotti, Executive Director, NM First
83. David Zimmerman, School Board Member, Questa
84. Caron Snow, Business Manager, Ruidoso Schools, Ruidoso
85. Scott Barthel, Businessman, Hobbs
86. Jon Barela, Intel, Government Relations, Albuquerque
87. Carlotta Penny Bird, Instruction Director, Zuni Pueblo

88. Ferlin Clark, President, Dine' College, Farmington
89. Frank Fast Wolf, Special Education, Former Principal, Santo Domingo
90. Pat Gatten, PTA, Alamogordo
91. Stuart Ingle, Senator, Portales
92. Gay Kernan, Senator, Hobbs
93. Gracy Leary, Teacher, Portales
94. Harvielee Moore, Testing Coordinator, Deming
95. James Smith, Teacher of the Year, Las Curces
96. Ellen Swain, Golden Apple Teacher, Cimmaron
97. Thomas Dillon, Executive Director, Commission for the Deaf and Heart of Hearing, Santa Fe
98. Sharon Ball, LESC, Santa Fe

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