



STATE OF NEW MEXICO  
GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON



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## **Governor Bill Richardson Announces Over \$3 Million Awarded to Schools with Increases in Reading and Math Proficiency**

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson and Secretary of Education Dr. Veronica C. García today announced this year’s recipients of the School Improvement Incentive Awards. This year the Public Education Department (PED) is awarding \$3,029,620 to schools who showed some of the greatest improvements in math and reading proficiency during the 2006-2007 school year.

“I want to congratulate these schools—their students, faculty and staff— for their hard work to improve math and reading proficiency,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “These awards are just part of our commitment to giving schools the tools and incentives needed to succeed.”

This year 136 schools across New Mexico were chosen for the School Improvement Incentive Awards. All charter schools, district public schools and special state supported schools were considered.

“I am pleased to honor the outstanding work of these schools. As I have mentioned, the convoluted AYP label can be misleading, especially if schools are still seeing improvements in student proficiency,” Secretary Garcia said. “The School Improvement Incentive Awards are a fantastic opportunity to reward the schools that are indeed making outstanding progress.”

The PED identified schools in two categories to receive awards. The size of the awards was determined by the level of improvement and school size. Schools that improved the most and had the largest student enrollment received the largest awards.

Category one was for schools that made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), had no school improvement designation in 2007-2008, and achieved exceptional increases in reading

and math proficiency. 102 schools fall into this category and are receiving 60% of the funds amounting to \$1,823,831.

Category two is made up of 34 schools that achieved exceptional increases in reading and math proficiency but held a school improvement designation in 2007-2008. These schools are receiving 40% of the funds amounting to \$1,205,788.76.

The Incentives for School Improvement Award was created by the 1997 Legislature to give schools financial incentives to make outstanding gains on student assessments (§22-2C-8 and §22-2C-9, NMSA 1978).

Each of the recipients' school councils may determine how this supplemental funding will be used. However, statute excludes the use of funds for salaries, salary increases or bonuses. Schools are encouraged to recognize teachers and students for their achievement.

Attachments: List of awardees and award amounts are attached and can also be found at [www.ped.state.nm.us](http://www.ped.state.nm.us) .

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