



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON



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Governor Bill Richardson Reacts to National Report Card Showing Improvements in New Mexico State Government

SANTA FE-Governor Bill Richardson today applauded a national report that highlights New Mexico's major strides in improving government performance since he took office. The achievements are outlined in Grading the States 2008 by the PEW Center on the States.

"This report shows we're on the right track to creating a state government that's more efficient and costs less," Governor Bill Richardson said. "But we still have work to do. We must remain vigilant and continue to build on our successes.

PEW's 50-state report card grades New Mexico a B-, the average among the 50 states. That's an improvement from the last report card in 2005 in which New Mexico received a C+.

PEW's 50 state report card says, "in the past 5 years, New Mexico has taken strong steps in addressing its most glaring management weaknesses, including what may have been the worst method of capital spending in any state in the country".

One of Richardson's first priorities as governor was reforming the state's capital outlay process. Before he took office, capital outlay was divided equally between the governor, Senate and House leading to haphazard spending. Governor Richardson and the legislature worked together to develop a new formula that reserves more money for long-term goals and focuses allocation of capital funds to critical projects.

"When I first proposed these changes, they were considered radical and I faced strong opposition," Richardson said. "But we worked together and were able to bring direction and discipline to the way we do business. Today we're seeing the rewards as we build a stronger New Mexico."

The report also highlights New Mexico's improvements in long-term planning, information technology and workforce training.

The report card can be accessed online at www.pewcenteronthestate.org.

