



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2019-001

DIRECTIVE TO THE STATE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO IMMEDIATELY TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO BEGIN TRANSITIONING AWAY FROM USE OF THE STANDARDIZED TEST TERMED THE "PARTNERSHIP FOR ASSESSMENT OF READINESS FOR COLLEGE AND CAREERS" ("PARCC") AND TO WORK WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO IDENTIFY AND IMPLEMENT A MORE EFFECTIVE METHOD FOR ASSESSING SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

WHEREAS, as Governor, I am committed to making immediate improvements to our Public Education system.

WHEREAS, students throughout New Mexico have been required to take the PARCC, which is a test purported to serve as an accountability measure for New Mexico School Districts and Charter Schools in the areas of English Language Arts and Mathematics. The PARCC test is given to students in grades 3-11.

WHEREAS, PARCC has been widely criticized as being expensive, ineffective, and a poor performance measure for schools and students. For these reasons, many states around the country have discontinued or are in the process of discontinuing the use of PARCC testing. Lt. Governor, Howie Morales, who holds a Ph.D. in Education, has pointed out that "PARCC is a colossal and expensive failure for our State" and that "[t]here are better ways to assess the learning of school-age children." Lt. Governor Morales' observations are consistent with empirical data. PARCC testing accounts for 90% of the ratings and assessments that New Mexico elementary and middle schools receive, and 75% of the ratings and assessments that New Mexico high schools receive. Consequently, teachers and administrators are unreasonably forced to expend excessive resources preparing students to take the PARCC test. The result is that New Mexico students spend too much time being "taught to the test" and not enough time learning.

WHEREAS, I am committed to implementing a sounder methodology for the rating and assessments of New Mexico schools that complies with the federal law, Every Student Succeeds Act (“ESSA”). To identify, develop, and implement an alternative approach, we must have input from our Public Education Department, teachers, administrators, parents, students, and recognized professionals and experts in the field of student assessments. Through this collaborative approach, New Mexico can develop means for testing and assessment that generate the requisite information necessary for teachers to meaningfully evaluate the areas where students are struggling; to promote innovation in the classroom; and to foster students’ critical thinking skills.

THEREFORE, for these reasons discussed above, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. Effective immediately, the Public Education Department shall begin the process of transitioning away from PARCC testing and adopting new ratings and assessments that meaningfully evaluate the areas where students are struggling; promote innovation in the classroom; and foster students’ critical thinking skills.

2. The Public Education Department shall work with interested stakeholders, including teachers, administrators, parents, and students, as well as recognized professionals and experts in the field of student assessments, to determine the most appropriate and least intrusive tests, in compliance with ESSA, to help measure student learning and provide accountability for New Mexico schools.

3. The Public Education Department shall pursue ratings and assessments that will decrease unnecessary pressure on students and teachers, provide more time for instruction, and conserve resources.

4. Consistent with federal requirements, the Public Education Department shall strive to achieve balance in its ratings and assessments by incorporating into its analysis other proven means of measuring student and school achievement, including consideration of data collection on student performance in the classroom and homework assignments.

5. The Public Education Department will proceed with the transition away from PARCC in a methodical manner in order to minimize unnecessary disruption to students, parents, educators, administrators, and other stakeholders.

ATTEST:

Maggie Toulouse Oliver
MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 3rd DAY OF JANUARY, 2019

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO

Michelle Lujan Grisham
MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

