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DR. VERONICA C. GARCÍA  
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

BILL RICHARDSON  
Governor

April 21, 2008

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Fellow Champions for Education

**FROM:** Veronica C. García, Ed.D.  
Secretary of Education

**RE:** **The NMPED Welcomes the New Mexico Family/Parent Involvement Advisory Council**

Over the last year and a half, the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) initiated an extensive Parent Involvement program. This comprehensive approach involves the development, alignment, and integration of parent, school, and community resources; district training; and a public awareness campaign to emphasize the importance of parents and community in education.

I am pleased to officially announce the New Mexico Family/Parent Involvement Advisory Council. The Council serves in an advisory role to the NMPED. The membership of the New Mexico Family/Parent Involvement Advisory Council includes parents and representatives from 29 organizations and districts statewide. They meet monthly to share successes and address the challenges facing families, schools and communities. Council members also help explore the future direction of parental and family involvement for the New Mexico community.

Advisory Council efforts focus on connecting and developing resources to expand positive opportunities for students and families. The work of the Council compliments and supports NMPED activities for public awareness and informed policy decisions that promote the importance of family involvement. Already, the Council developed *New Mexico's Guiding Principles on Parent and Family Involvement*. The guiding principles are aligned with state statute and policy. They help define parent involvement and will serve to guide and align the work of the NMPED, the Council, and the organizations with Council representatives. A copy of *New Mexico's Guiding Principles on Parent and Family Involvement* is attached.

The Advisory Council provides advocacy, guidance, and support for child centered policies and practices affecting family, school, business, and community engagement to local and state decision-makers. I encourage districts, schools, and families to contact the New Mexico

Family/Parent Involvement Advisory Council for access to family and parent voices statewide and to tap into the pooled resources available for families, students, and education communities.

The liaison for the Family/Parent Involvement Advisory Council is NMPED Family/Parent Involvement Program Coordinator, Alicia Benavidez, 505-827-6665 or [alicia.benavidez@state.nm.us](mailto:alicia.benavidez@state.nm.us). Also attached is a Council roster listing all members with their contact information.

I invite you to visit the NMPED website at <http://ped.state.nm.us/> to look at two new links on our homepage: *Resources for Districts* and *Resources for Parents and Families*. We will continue to add information about programs, services, organizations, tools, and strategies under these links that help build strong family-school-community partnerships.

Thank you for all you do for the students and families of New Mexico.

VCG/dm

Attachments (3)