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HANNA SKANDERA
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

SUSANA MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR

August 15, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, Directors of State Educational Institutions, BIE School Administrators, and District Test Coordinators

FROM: Cathie Carothers, Deputy Secretary, Policy and Indian Education

RE: **CLARIFICATION OF NEW SBA PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

Statewide 2011 SBA proficiency rates remained consistent with previous year's results. However, a number of districts are reporting erratic fluctuations in proficiency rates, and they are concerned that scoring errors might be the cause. Understandably, varied results in the same grade level from one school to another are confusing, particularly when recent performance standard adjustments are expected to apply consistently to all students.

Secretary Skandera's July 1, 2011, memo announced that new performance standards apply to the English and Spanish language versions of the SBA. That is a significant change from previously distinct performance standards for each language. SBA scores now have the same meaning regardless of language of the test. Wherever standards increased, they increased more for the Spanish language version of the test. This change most affects English Language Learners who took the SBA in Spanish. As a result, schools with greater concentrations of ELL students who took the SBA in Spanish experienced larger fluctuations in results from previous years.

Please contact the Assessment Bureau with your questions about these changes: Robert Romero, Assessment Coordinator (robert.romero1@state.nm.us or 505.827.6524) or Dr. Tom Dauphinee, Deputy Director of Assessment and Accountability (tom.dauphinee@state.nm.us or 505.827.6528).

CC/TD/mm

cc: PED Executive Team
PED Leadership Team
District Test Coordinators