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SUSANA MARTINEZ  
Governor

January 6, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Superintendents, Charter School Administrators, Directors of State Educational Institutions, BIE Line Officers, District Test Coordinators, Charter School Test Coordinators, and State Education Institution Test Coordinators

**FROM:** Hanna Skandera  
Secretary-Designate of Education

**RE: OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN SURVEY ITEMS RELEASED**

Beginning this spring, students in grades 3 through 8, 10 and 11 will take the Opportunity to Learn Survey (OLS) with the Standards Based Assessment. Ten questions per grade examine the quality of instruction and school environment, as I announced in my September 23, 2011, memo to school districts and BIE schools. Please find the OLS questions attached for your information.

Questions are similar to those used in the Measures of Effective Teachers Project (MET) and the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). Responses will not be used to evaluate individual teachers, but to evaluate schools in the A-F School Rating System. Schools will receive aggregate results by question and grade.

The Assessment and Accountability Bureau is ready to answer your questions about the survey. Please contact Robert Romero ([robert.romero1@state.nm.us](mailto:robert.romero1@state.nm.us) or 505.827.6524), Diana Jaramillo ([diana.jaramillo@state.nm.us](mailto:diana.jaramillo@state.nm.us) or 505.827.6570), Charles Trujillo (NMAPA - [Charles.Trujillo@state.nm.us](mailto:Charles.Trujillo@state.nm.us) or 505.827.6536), or Dr. Tom Dauphinee ([tom.dauphinee@state.nm.us](mailto:tom.dauphinee@state.nm.us) or 505.827.6528).

HS/TD/jj

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## Opportunity to Learn Survey

### Survey Questions – Grade 3

My teacher introduces a new lesson by reminding us of things we already know.

My teacher explains why what we are learning is important.

My teacher explains how learning each lesson will help us in the future.

Everybody gets a chance to answer questions.

My teacher wants me to explain my answers.

My teacher explains things in different ways so everyone can understand.

My teacher helps me when I do not understand.

I use different materials and tools to help me practice what I am learning.

My teacher makes sure I understand.

My teacher takes the time to summarize what we learned each day.

### Survey Questions – Grades 4-5

My teacher introduces a new lesson by reminding us of things we already know.

My teacher explains why what we are learning is important.

My teacher explains how learning each lesson will help us in the future.

Everybody gets a chance to answer questions.

My teacher wants me to explain my answers.

My teacher explains things in different ways so everyone can understand.

My teacher helps me when I do not understand.

I use different materials and tools to help me practice what I am learning.

My teacher makes sure I understand.

My teacher takes the time to summarize what we learned each day.

## Survey Questions – Grades 6-8 and high school

My teacher introduces a new topic by connecting to things I already know.

My teacher explains why what we are learning is important.

My teacher explains how learning a new topic is a foundation for other topics.

Every student gets a chance to answer questions

My teacher wants me to explain my answers.

My teacher knows when I understand, and when I do not.

My teacher explains things in different ways so everyone can understand.

My teacher gives me helpful feedback on work I turn in.

My teacher checks our understanding.

My teacher takes the time to summarize what we learned each day.