

## Foreword

This edition of *New Mexico Public School Finance Statistics* is intended to maintain a historical account of New Mexico public school budgets. It includes statistics on membership, revenue, expenditure, personnel, and other data for Fiscal Year 2003 as well as budgeted revenues and expenditures for Fiscal Year 2004. We hope that the information included in this document will provide the basis for the continued formulation of sound fiscal policies for the operation of New Mexico's 89 public school districts and will also help to provide the accountability so essential for public support of public schools.

Readers will find revenue data by fund and subfund and expenditure data by function. Data for the charter schools are also reported. For start-up charter schools, no membership data are reported; however, the financial information for start-up costs is reported. The data reported by the Regional Education Cooperatives (REC's) for Fiscal Year 2002 and Fiscal Year 2003 are available from the School Budget and Finance Analysis Unit.

While it is not possible to list the names of all the individuals who helped compile this document, thanks is due to the business office staff in the school districts and charter schools for providing accurate and timely data and to the analysts of the School Budget and Finance Analysis Unit for helping to compile and verify the information. Additionally, special thanks is due to Carla Acosta and Lyn J. Hughes for assuming the primary responsibility for preparing the various tables included in this document. The task of gathering this data is tedious and requires consistent, persistent attention to detail. If you have suggestions or comments that would make the "stat book" more useful to you, please let us know.

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