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# NEWS RELEASE

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## 2012 NMSBA Results Show Improvement and Opportunity

**SANTA FE** – The results of the 2012 New Mexico Standards Based Assessment (SBA) exam were announced by the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) today. The 2012 SBA was administered to over 194,000 students last spring and results show marked improvement in many areas, with much work still to be done. Overall, about 50% of students were reading on grade level, an increase of about 1%. In math, 43% of all students are performing on grade level which is also an increase of about 1% from 2011.

The 2012 SBA results reveal strong improvement in many areas including the following:

- 7<sup>th</sup> grade math scores improved 4.1%
- 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading improved 3.4%
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade reading is up 3.1%

“These results highlight the critical need to continue reforming education in New Mexico,” said Governor Susana Martinez. “The increases we’ve seen are promising, but small. We know how far we must go to truly improve education in New Mexico so that every child is able to succeed inside the classroom and in life.”

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Proficient or above: Reading</u>	<u>Difference from 2011</u>	<u>Proficient or above: Math</u>	<u>Difference from 2011</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	52.4%	(.5%)	52.7%	+1.2
4 <sup>th</sup>	49.9%	+3.4%	44%	(.4%)
5 <sup>th</sup>	55%	+3.1%	43.5%	+1.6%
6 <sup>th</sup>	48.3%	+5%	37.1%	+4%
7 <sup>th</sup>	50.2%	+2.6%	41.7%	+4.1%
8 <sup>th</sup>	54.3%	+1%	41.7%	+9%
11 <sup>th</sup>	45.3%	(2.5%)	38.9%	+9%
<b>Total*:</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>+1%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>+1%</b>

\*Understanding different grade levels have varying student populations, the statewide total is a reflection of the greater weight given to grades with more students.

“Improvement is promising, but our children deserve better,” said NMPED Secretary-Designate Hanna Skandera. “Less than one year ago we released the 2011 SBA scores as a call to embrace reform and it’s clear that mandate remains. While the sharp, three year decline in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading has leveled off, no one should argue we’ve reached the goal of success we want for our kids. Only half of our students reading on grade level and less than half proficient in math are the result of the status quo, and it needs to change.”

### **2012 SBA and High School Graduation**

The 2012 SBA was the first ‘high stakes’ test for New Mexico high school students. In the past, taxpayers have spent over \$27 million annually on college remediation, highlighting the need to make sure high school graduates are college and career ready. For the first time, New Mexico 11<sup>th</sup> grade students needed to achieve a standard *composite* score in both math and reading as a requirement to graduate in spring 2013. Nearly 23,000 New Mexico 11<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in the SBA with about 57% achieving the required score to graduate. **Students who did not achieve the required score will be offered a chance for re-examination in the fall.** Based on the 2012 SBA results, 10,306 students will need to take all or portions of the SBA test again. Those students who do not achieve the required score in the fall will be offered a chance in the spring to demonstrate they are prepared for college or career.

### **Background on the New Mexico SBA**

The Standards Based Assessment is developed every year by New Mexico teachers who ensure questions are fair and rigorous for every grade level. The **2012 Quality Counts Report** from *Education Week* ranked New Mexico’s assessment #15 in the nation, giving the state an “A-“grade.

The complete 2012 NMSBA results can be found on the NMPED website at:  
<http://www.ped.state.nm.us/AssessmentAccountability/AcademicGrowth/NMSBA.html>