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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Education Secretary Meets with APS and Charter School Representatives to Clarify the Role of Charter Authorizers

**(Santa Fe, NM)** – New Mexico Education Secretary Veronica C. García will meet Friday with Albuquerque Public Schools officials, charter school representatives, New Mexico Coalition of Charter Schools, and the Public Education Department (PED) staff, including the Charter Schools Division, to clarify the role of charter school authorizers in fiscal oversight of charter schools.

Last week New Mexico State Auditor Hector Balderas published a report showing a number of audit findings for charter schools authorized by Albuquerque Public Schools.

"I called this meeting to facilitate communication and provide clarification about fiscal management of charter schools and the roles and responsibilities of the school district as a charter school authorizer," said Secretary García.

"Albuquerque Public Schools and PED are breaking new ground with charter schools and it is important to take this on as a team," said APS Superintendent Winston Brooks. "We are eager to find solutions together."

"Accountability and transparency are the cornerstones for strong charter school laws," said New Mexico Coalition of Charter Schools Executive Director Dr. Lisa Grover. "This includes the roles and responsibilities of authorizers, too. This meeting will provide the opportunity for clarifying the oversight role of authorizers while preserving the autonomy of New Mexico's public charter schools. I appreciate the Secretary of Education's leadership in bringing together all the stake holders in this first-ever meeting of this kind."

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