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NEWS RELEASE

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Education Department Unveils Education Dashboard

New Website to Share Education Information with Public, Add Access for Educators and Policymakers

Santa Fe, NM – Education Secretary designate Hanna Skandera today unveiled the Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System (STARS) Dashboard at a press conference at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 10, 2011 in Room 326 of the Roundhouse. Members of the Legislature, visitors to the Legislature, and members of the public were invited to attend the presentation.

“Our STARS database has been recognized for its capabilities. It’s now our responsibility as educators and policymakers to use the information it houses to make the best decisions for our students,” said Secretary-designate Skandera. “And, with this new public interface, the citizens of New Mexico now have an open window to our state of education.”

The entire STARS longitudinal database will also play an integral role in implementing the Governor’s education reforms moving through the legislature now. The system will be able to measure student growth to support grading schools and acknowledge effective teaching. It will also support the efforts to remediate and retain students who are unable to read by 3rd grade.

The STARS Dashboard aims to extend the reach of all the state’s education data and information by serving a broad audience of educators, policymakers, stakeholders, parents and the general public. The new website features expanded access to data regarding: teachers, courses, discipline, special education, enrollment, attendance, achievement, graduation and budget. The dashboard is a customer friendly, computer-enabled link to view state, school district, and school information quickly.

In addition, NMPED has created login access points for educators and policymakers to view information in STARS, which is the K-12 repository of the statewide longitudinal data for school districts and chartered schools throughout the state.

For the last five years, New Mexico has participated in the national Data Quality Campaign (DQC). This campaign identified ten essential elements that statewide longitudinal data systems provide a roadmap to state policymakers to create a culture in which quality data is used to increase student achievement.

New Mexico is one of 11 states to successfully meet nine of these ten elements including: statewide student identifiers, enrollment and student test data, information on untested students, statewide teacher identifier with teacher-student match, course completion (transcript) data, graduation and dropout data, ability to match student P-12 and higher education data, and a state data audit system. The final element needed -- SAT, ACT, and Advanced Placement exam data -- is currently being developed.

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