

From: Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org) <Cari@excelined.org>
Sent time: Wednesday, January 04, 2012 9:45:10 AM
To: Webster, Melinda
Subject: FW: the Albuquerque Journal: Gov. Wants Incentives for Schools

FYI~

From: Patricia Levesque (patricia@excelined.org)
Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2012 9:28 AM
To: Brown, Reginald; Bush, Jeb (Chairman); Conde, Cesar; Handy, Phil; Klein, Joel; Oberndorf, Bill; Simon, Bill; Yablonski, Brian; Zachariah, Zachariah
Cc: Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org); Mandy Clark (mandy@excelined.org); Nadia Hagberg (Nadia@excelined.org); Joanna Hassell (Joanna@afloridapromise.org); Matt Ladner (ladner55@gmail.com); Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org); Christy Hovanetz (christyh@excelined.org); Alexis Franz (Alexis@excelined.org); Clare Crowson (Clare@excelined.org); Jaryn Emhof (jaryn@excelined.org); Deirdre Finn (dfinn@excelined.org); Fonda Anderson (fonda@excelined.org)
Subject: FW: the Albuquerque Journal: Gov. Wants Incentives for Schools

Governor Bush and Board members,

New Mexico is our first state to actively push school recognition program (our model that provides reward money to schools that improve a letter grade or earn and A) as part of their state accountability system. Credit to Gov Martinez and Secty Skandera.

We also have to give credit to Secty Duncan/Pres Obama. They put a "reward schools" component into their plans for reauthorization – states would have to reward the top schools that improved performance or closed the achievement gap. US DOE also required it for the waiver process. So states applying for waivers from ESEA are starting to look at school recognition as a way to comply with the reward schools requirement.

If Florida gets a waiver, it also protects our school recognition program (for the term of the waiver) from the annual attacks to cut/kill the program.

If you want to send Gov. Martinez or Education Secty Hanna Skandera an email to encourage them on this policy, their emails are:

susana.m@susana2010.com
hannaskandera@yahoo.com

Patricia

From: Nadia Hagberg (Nadia@excelined.org)
Sent: Wednesday, January 04, 2012 8:45 AM
To: Mandy Clark (mandy@excelined.org); Alexis Franz (Alexis@excelined.org); Mary Laura Bragg (MaryLaura@excelined.org); Cari Miller (Cari@excelined.org); Christy Hovanetz (christyh@excelined.org); Matt Ladner (ladner55@gmail.com); Patricia Levesque (patricia@excelined.org); Deirdre Finn (dfinn@excelined.org); Erin Price (Erin@excelined.org); Jaryn Emhof (jaryn@excelined.org); Clare Crowson (Clare@excelined.org)
Subject: the Albuquerque Journal: Gov. Wants Incentives for Schools

**NM will be asking the legislature for 6.5M in new funds for their school recognition program...*

Gov. Wants Incentives for Schools

By Hailey Heinz / Journal Staff Writer
Wed, Jan 4, 2012

Gov. Susana Martinez hopes to attach funding to her A-F school grading policy, awarding extra money to high-performing schools and giving struggling schools extra cash to hire instructional coaches.

She also hopes to give bonuses to "highly effective" teachers and principals if they transfer to low-performing schools.

Martinez announced the proposals Tuesday, saying they will be part of her budget proposal to the Legislature in the upcoming session. She said the proposals, which would cost a total of about \$6.5 million, would be funded with new revenue. Most of that would go to low-performing schools.

"The bottom line is we want to reward successful schools, provide increased incentives for schools to raise their performance levels, and provide targeted and effective help to schools and students who need it the most," Martinez said.

Santa Fe Public Schools Superintendent Bobbie Gutierrez, who was at the announcement, said many low-performing schools in Santa Fe already have instructional coaches, and she would rather spend the money on teacher training.

Instructional coaches are brought in to help teachers improve. Some have a particular focus, such as literacy or math.

Paul Aguilar, deputy education secretary for finance, said his department is considering how best to help schools that already have instructional coaches. He said schools may use the money to add more coaches, or to free federal dollars already being spent on instructional coaches.

Martinez said low-performing schools that receive the extra funding will have to show improvement within two years or risk losing the money.

"This isn't simply throwing money at the program, an approach we have seen in New Mexico for far too long," Martinez said. "For our D and F schools who are receiving targeted funds, there will be accountability."

Albuquerque Public Schools chief of staff Joseph Escobedo said he did not know the details of the governor's proposal, but said APS favors a budget that would put any new revenues into the general education budget to restore funds cut in the past few years.

The plan to lure effective teachers and principals to struggling schools was still light on specifics Tuesday, in terms of how the "highly effective" staffers would be identified and how much the bonuses would be. Also during the legislative session, Martinez will propose a bill to evaluate teachers based largely on their students' growth on test scores.

Ellen Bernstein, president of the Albuquerque Teachers Federation, was critical of that part of the proposal.

Bernstein pointed to research showing teachers choose their schools based largely on working conditions like autonomy and the quality of the principal, not salary.

“There’s no research that says bonuses move teachers and make them stay in a school,” Bernstein said.

Martinez’s plan breaks down to these amounts:

\$4.3 million to schools that receive a D or F grade, specifically for hiring instructional coaches and offering other services such as tutoring.

\$1.25 million to the 25 highest-performing schools statewide, which would each get \$50,000 to spend as they choose.

\$500,000 in bonuses for high-quality teachers to work in struggling schools.

\$400,000 in bonuses for high-quality principals to work in struggling schools.

— This article appeared on page C01 of the Albuquerque Journal

<http://www.abqjournal.com/main/2012/01/04/news/gov-wants-incentives-for-schools.html>