



**NEW MEXICO
SCHOOL FOR
THE DEAF**

Dream! Explore! Achieve!

Where Children...

Dream!

Explore!

Achieve!

ANNUAL REPORT

2018 – 2019

Our Vision, Mission & Beliefs

**Cultural
Linguistic
Perspective**

**Goals &
Aspirations**

**High
Expectations**

**Highly
Specialized
Staff**

Vision

Children and students in New Mexico who are Deaf/hard of hearing will become lifelong learners and contributing, well-rounded successful individuals in an increasingly global society.

**Communication
Access**

Mission

The mission of the New Mexico School for the Deaf (NMSD), New Mexico's first public school, is to provide for the unique needs of children and students who are Deaf/hard of hearing, their families, and professional partners by providing a comprehensive array of school and statewide programs.

Technology

**ASL & English
Proficiency**

As a school, NMSD provides an American Sign Language and English bilingual learning environment that includes direct, ongoing access to language and communication in and out of the classroom with a wide range of peers and adults. The students are interactive learners who receive dynamic high quality standards-based instruction in a variety of curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Diversity

**Spoken
Language**

As a statewide service agency, NMSD collaborates with families, school districts, agencies and communities throughout the state to meet the critical language, communication, and learning needs of children and students in New Mexico who are Deaf/hard of hearing, birth through high school.

**Engaged
Learning**

**Early
Learning**

**Student
Strengths**

Families

A Message from our Superintendent & Board President

Dear NMSD Community and Friends,

The New Mexico School for the Deaf embodies the heritage of our city, state, and the deaf community. I can't tell you how often someone tells me about a relative that attended school or worked at NMSD. Or that they played against our basketball or football teams. Precious are the stories from alumni who stop in to share with me how NMSD changed their lives. The NMSD community is fortunate to have a state that recognizes its responsibility to keep that heritage alive and vibrant for NM's citizens and deaf and hard of hearing children and their families. Our mantra is "One School, One Family, We are NMSD". Through the years as we hold our heritage dear, we continue to expand and strengthen services to all sectors of the state, last year serving 96 communities in NM. Even if a family lives in a community far from Santa Fe's main campus, such as Counselor, San Jon, Raton, or Silver City, NMSD reaches out with services, support, and above all the message that their child can achieve and they are not alone.

Thank you for reading our 2018-2019 annual report to learn about how NMSD is working for NM's deaf and hard of hearing children from infants to students who are transitioning to college or career. My sincerest gratitude to the many advocates and allies of our children in the Governor's Office and Cabinet, the Legislature, NMSD Board of Regents, our Congressional Delegation, and our families, friends, donors, alumni, and staff who make dreams achievable.

Con Alma,



Dr. Rosemary J. Gallegos, Superintendent



Dear NMSD Community and Friends,

As I walk the halls of the New Mexico School for the Deaf and attend special community events, I often reflect on how much my school has had an impact on me. When I was 9 years old I met one of my first good friends at the school for the Deaf where I attended. He was born in Kenya and adopted by an American family, but he had memories of his life in Kenya. Through school events we shared our history, stories, and folklore about our culture and upbringing. Experiencing his rich heritage was eye opening. I was able to learn from my good friend because we communicated directly through American Sign Language without any barriers to communication. At NMSD students can explore their family heritage and their heritage as part of the deaf community at events where we celebrate our dances, stories passed down from generation to generation, the cuisine, and the struggles of our ancestors. At NMSD we see our community thrive and come together to celebrate our diversity and its richness.

This annual report provides a glimpse into the services and hard work done at the school. As a member of the Board of Regents I am proud of the work performed by NMSD staff and faculty. I am also thankful that we have such wonderful allies at the Governor's Office, her Cabinet, and the great members of our Legislature. To the families, thank you for your continued support. You are vital to our shared heritage as our children continue to grow and thrive.

"We are NMSD"



Nathan Gomme





Statewide Deaf Mentor & Parent Infant Child Programs

Our NMSD Family Service Coordinator was a lifesaver. She started working with our family when my son was just a new baby. It was like she cleared the road so that we could get the services we needed for our son. Our son loves school, his teachers and friends and all he learns. But it all started with NMSD helping me not to be afraid and to love our new life with my deaf son.”

~ Parent of child in Early Intervention Program from Las Vegas

Certified Developmental Specialists with expertise in working with children who are deaf or hard of hearing assist families in maximizing their home environment and daily routines to provide the best possible opportunity for development of language, listening, and thinking.

- Providing specialized home-based services in every part of the state for children birth through age 6
- Living, working, collaborating and connecting in the communities of the families they serve
- Offering services when needed in the family’s home language such as Tewa, Navajo, Spanish, and/or American Sign Language

Many specialists are Deaf themselves bringing a unique ability to facilitate the earliest communication foundations. [In alignment with recommendations from the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) and the Joint Commission on Infant Hearing (JCIH).]

In 2018–2019 specialists drove 326,379 miles to reach families and children in their homes and communities. Of the families served during the 2018-2019 fiscal year:

- Twenty-two percent do not use English as their primary language
- Eighty-six percent are at or below 138% of poverty
- Forty-six percent live in areas categorized as “highly rural” or “isolated”
- Nineteen percent of the families served are Native American
- Fifty-three percent are Hispanic/Latino

Families and communities of New Mexico received the following supports and services from the Deaf Mentor and Parent Infant Child programs:

- 295 children aged birth to six received direct specialized early intervention services
- 5,340 total home visits were made in 24 counties
- Close to 2,000 hearing screenings were conducted around the state at Child Finds, Head Start programs, FIT programs, and Health Fairs
- Approximately 2,700 members of the early childhood community were served through trainings, workshops, consultation, and conference presentations
- Collaboration through Intergovernmental Agency Agreement with Navajo Nations to jointly serve families in the Northwest Region of the state
- Partnership through Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Health to ensure that children whose hearing is screened at birth are able to access services as soon as possible
- Collaboration with midwifery centers and home birth consultants to help ensure that all children are receiving their newborn hearing screens



“NMSD provides 100% access to language and communication, period.”

~ Parent of Elementary Student from Albuquerque.

Early Childhood and Elementary

In order to give students optimal access to language and learning our school programs use a bilingual (ASL and English) and bimodal (signed and spoken) pedagogy. Staff include a team of two full-time audiologists, ASL specialists, speech language pathologists (SLPs), language facilitators, licensed and trained teachers of the deaf, educational assistants, fluent users of ASL, and deaf professionals and role models.

Preschools

- Preschools operated in Albuquerque, Farmington, Gallup, Las Cruces, and Santa Fe.
- Verbalizing and Visualizing program (Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes) strategies were provided by trained teachers and support staff for early literacy learning.
- Ninety-two percent of children enrolled in our preschools wore cochlear implants, hearing aids or BAHA hearing aid devices.
- Our preschools incorporated principles and methods from renowned early childhood program in Reggio Emilia, Italy, which included authentic hands-on learning experiences and following the child's lead in the classroom. This approach provided children with access to a language rich, natural learning environment. NM Early Learning Guidelines (ELG) were also applied.
- Preschool students expanded Forest Day (outdoor classroom) learning experiences. One of our preschool supervisors was certified by the International Forest Schools Practitioner Program and an additional staff member began working toward certification. Certification also include Wilderness First Aid and Nature & Place Based Early Childhood Education.
- Preschool staff from Albuquerque and Santa Fe Preschools honed their expertise while presenting on Reggio Emilia and Forest Day Learning at the annual Association for the Education of Young Children (NMAEYC) Conference in Albuquerque, at the 10th annual Deaf Education National Early Childhood Summit in Indiana and at the annual International Children & Nature Network Conference in California.

Elementary

- Elementary student class sizes were the largest in recent history serving a total of 62 students Kindergarten through 5th grade.
- Lower elementary expanded the science program with Friday Fun STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) time developing solutions to problems such as building a form of transportation able to carry 12 people across the ocean.
- The Global Warming Express organization provided learning activities and experiences.
- Students participated in and presented at a day long learning experience at the capitol about preserving our environment and understanding how to advocate for bills during the 2019 Legislative Session.
- New Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) were implemented for elementary grades.
- A new summer reading program "Leemos!" (We Read!) was piloted for students whose home language is Spanish.

"NMSD is truly our daughter's school and she fell in love with it at the age of four. As we embark together on these final years at NMSD, I look forward to a closely knit team and feel this year's team is one of the best she's had."

~ Parent of High School Student from Albuquerque



Middle School & High School

Academic Teams and Awards

- Middle school students earned first place out of 45 schools across the country in the team competition at the Rochester Institute of Technology's National Math Competition in New York. A NMSD student placed 2nd in the individual competition with 168 participants.
- High School Academic Bowl team earned a place in the national tournament in Washington D.C.
- NMSD winners in the national writing and ASL competitions hosted by Gallaudet University included:
 - Middle School Creative Writing:* Honorable Mention
 - High School Poetry:* Second Place
 - High School Essay:* First Place; Second Place; Two students for Honorable Mention
 - High School Creative Writing:* Two students for Honorable Mention
 - High School ASL Poetry:* Two students tied for second place

Signature Programs

- The large scale aquaponics system in our greenhouse dome became fully operational. Examples of STEAM related learning and work experiences included controlled environment agriculture where students monitored and recorded data related to temperature, pH levels and nutrients in the water. Students also learned about growth rates of plants, optimal growing conditions and beneficial bacteria (biofilter) and were involved with the daily maintenance, operation and upkeep of the system.
- NMSD initiated formalization of dual credit collaboration with Santa Fe Community College and Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT).
- A new partnership was established with the Assistance Dogs of the West through the Rocky Mountain Youth Corp based in Santa Fe and Taos to employ NMSD students for 25-30 hours per week for six weeks during the summer. Students learned how to train dogs and acquired a number of skills including canine CPR and how to be good employees.
- NMSD entered into a third year of collaboration with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps and DVR (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation) for summer employment for students 17 years old. NMSD provided campus housing and weekend transportation for students from Las Cruces, Farmington and Albuquerque who wouldn't otherwise have been able to participate in those programs.
- The Student Outcomes Specialist and Director of Instruction attended intensive training on Tableau software. This program enhances NMSD's ability to analyze and interpret collected student data within various groups of students to guide future planning and curricular modifications in meeting student needs.

2019 Graduating Students Profile

- Three students (37.5%) enrolled in a 4-year college (Gallaudet University; Northern NM University)
- Four students (50%) went directly to employment in their communities
- One student (12.5%) was undecided but planned to attend a local community college

"Last year our team went to Clerc Classic. It was an amazing experience for our team. NMSD is a small school compared to other schools. Many people didn't expect that we would beat Riverside and Fremont. We were underdogs and I'm proud of it. We represented as a team and represented NMSD well."

~ Sophomore Athlete from Santa Fe



Student Life

Student Activities

Seventy deaf and hard of hearing students from preschool through middle school participated in NMSD's two week summer camp in June. Students were immersed in language and communication while challenging themselves to confidence and skill building adventures such as horse riding, making a bug museum, fishing, a family day at Cochiti Lake for the younger students, and rafting, rock climbing, bicycling, survival skills, and community service for the older students.

Through a kind benefactor, NMSD purchased 28 bicycles of various sizes for Kindergarten to High School students. The bicycles were heavily used during Physical Education classes and after-school Programs. Students also had the opportunity to learn bicycle maintenance as a class elective.

Fifty-three residential students and thirty-five day students participated in NMSD after-school Programs. NMSD employed Student Life Educators (SLE's) to implement this program. SLE's have a bachelor's degree or master's degree and are fluent in American Sign Language. Families participated in community events including a Mexican Independence Day Fiesta, burning of Lil' Zozobra, and Roadrunner Day, an end of year celebration day.

Through the Academic Intervention Program students received after-school tutoring. In order to be fully eligible for participation in athletics or extra-curricular activities, students had to maintain at least a 2.0 GPA and not have any "D's" or "F's". Progress was monitored mid-quarter and quarterly. Tutoring was provided to help students earn back eligibility and focus on academics as a priority.

Athletics

NMSD students participated in a variety of recreational and competitive sporting events throughout the school year including: elementary basketball and volleyball; middle school volleyball, basketball, flag football and track; and high school football, volleyball, basketball, track and spring training.

NMSD's Boys' Varsity Basketball Team had many accomplishments in 2018-2019:

- One of two small schools for the deaf in the country to be invited to Clerc Classic hosted by the California School for the Deaf in Riverside. NMSD won the consolation championship prevailing over both California Schools for the Deaf.
- NMSD won the championship of the Greater Plains Schools for the Deaf (GPSD) Tournament hosted by Minnesota School for the Deaf.
- NM District 1A Basketball Champions NMSD advanced to the first round in the state tournament.
- NMSD earned team of the Year from the National Deaf Interscholastic Athletic Association (NDIAA) and Deaf Digest organizations.
- One NMSD player was awarded second team honors and selected to play in the New Mexico All-Star basketball game.

Fourteen athletes qualified for the NM State Track and Field Tournament. Awards included: State Championship for boys shot put; 2nd place for the boys discus event; 5th place for the girls shot put; 2nd place in the boys 100m dash; 6th place in the boys 200m; 5th place in the boys 110m hurdles.

Measuring Progress

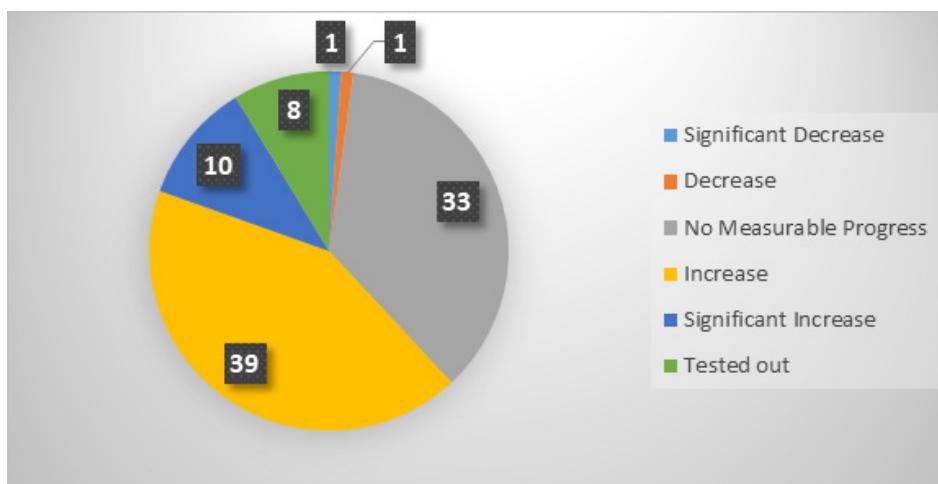
Comparative Achievement Data: Fall 2018 to Spring 2019

Every year, NMSD administers a variety of assessments to carefully monitor our students' progress and make modifications to our programming as a whole and for individual students. Students in every class are given pre and post-tests using classroom-based assessments. They are also given school-wide and statewide assessments. These assessment scores along with a variety of measures including work samples are available in each student's data folder for the purpose of giving us a whole picture of a child's performance. Results are presented during each student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings and utilized to develop baselines and goals as appropriate.

Most tests, including the ones used in this data report, are not normed or designed for Deaf/Hard of Hearing children. Additionally, a few students who have "maxed" out on measures or do very well may indicate a lack of measurable progress because they have already earned high scores so the increase in scores was too minimal to measure. The number of students in each grade level is too small to report trend data accurately. This is why high levels of emphasis are placed on individual student achievement on a wide variety of measures.

The Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA): This test is an individually administered assessment of a child's reading capabilities. After administering and interpreting, instructors use the information for instructional planning purposes. NMSD administers this test for students from K-12 if they have not exceeded the maximum level of the test.

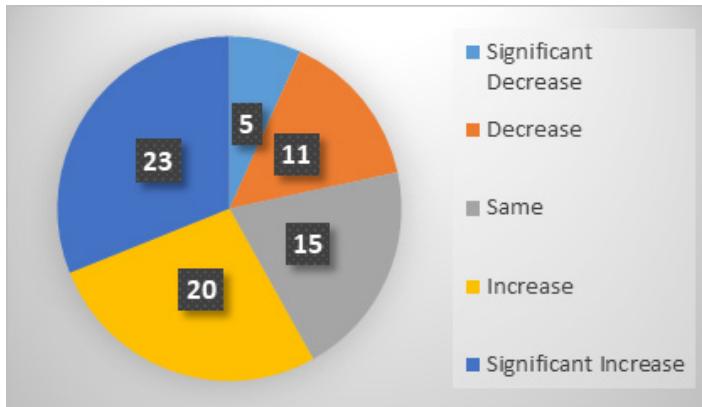
Reading (Developmental Reading Assessment)



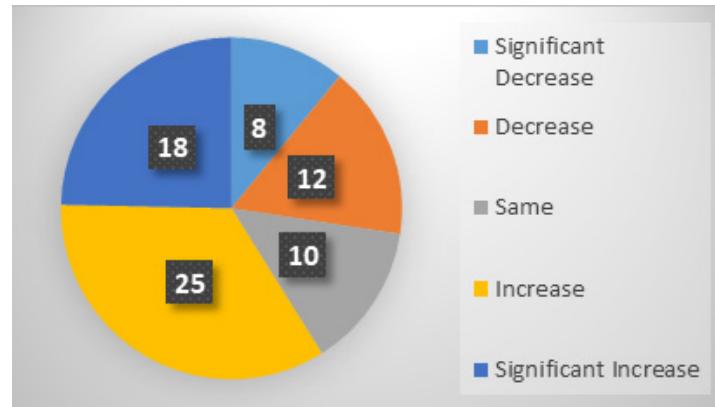
Measuring Progress

Northwest Evaluation Association’s Measures of Academic Progress: This computer-based tool is used at NMSD to measure short-cycle progress in Reading, Writing, Language Usage, and Mathematics. All students in 2nd through 12th grade take this test, except for those on the alternative standards (EGBEs - Expanded Grade Band Expectations). Students take the short version of the test in the fall for a quick measure of their levels and a longer version in the spring for more detailed information. We have noticed that some students do not do as well in the spring with the longer version because of the length of the test itself. We are trying a few strategies to keep the students motivated throughout the tests.

MAP: Mathematics (74 Students)



MAP: Reading (73 Students)



New Mexico Alternate Performance Assessment (NMAPA): For students in grades 3 through 12, NMSD administers the NMAPA in the areas of English Language Arts and Math. Students taking the NMAPA qualify for this assessment through a rigorous evaluation process and a checklist that is reviewed at the student’s IEP meeting.

	Advanced Proficiency	Proficient	Nearing Proficiency	Beginning Step	Total Number of Students
ELA	18	3	2	0	23
Mathematics	12	2	10	0	24



“The mini ASL Immersion workshop was more helpful than I ever expected. It helped to alleviate fears – which is a really big deal. We learned so much in two short days and had an opportunity to meet deaf people and get a chance to learn from their experiences. Thank you so much for the opportunity & please continue events like this!”

~ A family member from Silver City



Statewide Center for Educational Consultation & Training

Educational Consultation Services

Educational Consultants work in collaboration with school district staff and families through IEP attendance, school-based observations, demonstration lessons, and program or student-specific workshops or trainings. This year, Educational Consultants:

- Completed 160 on-site consultations with 39 districts
- Provided 545 phone or email consultations with 44 districts
- Attended 41 IEP meetings, by phone or in person, in 19 districts
- Facilitated the completion of 5 student evaluations for 3 districts
- In partnership with NMSD's Interpreting Team, the following training/mentoring was provided to K-12 interpreters:
 - Interpreter Intensive, in July, provided seven K-12 Interpreters from three school districts (Las Cruces, Rio Rancho, San Jon) with pertinent training to support their work in public schools
 - District workshops provided in San Jon and Rio Rancho
 - Intensive one-on-one mentoring support for an NMSD interpreter working in a small eastern NM district through a MOA (Memorandum of Agreement)
 - Three additional interpreters, from Las Cruces and Rio Rancho, were provided ongoing mentorship that included on-site observations
 - Presentation at UNM's Interpreter Training Program to discuss the paucity of educational interpreters in NM

ASL Service Corps

ASL Service Corps is a service program located in multiple locations throughout New Mexico. ASL Tutors provide ASL instruction to families and school programs where deaf children live and attend school. During 2018-2019, ASL Tutors:

- Taught ASL during 695 visits in 19 school districts and 202 home visits to 16 families
- Worked in the following districts and schools statewide
 - Santa Fe, Rio Rancho, Pecos, Las Vegas, San Jon, Roswell, Hagerman
 - Las Cruces, Deming, Silver City, Bayard, Hurley, Anthony, Alamogordo
 - Farmington, Aztec, Bloomfield, Dulce, Kirtland, Shiprock, Gallup

District/Regional and Statewide Events

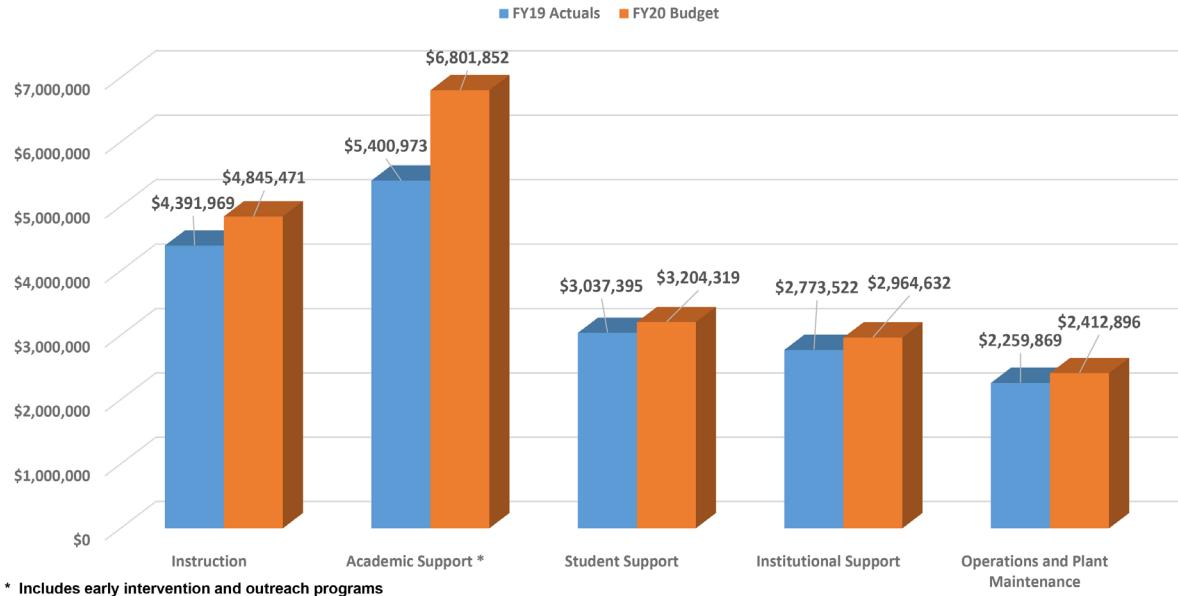
Staff of both programs worked together to create and plan fun learning events that included:

- Five regional community events in 5 locations (Bernalillo, Las Cruces, Carlsbad, Farmington, Gallup)
- Six student or staff-centered workshops in 5 districts (Hagerman, Las Cruces, Rio Rancho, San Jon, Silver City)
- ASL Classes served 226 participants (Albuquerque and Santa Fe)
- Statewide Family to Family event for 45 participants on the Santa Fe campus
- Statewide ASL Immersion Week on the Santa Fe campus (2 events) for a total of 258 adults and children

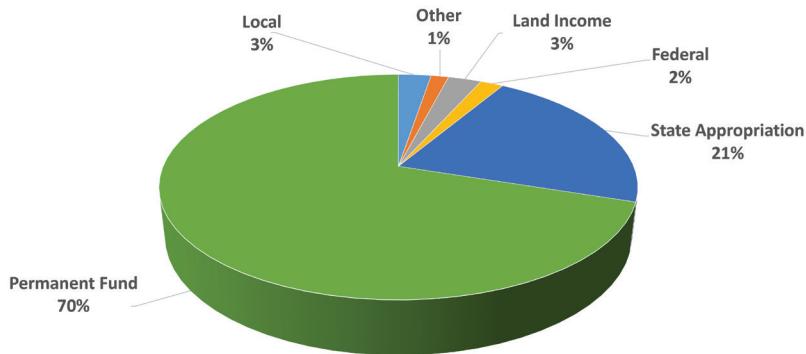


Financials

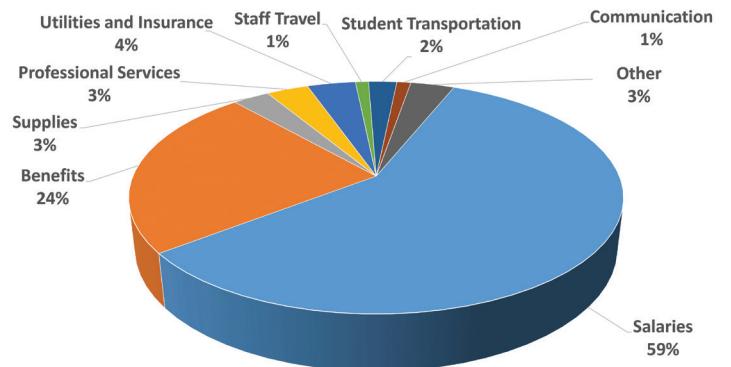
FY19 Unaudited Actuals to FY19 Budget



FY19 Revenue



FY19 Expenses





Accreditation

NMSD holds Certificate of Accreditation from:

- AdvancED, North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI)
- Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD)

State Performance Measures

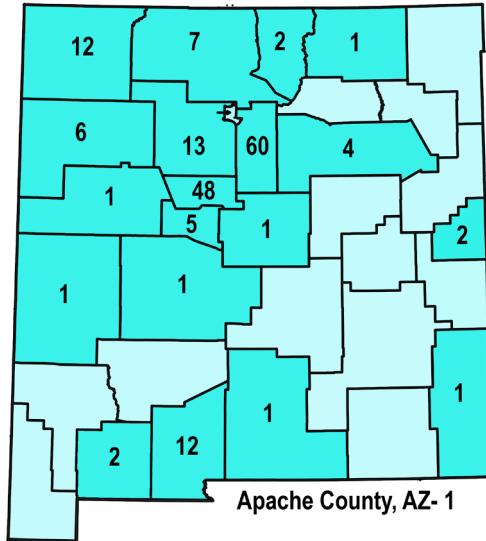
Rate of transition to postsecondary education, vocational-technical training school, junior colleges, work training or employment for graduates based on a three-year rolling average	77%
Percent of local education agency staff satisfied with educational services from the Center for Educational Consultation and Training (Statewide Outreach)	95%
Percent of individualized education program meetings that address special factors of language and communication	100%
Percent of students from grades K-12 with Individualized Education Plan (IEP) goals in reading or math demonstrating progress as documented by quarterly Individualized Education Plan progress reports	99%
Percent of first year signers who demonstrate improvement in American Sign Language based on fall or spring assessments	100%
Percent of parents indicating that programs from the Center for Educational Consultation and Training (Statewide Outreach) have increased their ability to understand their child's language and communication access needs	94%
Percentage of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C early intervention performance indicators that are met (performance indicators are outlined by Office of Special Education Programs and adopted by the New Mexico Department of Health)	100%



NMSD Children & Students Served Statewide in 29 Counties

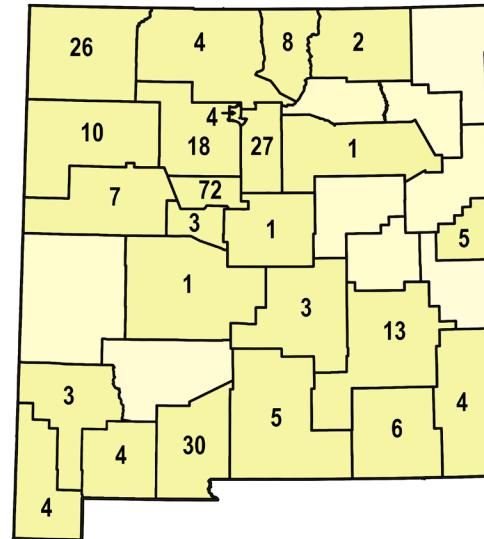
Instruction 2018 – 2019: 181

(Santa Fe: Preschool to 12th Grade; Preschools: Albuquerque, Farmington, Gallup & Las Cruces)



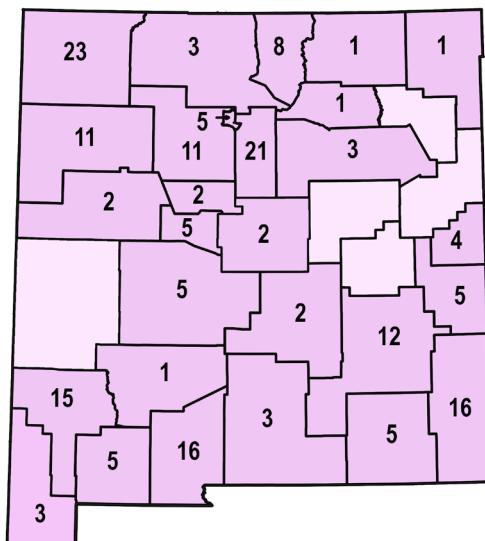
Early Intervention 2018 – 2019: 261

(Home visiting services for children ages birth – 6)



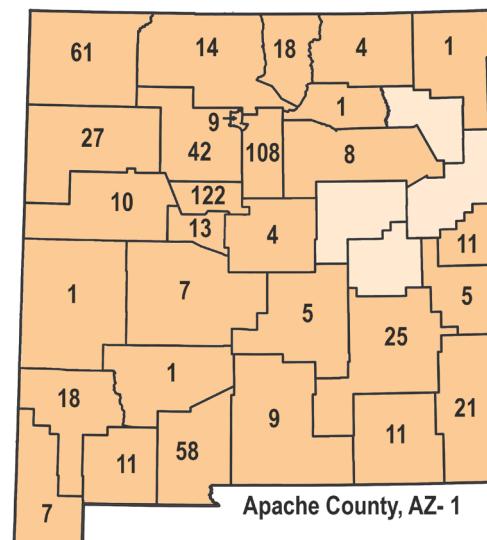
Outreach 2018 – 2019: 191

(Support to school districts and families)



Total Children Served by NMSD

2018 – 2019: *612 *(21 of 633 receive services from both Early Intervention and Preschools)





“Working with NMSD through their Early Intervention services has been such an amazing blessing to our family and community. We receive so many services that help us grow, learn, and communicate as a family. We absolutely love our Deaf Mentor Joseph, and he has built a strong bond with our family and our hard of hearing son Micah. He is such a great role model for our son and liaison for us into the Deaf Community. We have learned so much attending events at NMSD such as: Family to Family Weekend, and the summer ASL (American Sign Language) Immersion program. The experiences we have had, and the friendships and bonds we have made have become a priceless addition to our lives that we will forever feel indebted for. The PIC (Parent Infant Child program) services we receive help us to push ourselves to learn, grow, and succeed beyond what we thought was possible. We are also very grateful for our CECT (NMSD outreach) representative Connie and all the help and support she has provided to the schools in our area and community. Without all of these services, I can firmly say our son, Micah, would not be thriving in the capacity he is.”

~ Hatch-Mejia Family from Silver City, New Mexico



"I thank everyone who made my time at NMSD so special. It was a true blessing to attend this school as it opened many doors for me and NMSD will always hold a special place in my heart and I will cherish my time there forever."

~ Nthabeleng MacDonald, NMSD Class of 2019

New Mexico School for the Deaf

Dream! Explore! Achieve!

Santa Fe • Albuquerque • Farmington • Gallup • Las Cruces • Statewide



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