

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Both the Department of Labor and Department of Education will provide the staff to complete the plan and provide the results to the LESC.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

According to SDE, the need and demand for literacy services have been rising annually. The 2000 US Census indicates 22.3 % of New Mexicans age 18 or older have not graduated from high school compared to 20.3% nationwide. In addition, 11.8 % of the US civilian labor force ages 16 to19 were neither graduated from high school nor enrolled anywhere, compared to 14.7% in New Mexico.

While the term “literacy” is generally understood to mean ability to read and write, the term “workplace literacy” has a somewhat broader interpretation, including upgrading worker skills to meet the specific requirements of an employer or industry.

RS/njw