

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
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June 15, 2010

MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Education Study Committee

FR: Pamela Herman, J.D.

RE: STAFF BRIEF: *READY FOR COLLEGE 2010* REPORT

Each June since 2006, the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) has received a report entitled *Ready for College: An Annual Report on New Mexico High School Graduates Who Take Remedial Classes in New Mexico Colleges and Universities* from the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration's Office of Education Accountability (OEA). The reports are a joint effort of OEA, the Higher Education Department (HED), and the Public Education Department (PED).

The 2006 *Ready for College* report included data for five cohorts of students, those who graduated in the years 2000 through 2005. That report showed that approximately 50 percent of the students in the study took at least one remedial class in math or reading in their first semester of postsecondary education.

Each year, data for the most recent cohort are added to that already compiled, making it possible to examine the data for trends over time. The data are also disaggregated for the state's major racial and ethnic groups, and for types of high schools (public schools, charter schools, alternative high schools, and GED recipients), and in recent years, for each public postsecondary institution. OEA states that the *Ready for College* reports are designed to support policymakers in key policy initiatives such as high school redesign, alignment of postsecondary placement tests, and improved communication between secondary and postsecondary institutions.

The 2010 interim workplan of the LESC includes a report of the findings of *Ready for College 2010*. This most recent report shows welcome information indicating that a decreasing percentage of public high school graduates appear to be needing remediation in their first postsecondary semester.