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Press Release

Submitted by Gene Schmidt, PhD

July 26, 2017

Farmington Schools Raise the Bar on Excellence

Recently released 2017 PARCC results from statewide tests highlight the impressive gains students made in grades 3-11 in reading and math. Of the ten largest school systems in the state, Farmington trails only Rio Rancho in overall student achievement. As an example, English Language Arts proficiency is up 11.5% and Math proficiency is up 5.8% across the district.

Acting Secretary of Education Christopher Ruzzkowski stated, “Since 2015, Farmington’s academic progress has been second-to-none. Results like these show what happens when districts put our kids first and embrace reform. Students, teachers, staff and parents are working together and it’s paying off for kids.

Acting Education Secretary Christopher Ruzzkowski went on to state, “Our partnership via Principals Pursuing Excellence and Teachers Pursuing Excellence has certainly played a role in this upward trajectory, but everything starts with local leadership. It’s driving significant improvements in math and double-digit growth in reading—and has made Farmington a state leader for other districts to emulate. The school district is now one of the highest-performing in the state and is a driving force behind New Mexico Rising.”

FMS Board President Kyle Rhodes stated, “This success is a testament to the hard work of all of the employees of Farmington Municipal Schools, including support services that drive excellence in our schools. It really highlights our belief system of Success Matters: Every Student and Every Day”.

FMS Superintendent Gene Schmidt extended his congratulations to students, staff and school leaders for raising the bar on excellence. The impressive student gains are a true success story. “Hard work in the classrooms is paying off as increasing numbers of Farmington students are reaching proficiency in reading and math,” he said. Schmidt complimented the progress made in Heights Middle School whose scores have increased by 14.2% in Math and 15.8% in Reading over the past three years.

Also, noted in the release of PARCC data was a list of the Top New Mexico Schools in Math and English Language Arts Proficiency for 2017. San Juan College High School, which opened with an incoming freshman class this past year, had the ninth highest state score in math overall and 2nd among all high schools. San Juan College High School led the state with the highest ELA proficiency.

The performance of our students and schools point to an encouraging trend that student achievement is on the rise. Be watching for many more of the Farmington Schools’ success stories as the school report card data is released in the upcoming weeks. As Farmington looks to the upcoming year, efforts by teachers and school leaders will continue to focus on the importance of engaging students that leads to a greater understanding and ability to demonstrate skills and knowledge.

