**Important Notice on School Grading System**

According to NM PED, the GRADS Program in your high school can be included as documentation to contribute to the school receiving the bonus points in the state’s school grading system. Speak with your superintendent/superintendent’s designee/principal and offer to prepare a document based on the following items to help ensure your school receives the bonus points. Where some schools fall short is failing to show that a commendable activity is “above the norm” of coursework or expectations for a school activity. It is important to succinctly describe the reason for including GRADS in the bonus point section of the school grading system. Here are some hints to help you and the school administrators prepare the document (bolded phrases could be tailored to be document headings under the bonus point section rationale):

* Specific descriptions of **student and community grassroots involvement, leadership, innovative collaboration and/or extension of learning through experience** bolster potential for strengthening points.
* Specific descriptions of **student involvement and examples of learning through experience as leaders or mentors** and/or examples of ongoing or extension of this experience beyond usual requirements or expectations (e.g. state standards).
* Substantial **parental and/or community input and communication**.
* Examples of **leadership, extension of learning or peer to peer involvement** would further exemplify the benefits of a program and the quantifiable results.
* Showcasing **atypical elements to extend student participation in extra-curricular activities** (e.g., not just showing that teen parents participate in a sport or club, but how they showed leadership or led the school in improving the community)
* Specific ways in which the program saw **benefits** (for students, families, community, etc.) are especially helpful to show its success.
* Defining **ongoing activities and/or leadership that develops out of this program as well as community-wide involvement** would further bolster the activity's level of success.