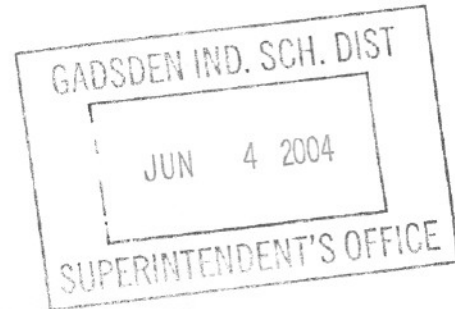




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BILL RICHARDSON
Governor

DR. VERONICA C. GARCÍA
SECRETARY OF EDUCATION

June 1, 2004

Ronald Haugen, Superintendent
Gadsden Independent Schools
Drawer 70
Gadsden, NM 88021

Dear Superintendent Haugen:

Thank you for your recent letter, first requesting a reorganization of several schools in your district including:

<u>Current</u>		<u>Requested Beginning 2004-2005</u>
Chaparral Elementary	K-2	K-6
Desert Trail Intermediate	3-5	K-6 and becomes Desert Trail Elementary
Sunrise Elementary	K-6	New January 2004 and remains K-6
Chaparral Middle	6-8	7-8

The School Transportation Bureau does not anticipate any impact on the current level of student transportation. The School Budget Planning Bureau indicates that these membership changes will not generate size adjustment units.

Your second request was for this agency to treat Chaparral Elementary and Desert Trail Elementary as "new" schools and not rate them in the New Mexico Accountability Program until the 2005-2006 school year. The information provided indicates that at least 50% or more of the students at these schools will be "new" students at each school based on the resorting of students and attendance boundary changes that have been completed in that part of your district.

Letter to Superintendent Ronald Haugen

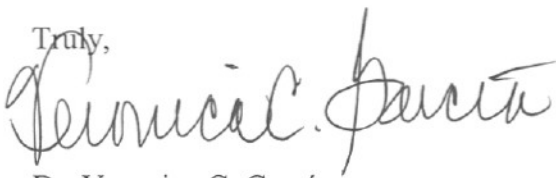
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Chaparral Elementary and Desert Trail Elementary will receive a school rating for the 2003-2004 school year, will not be rated in 2004-2005, and will again be rated beginning 2005-2006. Since Sunrise Elementary just opened in January 2004 and because of the reassignment of students in all Chaparral area schools, Sunrise Elementary will follow the same school-rating schedule as Chaparral Elementary and Desert Trail Elementary.

After a review of the additional information and a positive recommendation by my staff, I approve these two requests.

Truly,



Dr. Veronica C. García
Secretary of Education

VCG:wob

cc: Dr. Kurt Steinhaus
Dr. Don Watson
Maureen Davidson
Gilbert Perea
Steve Burrell
Dr. William Blair
Dr. Louella Buchanan
Marlene Medrano