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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****New Mexico Department of Justice Report- A Message from Superintendent Jvanna Hanks:**

Gallup-McKinley County Schools takes the New Mexico Department of Justice report seriously, and I appreciate the time NMDOJ devoted to reviewing student discipline practices in our district. The report raises important concerns about exclusionary discipline, instructional time, and disparities among student groups, and we are reviewing the findings and recommendations carefully.

This is a moment of transition and renewed focus for GMCS. As the new superintendent, I am committed to strengthening trust with families, improving consistency across schools and ensuring that discipline practices support student learning, safety and belonging.

We have already taken several steps to elevate community voices in this work. Over the past two months, GMCS has conducted a Community Input Listening Tour across our communities, created a new Equity Council with positions specifically designated for members of the Native American community, and received Board approval for a Director of Community Engagement and the re-establishment of the Indian Education Committee through Johnson O'Malley, a federally supported program that helps provide educational services and support for Native American students. I also want to thank Board President Kevin Mitchell and the Board of Education for their support of these initiatives and for their continued engagement as we move this work forward.

Current 120th-day enrollment figures show GMCS serves 9,789 students overall, including 7,481 Native American students and 1,401 Hispanic students. Those numbers reinforce the importance of culturally responsive, community-informed student support and the need for families, students, staff and community partners to be part of our path forward.

Our focus is clear: students should be in school, supported in school and treated fairly in school. We will use community feedback, along with the findings in the report, to strengthen discipline practices, improve consistency across schools and continue building a more student-centered system.

**Jvanna Hanks II**  
**Superintendent**  
**Gallup-McKinley County Schools**