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For Immediate Release

Bernalillo County Republicans: Put Reading First, Keep Curriculum Out of Union Contracts

Albuquerque, NM — The Republican Party of Bernalillo County calls for a student-first education agenda: make early reading the top priority, empower parents, restore accountability, and ensure education dollars follow each child.

- **Put reading first.** Make phonics and reading the top K–3 priority, fully fund certified reading coaches, and enlist qualified retired teachers and volunteers.
- **Empower parents as partners.** Encourage 30 minutes of daily reading at home, organize volunteer support for families, and provide childcare during parent-teacher conferences.
- **Fund students, not systems.** Let education dollars follow each child to the public, private, charter, or homeschool setting that best meets that child’s needs, consistent with Article XII, Section 1 of the New Mexico Constitution. (see below)
- **Meet every child where they are.** Match instruction to each student’s readiness and reinforce that failure is feedback—not the finish line.
- **Restore responsibility and civic knowledge.** Schools, families, and communities must renew the expectation that every child can learn, and students should pass the citizenship test before earning a high school diploma.
- **Keep curriculum accountable to families.** Collective bargaining agreements must not define or implement curriculum; principals must remain the instructional leaders of their schools.
 - **Demand results for every dollar.** APS must explain spending of \$36,000 per student, address the loss of more than 30,000 students over the past decade, and align resources with enrollment and outcomes.
 - **Fix the basics.** Use technology to strengthen assessment and ensure every school has reliable heating and cooling, working bathrooms with essential supplies, and safe drinking water.

○ **Settling for 50th in the nation in education is unacceptable.** New Mexico’s children deserve better—and turning our schools around is a responsibility only we, as New Mexicans, can meet. With urgency, accountability, and a shared commitment to every student, we can build the education system our children deserve.

Article XII, Section 1. [Free public schools.] A uniform system of free public schools sufficient for the education of, and open to, all the children of school age in the state shall be established and maintained.