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SECRETARY DESIGNATE OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
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January 10, 2025

Kenne Dibner, Ph.D.
Director, CASTL-K12
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
500 5th Street, NW
Keck 1145
Washington, DC, 20001

Dear National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine CASTL-K12:

The New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) is committed to providing a high-quality education for every student in New Mexico. We envision students in New Mexico engaging in a culturally and linguistically responsive educational system that meets ALL students' social, emotional, and academic needs.

The mission and initiatives of the PED align closely with the vision of science education articulated in *The Framework for K–12 Science Education*. When we adopted our new science standards in 2018, we signaled to the people of New Mexico that we are committed to improving student outcomes. Our participation in the Council for Chief State School Officers-Instructional Materials Professional Development (CCSSO-IMPd) Network, the Network of Educators Across the U.S. (NEXUS) for Next Generation Science Education Leadership/Science Academy and the OpenSciEd Initiative pushed us to utilize the latest research, tools and best practices to improve access to and engagement in high-quality science instruction.

The Action Collaborative on Advancing Science Teaching and Learning in K–12 (CASTL-K12) will pursue four primary goals:

1. Develop a coherent strategy for supporting the implementation of science standards across states and districts,
2. Launch and coordinate a networked community of practice for stakeholders at all levels and across sectors,

New Mexico CASTL-K12 Letter of Commitment

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3. Build on and share existing evidence-based policies, tools, and examples, and
4. Develop a coherent communication and engagement strategy for advancing K-12 science and engineering education broadly.

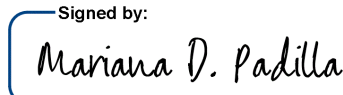
We recognize the importance of collaboration with the science community in New Mexico. Our community-developed vision for science education reflects our shared commitment to providing districts with the resources, guidance, and support they need to achieve their unique goals. We believe empowering local educators and communities is essential to achieving meaningful and sustainable improvements in science education.

As we move forward, the PED remains steadfast in its commitment to improving science education outcomes for all students in New Mexico. This commitment, coupled with our collaboration with CASTL-K12 and other partners, aims to strengthen the infrastructure for science education, build capacity among educators, and inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators.

The PED commits to supporting the goals of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's Action Collaborative on Advancing Science Teaching and Learning in K–12 (CASTL-K12).

Sincerely,

Signed by:



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Mariana D. Padilla

Secretary Designate of Public Education

MP/AD/jc/sc

cc: Amanda DeBell, Deputy Secretary, Teaching, Learning and Innovation
Jacqueline Costales, Ed.D., Division Director, Curriculum and Instruction
Shafiq Chaudhary, Director, Math and Science Bureau