



**STATE OF NEW MEXICO
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MARIANA D. PADILLA
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

December 17, 2025

Joseph M. Maestas, PE, CFE
State Auditor
Office of the State Auditor
2540 Camino Edward Ortiz, Suite A
Santa Fe, NM 87507
Joseph.Maestas@osa.nm.gov

Dear State Auditor Maestas:

I am writing you in my capacity as Secretary of Public Education to request the status of the Office of the State Auditor's (OSAs) review of the recent Requests for Proposals and subsequent procurements conducted on the part of Chama Valley Independent Schools (Chama Valley) and Santa Rosa Consolidated Schools (Santa Rosa). Both school district procurements resulted in contracts with K12 Virtual Schools L.L.C. (K12), a Delaware limited liability company, and an apparent subsidiary of Stride. It is my understanding that Gallup-McKinley County Schools (GMCS) filed complaints against both school districts regarding their procurements.

As background, both Chama Valley and Santa Rosa submitted reorganization requests to the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED) at the start of this new school year in order to allow them to open new virtual schools to accommodate approximately 3000 students. Unfortunately, Chama Valley and Santa Rosa did not submit their requests for reorganization timely and, while those requests are still under review, both districts have already been serving these students through K12.

It is the understanding of PED that these students are to be divided equally so that approximately 1500 remote students will attend each district's virtual school. PED also understands that the majority of these online students were previously enrolled at GMCS. As PED continues its review of relevant documents related to the reorganization requests, it is increasingly questionable whether Chama Valley and Santa Rosa procured K12 or whether K12 solicited these districts to operate replacement schools for GMCS.

We have received copies of the executed contracts from both districts, in addition to other documents submitted in response to PED's ongoing requests for additional information. PED is willing to share any

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information that may be of assistance to your investigation should OSA request it. Please note that this letter is also being copied to New Mexico Department of Justice for review and consideration in light of their outreach to PED regarding the status of complaints and lawsuits involving GMCS and K12.

I thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly should you have any questions regarding this request or the reorganization requests that have been submitted to PED.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

Mariana D. Padilla

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Mariana D. Padilla

Secretary of Public Education

cc: Shawn Beck, Director of Special Investigations, OSA
Blaine Moffatt, Dir., Govt. Counsel and Accountability Bureau, NMDOJ
Geoffrey Tager, general counsel, PED