

SUPERINTENDENT

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Española Public Schools
WorkKeys Testing – Student Information Concerns

ESPAÑOLA, NM – The Española Public Schools Board of Education (“Board”) would like to address the steps the District has taken to offer students the opportunity to participate in career-readiness programs offered through the State of New Mexico.

The District has heard concerns from the community regarding the collection of student information, including specifically, immigration status information. To put these concerns into context, the District has focused efforts on college and career readiness programs, as has been the focus of the State in recent years. As part of those efforts, the District has partnered with the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions to administer the ACT WorkKeys assessment, aimed at connecting seniors in high school with careers after they graduate. WorkKeys is a standardized test that evaluates a person’s job-related skills, including applied reading, writing, math, and essential skills to help employers assess, hire, train, and retain a skilled workforce. Part of this assessment includes standard workforce eligibility questions, which were communicated from school staff to students.

On or about April 24, 2025, the Superintendent learned about the situation and has since reached out to the local teachers’ union regarding concerns related to inquiries about students’ immigration status. Since this date, the Superintendent has continued to work to appropriately address these concerns.

The District takes all concerns of student confidentiality with the utmost seriousness. Any questions seeking information from students who chose to participate in this program, specifically related to work eligibility in the United States, are and will continue to be optional. The intention of connecting students to the ACT WorkKeys assessment offered through the Department of Workforce Solutions is to provide career readiness resources for students that may not otherwise be available.

Moving forward, the District would like to make clear that its efforts to connect students with career resources and workforce opportunities are always with the intention of supporting student success.