



## Press Release Rio Rancho Public Schools

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### **Rio Rancho High Receives ACT College Readiness Recognition**

The New Mexico ACT Council – an advisory council to ACT, Inc. -- has named Rio Rancho High School as a recipient of its 2008 College Readiness Award. RRHS is one of only 10 New Mexico public and private schools to be recognized this year.

The College Readiness Award recognizes schools that post significant increases in the number of students taking the ACT over a five-year period and significant increases in those students' level of achievement and college readiness. Nearly three-quarters of students in the Class of 2008 – some 582 students – took the ACT, a 19.8% increase over the previous year. Statewide, 63% of students took the ACT. RRHS students' average composite score was 21.5, exceeding both the state and national averages.

The ACT is a curriculum-based achievement test designed to measure the skills and knowledge taught in school and deemed important for first-year college students to possess. It is accepted by colleges nationwide and throughout New Mexico, and is the predominant admissions and readiness achievement test in the state. The New Mexico ACT Council is comprised of secondary and postsecondary educators who advise ACT, Inc. on the utilization of ACT programs and services in New Mexico schools and colleges. In addition to publishing the ACT assessment, ACT, Inc. provides research, information, and program management services in the broad areas of education and workforce development.

Karen L. Pennell of ACT, Inc. notes that the increases in college readiness demonstrated by Rio Rancho students "can only happen as a result of the high school's faculty and staff efforts and the dedication of Rio Rancho High School students and parents to focus on college readiness and raise the level of college readiness for all students."