Greetings PSS Families,

As you are aware, the CNMI State Board of Education has adopted the policy of implementing school accountability within our Public School System (PSS). PSS has already piloted the accountability system internally in SY2023-2024 for all CNMI PSS schools. This collaborative effort will help the district and schools measure their performance on key indicators, identify areas of improvement, and target resources and support for all students to receive an excellent education and be prepared for college or a career after high school.

The accountability system is part of the CNMI PSS plan to meet requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA is a federal law that imposes requirements for public schools in exchange for funding designed to close our district’s gaps in student achievement. Each state education agency that receives Title 1 funding is required to create an accountability system plan to meet ESSA requirements.

The CNMI PSS’ accountability system is designed to celebrate success and identify areas where additional support is needed to increase achievement for all students. It's important to note that state accountability systems are not intended to be punitive, but rather, they are a tool for continuous improvement. Just as state standards and assessment standards set expectations for what students should know and be able to do, state accountability systems set expectations for school performance and school system effectiveness, paving the way for a brighter future for our students.

The ultimate objective of the CNMI PSS accountability system is to articulate our goals for student achievement, growth, and success. The system will collect, analyze, and report on school performance regularly. It will identify high-performing schools for recognition and schools that may be in need of support. The system will allow us to provide additional support and assistance to schools in need.

Every element of our education system, including our expectations for students, how we understand if students are meeting those expectations, and how we are working with and supporting teachers and leaders, works toward the goal of ensuring all students are prepared for success after high school. Accountability is one crucial element of that system.

Accountability systems provide information about how each school is supporting its students. This information helps us focus on what matters most, better understand what is working well, and determine where we need to improve so we can help all students succeed.

For more information, please visit the FAQs page: [tinyurl.com/AccountabilityFAQs](http://tinyurl.com/AccountabilityFAQs)

Or, contact the Accountability Research & Evaluation Office at: 670-256-5310

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