**Sample Speech Following “I am New Mexico Public Schools” Video**

Use this speech to FOLLOW showing the “I am New Mexico Public Schools” video

*(personalize with your district data and revise as is appropriate for each audience)*

I too am your public school. I am part of the institution that has given this community’s children a high-quality education. \_\_*\_\_\_(district name)\_\_\_\_\_*\_\_\_ Schools consist of \_\_\_\_\_ elementary schools, \_\_\_ middle school(s) and \_\_\_high school(s). I cover nearly \_\_\_\_ square miles across \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ county(ies).

\_*\_\_\_(district name)\_\_\_\_\_*\_ Schools embrace \_\_\_\_\_ children. For most of them, public schools are indeed their best hope for future success. It’s my responsibility to help them make their hopes and dreams come true. I take that responsibility seriously.

Yes, my public school doors are open to everyone. Parents send me children who are unwanted, unwashed, unloved. Some are strung out on drugs and alcohol. Some are abused and neglected. They speak \_\_\_\_\_ different languages, and for more than \_\_\_\_ students, English is not their native language. I work hard to ensure all students succeed.

While I say my public schools, they really are your public schools.

*(either use the questions to find out how many in the audience attended public schools or insert your district name)*

How many of you in this room today attended public schools?

How many of you in this room today have children currently enrolled in public schools?

How many of you in this room today have children who proudly graduated from public schools?

How many of you in this room today have volunteered in public schools?

How many of you in this room today once worked for public schools?

\_*\_\_\_(district name)\_\_\_\_\_*\_ Schools are your public schools.

I am so proud to be a part of a community that supports public education. We do so much to help each and every student.

Do you know that we feed \_\_\_ children hot breakfasts every school day? More than \_\_ percent of our students receive a free or reduced-priced lunch. As the video pointed out the meals we provide these students may be the only meal they eat that day.

Our \_\_\_ buses drive more than \_\_\_\_\_\_ miles each day to deliver \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ students to their schools. Do you know that it is safer for a parent to put his or her child on the big yellow school bus, than drive that student to school in car, van or truck?

Once students arrive in the classroom, each and every one of them is learning new and exciting lessons. Our achievement tests and school district report card show improvement, but please remember that a test measures only one dimension of a student’s development. Tests only measure that subject on that day and depending on whether that student tests well.

Our students compete with the best in the state, nation and world. I encourage you to come and visit our classrooms. I am confident that our students are learning more at an earlier age than when you were in school.

State and federal mandates require \_*\_\_\_(district name)\_\_\_\_\_* Schools to provide special education, counseling, career-tech, dropout prevention, bilingual education, compensatory education, health and psychological programs, transportation and security.

\_*\_\_\_(district name)\_\_\_\_\_*\_ Schools’ \_\_\_ administrators, \_\_\_ teachers and \_\_\_ support staff are the most dedicated and highly qualified educators around and they know there is more to a child’s life than memorizing facts.

*(Add some personal stories about staff going above and beyond to help a child. Some districts provide clothing for needy students.)*

*(Add examples of your students’ generosity and community service projects.)*

*(add examples of the success of your athletic programs, including outside of the gyms and playing fields.)*

Out of a student body of \_\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ High School, we have \_\_\_\_ participating in extracurricular activities such as sports, drama, music and art. Those students have a \_\_ percent higher attendance rate and a \_\_ percent higher grade point average than those not involved.

*\_\_\_(district name)\_\_\_\_\_*\_ Schools educate \_\_\_ special education youngsters. *(Add examples of the different special needs addressed by your staff.)*

I am proud to be a part of great American institution of public schools. We are far ahead of every other nation in providing universal free public education. Indeed, we leave no child behind.

*\_\_\_(district name)\_\_\_\_\_* Schools are dedicated to helping every child realize the American dream.

Thank you for allowing me to show this powerful video and take a few moments to speak to you about our wonderful public schools