

**Skandera calls NEA -New Mexico lawsuit 'political'
Association says Skandera saving face instead of serving children**

Education Secretary-designate Hanna Skandera seems to be unhappy with NEA-New Mexico.

Association leaders call her displeasure political chicanery.

The National Education Association-New Mexico filed suit in state court charging that Ms. Skandera's Santa Fe-mandated teacher evaluation plan violates the State Constitution and state law.

In an e-mail to the media, Ms. Skandera's spokesperson, Larry Behrens, called the Association's lawsuit 'frivolous,' and said the suit was politically motivated, "because of an upcoming election."

"There she goes again," says Charles Bowyer, Executive Director of NEA-New Mexico. "Ms. Skandera is attacking NEA-New Mexico for being 'political' because the Association filed a suit charging that her teacher evaluation system violates the state constitution and state law.

"When she and her team at the Public Education Department like something, it's helping the children.

"When they don't like something, it's politically motivated, and they lash out.

"The truth is, their defense of their failed evaluation plan does nothing but push the political agenda of Ms. Skandera and the Governor.

"Now that it's being proven the plan does not work, Ms. Skandera would rather save political face than serve children.

"Ms. Skandera is practicing the oldest art of political chicanery – distracting the public from the real issues by attacking teachers rather than working with them."