



*Albuquerque Institute for Mathematics and Science at UNM*  
**Best Practices: [Using Data to Drive Instruction](#)**

**Mission:** Albuquerque Institute for Mathematics and Science @UNM (AIMS@UNM) is committed to preparing its students, grades six thru twelve, for college, community, and beyond through a rigorous focus on math and science and an emphasis on global participation. AIMS@UNM has created a highly structured school environment that sets high academic and behavioral expectations for its students. With an emphasis on mathematics and science, and a requirement for “Critical Language” study, the school’s mission is to prepare all students for college. Beginning in the sixth grade and continuing through their graduation, all students enjoy a common culture of college preparation.

**Performance:** According to the CREDO study, AIMS is one of only six schools in the State that outperforms more traditional public schools. The school has consistently met AYP goals each year, increasing student proficiency yearly. Math proficiency has increased by 40%, science by 45%, and reading by 38% over a three year period. The achievement gap has diminished from 38% in reading to 2% currently, and math from 28% to 5%. Our graduation rate is 93.3%, with 100% of our graduates attending college.

**Goal:** To build on the capacity of school administration and instructional staff to design and effectively use real-time data to improve instruction and continuously improve student achievement.

**Practice:** The school relies on both internal and external assessments to inform curriculum and drive instruction. In addition to the NMSBA, the school also administers “The Plan”, Compass, ACT, PSAT, and all high school students are required to take AP classes and exams in Literature, English, U. S. History and World History. During the 2009-2010 school year, a goal of the school was extensive professional development with staff to design formative assessments in the core areas of math, science, language arts and social studies at all grade levels. These teacher crafted assessments allow teachers to continue to build upon their knowledge with respect to analyzing their in-class formative assessments. Continuous training is in place throughout the current charter term. Student performance has been strong over the term of its charter, with AIMS@UNM students consistently outperforming both the local dominant district (APS) as well as state averages in English, Reading, Science and Mathematics.

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