



Every child in NM has the right to a sufficient and equitable education.

HB 182 mandates comprehensive literacy and bi-literacy instruction that is culturally and linguistically relevant for all New Mexico students. The bill requires PED to develop a long-term plan for improving and sustaining literacy and biliteracy programs and requires the PED to work with school districts and communities to design a literacy and biliteracy initiative that is culturally and linguistically relevant. **This bill would move the State toward compliance with the *Yazzie/Martinez* court order.**

The Court ruled that the State is violating the constitutional rights of students to a sufficient education that prepares them for college and career. (*Yazzie/Martinez* Decision, July 2018)

The Court found that research-based reading programs are effective, but not all at-risk students in public schools have access to them because literacy programs are inadequately funded (pg. 29-30).

The Court also found that the State has failed to comply with state laws requiring a multicultural, bilingual education and “has not provided a framework [for school districts to use] in providing a multicultural education” (pg. 31).

At risk students – low income, Native Americans, English learners, and students with disabilities – face the greatest educational disparities due to the State’s failure to provide a sufficient education.

Literacy and bi-literacy programs improve student reading, and must reflect our students’ diverse cultures, heritages and languages.

- One in four children in New Mexico cannot read at grade level— literacy programs and practices that are based on valid research are essential for students.¹
- There is a strong correlation between the State’s failure to fund programs to teach students how to read and students’ proficiency scores.²
- Effective literacy programs must reflect New Mexico’s multicultural and multilingual communities, to engage students in learning and comply with state laws requiring a multicultural and multilingual foundation for education.
- Early reading proficiency is well established as a strong predictor of high school graduation rates and future earning potential.³

*This legislation is part of the **Platform for Action** developed by the **plaintiffs in the sufficiency lawsuit, the Transform Education NM coalition, and hundreds of education and community leaders** including educators, parents, tribal leaders, experts and researchers. For information about this bill, contact Lauren Winkler, Attorney at NM Center on Law and Poverty, (505) 255-2840, lauren@nmpovertylaw.org.*

¹ Melinda Webster, Public Education Department, Deposition Testimony, 309:4-22.

² Sen. Mimi Stewart, Trial Testimony, 6/20/17 at 1560:2-8.

³ Court Findings of Fact & Conclusions of Law at 57.

Transform Education NM

Platform for Action

To transform education for our students and meet the constitutional mandates of the Yazzie/Martinez education ruling, a Platform of Proposed Remedies was developed by the plaintiffs in the Yazzie lawsuit, the Transform Education NM coalition, and hundreds of education and community leaders including educators, parents, tribal leaders, and experts.

Find the full platform at: <http://nmpovertylaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Transform-Education-NM-Platform-2018-12-11.pdf>



The platform is endorsed by Transform Education NM: New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty, College Horizons, Dual Language Education of NM, Native American Community Academy (NACA), NACA Inspired School Network (NISN), Learning Alliance NM, AFT-NM, National Education Association NM (NEA-NM), NM School Boards Association, New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education (NMABE), New Mexico Voices for Children, Keres Learning Center, Coalition for the Majority, Native American Budget & Policy Institute (NABPI), New Mexico Education Action Alliance, CHI St. Joseph's, NGAGE NM, NM Dream Team/United We Dream, Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP), The Santa Fe Indian School Leadership Institute, The Sun Project, and current and former superintendents of school districts and plaintiff school districts (Cuba Independent School District, Gallup-McKinley County Schools, Lake Arthur Public Schools, Moriarty Edgewood School District, Rio Rancho Public Schools, Santa Fe Public Schools).