

HB 88 // Yazzie Lawsuit Appropriations (Sponsor: Rep. Lente)

Meeting Native students' needs by expanding community-based education

Every child has the right to an education that enables them to thrive, yet too many schools are failing Native students. The landmark 2018 *Yazzie/Martinez* court ruling found that Native students in public schools do not receive the necessary programs and services that meet their unique cultural and linguistic needs. The pandemic has made this worse: Native students have been less engaged in learning and are more likely to suffer from considerable learning loss.

When schools fail to meet Native students' needs, tribal education leaders and communities must step in. Children must be able to turn to their communities for support in overcoming cultural, language, transportation, and technological barriers to education.

HB 88 makes tribal community-based education programs available to all Native students, from the young child immersed in their Native language to high schoolers catching up through after-school learning. It harnesses the unique knowledge and experience of tribal communities to make education more accessible and relevant to Native students.

HB 88 funds tribal community-based education because
Tribal educators understand the challenges Native students face at school
and know how to make learning accessible and relevant to Native students.

HB 88 gives Native students the support they need, close to home in their own communities.

The bill will:

- Increase the capacity of tribal education departments to serve Native students.
- Fund tribal extended learning programs and Native language programs.
- Increase educational programming for Native students at tribal libraries.
- Requires PED to enter into cooperative agreements with Tribes to disburse funds in a way that respects tribal sovereignty.

Appropriation: \$21.5 million. The LFC's budget includes \$13.3 million for tribal and rural community-based extended learning programs, and \$15 million for the Indian Education Fund.