

HB 90 // Appropriations for Yazzie Lawsuit (Sponsor: Rep. Lente)

Improving public education through Indigenous knowledge and expertise

Our students need teachers who respect and reflect the diversity of New Mexico's communities, cultures, and languages. They need instructional content and materials that are relevant to their own lives. They need help with preparing for college or career. And they need support to cope with racism and to overcome the trauma inflicted by the pandemic.

HB 90 harnesses the wealth of Indigenous academic expertise for meeting Native students' needs and improving K-12 schooling. It funds Native-led higher education programs and Tribal Colleges to help schools, school districts, and Tribes to provide the staff, programs, and services that Native students need. All levels of education, from pre-K to college, must work in concert to build a quality education system. This is the task set by the court in the 2018 *Yazzie/Martinez* ruling.

New Mexico's universities and colleges **are home to a large number of Native faculty, who have designed Indigenous higher education programs in collaboration with Tribes.** These Native experts train teachers, develop curricula and pedagogy, create Native language programs, develop behavioral health supports, and assist schools that struggle to serve Native students.

HB 90 will make the public education system more responsive to Native students by:

- Investing in pipelines for Native teachers, administrators, and educational leaders;
- Creating two Indigenous curriculum development centers and two Indigenous technical assistance centers to support schools, school districts, and Tribes;
- Expanding behavioral health and social services for Native students;
- Expanding college and career readiness programs for Native students;
- Providing technical assistance for tribal education departments; and
- Increasing the digital inclusion of Native students and their communities.

"Native children have a right to an education that is centered on their Indigenous cultural and linguistic values and acknowledges their unique perspectives based on their lived experiences. By ensuring that our children receive that education, we help to perpetuate the vitality of our tribal communities, our language, our culture, and our way of life."

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Appropriation: \$29.3 million.