

## HB 140 // Tribal Education Trust Fund

### Tribal Remedy Framework bill sponsored by Rep. Derrick Lente

Co-sponsors: Javier Martínez, G. Andres Romero, Anthony Allison, Patricia Roybal Caballero

Endorsed by the Legislative Education Study Committee

*HB 140 establishes a Tribal Education Trust Fund that invests in tribal community-based education to complement school-based programs. This is critical to ensuring Native students' constitutional right to an equitable, culturally relevant education.*

### Ensure stable and consistent funding for tribal community-based education

Native students have the right to an equitable and culturally relevant education that enables them to thrive in the two worlds they inhabit: their tribal communities and society at large. One is a world with few resources but rich in culture, the other has a wealth of opportunities but few options for Native students.

"The All Pueblo Council of Governors calls on the Executive and Legislature of the State of New Mexico to establish and invest in a Tribal Education Trust Fund that secures consistent and sustainable education funding for New Mexico's Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos."

Resolution No. APCG 2022-18

This inequity has left Native students struggling with academic learning, social-emotional health, and language loss. **When the future of Native children is at risk, so is the survival of Indigenous cultures and languages.** To advance equity and justice in education, the legislature should complement school-based investments with tribal, community-based investments.

**House Bill 140** seeks to establish a **Tribal Education Trust Fund that invests in tribal capacity to provide culturally relevant programs and services for Native students.** This will enable both the State and Tribes to fulfill their shared responsibility for preparing Native students for college, career, and civics in both Indigenous and U.S. societies, consistent with their dual citizenship. By investing in a Tribal Education Trust Fund, New Mexico can create balanced, effective education systems for Native students.

**House Bill 140 will secure stable and consistent funding for Tribes to support Native students.** This investment will grow over time and create value for the state and the fund beneficiaries. The bill will:

- Provide an annual distribution to Tribes to build tribal education capacity and programs.
- Use a statutory formula for sharing funds equitably among Tribes, with base funding to build capacity among all Tribes and a per-student amount to support larger Tribes.
- Ensure tribal reporting to safeguard transparency and accountability, consistent with current law.
- Task the State Investment Office with investing the money, and PED with administering the fund.

Appropriation: \$50 million, annual 5% distribution starting in FY25 (\$2.5m or around \$105k per Tribe).

"I think that a trust fund for Indian Education is really the only way to move forward."

Stephanie Garcia Richard, New Mexico State Land Commissioner

APCG Candidates' Forum, October 2022