

"Education must respond to the needs of the New Mexican through action programs designed to remedy existing deficiencies in his social and economic life and those programs must be adapted to his customs and traditions, to his language and historical background."

*— George I. Sanchez
Educator & Civil Rights Leader
1940*



*2020 New Mexico
Teacher of the Year*



Mandi Torrez

*Placitas Elementary School
Placitas, New Mexico*

Education

“Knowledge emerges only through invention and re-invention, through the restless, impatient, continuing, hopeful inquiry human beings pursue in the world, with the world, and with each other.”

— Paulo Freire,
Educator & Philosopher

McClave High School

McClave, Colorado

- Valedictorian
- Miss Cardinal
- Athlete of the Year

Dodge City Community College

Dodge City, Kansas

- A.A. Mass Communication
- Varsity Softball
- National JUCO Academic All-American
- Phi Theta Kappa
- Kansas Associated Collegiate Press Journalist of the Year Nominee

University of Colorado

Boulder, Colorado

- B.S. Journalism

Wheelock College

Boston, Massachusetts

- M.S. Integrated Elementary Education & Special Education

Teaching Experience

“The teacher is of course an artist, but being an artist does not mean that he or she can make the profile, can shape the students. What the educator does in teaching is to make it possible for the students to become themselves.”

— Paulo Freire,
Educator & Philosopher

Public Schools of Brookline, Massachusetts

3rd Grade & Special Education
Pierce School

2009-2011

2011-present

Bernalillo Public Schools, New Mexico

3rd & 4th Grade
Algodones Elementary
Placitas Elementary

2019 Nation's Report Card

New Mexico Fourth Graders

Demographic	4 th Grade Average Reading Score	4 th Grade Average Math Score
Hispanic	203	227
White	224	243
Eligible Free/Reduced	201	226
Noneligible Free/Reduced	231	249

2019 Nation's Report Card

New Mexico Eighth Graders

Demographic	8 th Grade Average Reading Score	8 th Grade Average Math Score
Hispanic	264	248
White	285	266
Eligible Free/Reduced	244	262
Noneligible Free/Reduced	272	289

Strategies for Recruiting a Diverse Teacher Workforce



The current American educator workforce does not mirror the ethnic and cultural diversity of our nation's students. While students of color comprise the majority of our school system, teachers of color comprise a much smaller proportion of the educator workforce, particularly in the REL Southwest region.¹

Race/Ethnicity	Arkansas		Louisiana		New Mexico		Oklahoma		Texas	
	Percentage of the K-12 student population ¹	Percentage of the teacher workforce ²	Percentage of the K-12 student population ¹	Percentage of the teacher workforce ³	Percentage of the K-12 student population ¹	Percentage of the teacher workforce ³	Percentage of the K-12 student population ¹	Percentage of the teacher workforce ³	Percentage of the K-12 student population ¹	Percentage of the teacher workforce ⁴
White	61.3	88.8	45.1	74.4	24.1	56.7	49.4	82	28.1	59.9
Black	20.6	8.8	44	19.9	1.9	a	8.8	3.5	12.6	10.2
Hispanic	12.7	1.1	6.3	a	60.8	36.6	16.8	1.1	52.4	26.5
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.6	0.5	0.7	a	10.2	3	13.9	8.6	0.4	0.4
Asian or Asian/ Pacific Islander	2.4	0.5	1.7	a	1.3	0.9	2.3	a	4.3	1.9
Two or more races	2.4	0.4	2.3	1.3	1.7	a	8.8	4.5	2.2	1.1

a The percentage of the teacher workforce in this category is less than 0.01 percent.

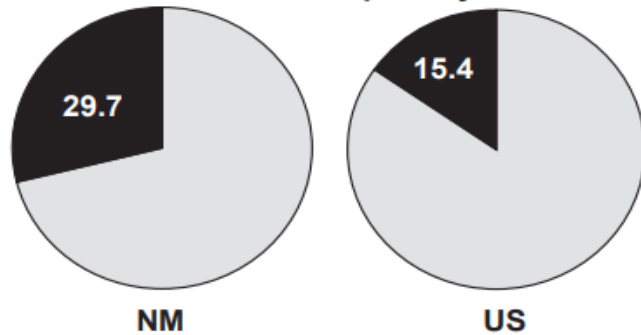
Rural New Mexico Schools

- In 2018, 45 percent of students in the Zuni district scored at a Level 1 on the PARCC test.
 - In 2018, only 3 percent of students in the Dulce schools were proficient in math.
 - All of rural New Mexico is at 1.74 times the poverty line.
 - Some Navajo communities have incomes of only 70 percent of the poverty line.
 - New Mexico has the highest level of rural child poverty in the U.S. at 29.7 percent.
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Why Rural Matters 2018-2019

A Report of the Rural School and Community Trust

Percent of rural school-aged children in poverty



GAUGE 2:	Fair Serious Critical Urgent			
	9			
Student and Family Diversity	NM	Rank*		
Rural diversity index	26.7%	25		
Poverty level in rural school communities	174%	1		
Percent rural IEP students	14.7%	19		
Percent of rural school-aged children in poverty	29.7%	1		
Percent rural mobility	8.5%	42		

Teacher optimism has fallen dramatically, from 50% in 2018 to 34% in 2019. Teachers in grades K-5 have the lowest percentage at 40%.

75% of teachers say that stressors from the educational environment, whether from inside or outside the district, make it difficult for teachers to be their best in the classroom.

