



Platform for Action to Transform Education

Now is the Time for Change

Education in New Mexico is at a crucial tipping point. Now, in this moment, we have a heightened opportunity to fix what is broken. **Decades of underfunding, coupled with longstanding systemic racism** in our society and institutions, have left **our education system with some of the worst educational inequities in the nation.** Opportunity gaps have never been wider for far too many New Mexico students. Our families have a diversity of cultures, languages, and heritages, and yet these cultural assets are routinely ignored.

In a landmark court decision, *Yazzie/Martinez v. State of New Mexico*, a judge ruled in 2018 that New Mexico is violating the constitutional rights of students to a sufficient education. The court ordered the State to comprehensively overhaul the programs, services, funding and resources necessary for students to be college and career ready, and to address the deep educational inequities for Native American students, English language learners, students with disabilities and low-income students. Sweeping changes must be made to our public education system so that all of our students can learn and succeed.

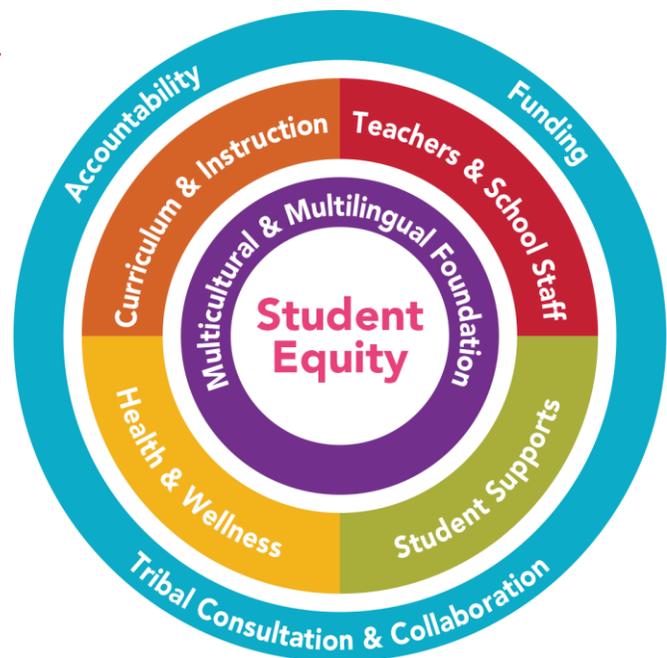
Platform for Action – A Summary

Find the entire platform, with all the details, at: www.transformeducationnm.org/resources/

The Transform Education NM Platform is a blueprint -- the most direct path to leverage what we know works for New Mexico and fix our education system. The platform was developed by hundreds of students, parents, educators, and community and tribal leaders, and by the *Yazzie* plaintiffs, and it is based in the court's findings and volumes of research and expert testimony:

Students at the core. Our education system must be rebuilt on core values of honoring our students' well-being and ending the decades of racism and discrimination that has failed them. The state must deeply engage students, families and tribal leaders to shape educational priorities.

Multicultural and multilingual foundation and culturally and linguistically responsive **curriculum and instructional materials, bilingual education and dual language programs, and teacher preparation** to create learning environments that embrace the cultures, languages and heritages of our students. To develop and sustain this framework, higher education institutions, tribal education departments, and community programs must have adequate resources. The state must build this capacity to fully implement the Indian Education Act, Hispanic Education Act, and Bilingual Multicultural Education Act.



The state must also ensure meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal governments, as part of the government to government relationship with tribes (*See final section of platform for details*).

Teachers and staff who are valued as professionals and well-prepared. To fix the dire shortage of educators (including teachers, instructional support/ancillary providers and other staff), especially for indigenous teachers, bilingual education, special education and early childhood education, **pay must be competitive** with surrounding states, and we must have **pipeline programs** and Grow-Your-Own programs to bring in educators who reflect the diversity of our students. All educators should receive appropriate pre-service training and **professional development** to provide individualized and appropriate education for students with disabilities, be endorsed for bilingual instruction or to Teach English as a Second Language (TESOL), and to provide culturally and linguistically responsive instruction.

Curriculum and instructional programs that are effective. All students should have access to programs that successfully close opportunity gaps, including: **universal pre-K** that is culturally and linguistically responsive to provide full-day options for 4-year old children and half-day options for 3-year old children. Students with disabilities must be timely evaluated for and provided appropriate **special education and ancillary services** that meets individualized education programs in the least restrictive classroom settings. Every child should have access to a well-rounded curriculum that includes **bilingual education, arts, music and physical activity**. All schools should be able to offer **summer school, extended learning time, literacy programs, smaller class sizes** and **instructional materials**.

Student supports, including college, career, civic and culture readiness. Students must have access to **technology** including the ability to access internet from the home, **after-school programs** that offer education support and enrichment, **libraries** in the community, buses and **transportation** services so that students can attend summer school and after school programs. The state should expand **college, career, civic and culture readiness** programs, and **career and technical education**.

Health and wellness resources that promote well-being, not punitive disciplinary practices. All schools should offer **healthy meals, wellness centers, nurses, counselors and social workers** so that students have access to resources to overcome economic barriers. The state should expand **school based health centers** and **Community Schools** that actively engages parents and local community.

Funding and accountability to adequately resource the public schools and ensure funds are meeting student needs. The state should **increase the “at-risk” index in the school funding formula** and monitor how these funds are used. **Small schools in rural areas** must also have adequate funding to weather emergencies and provide equitable opportunities in our geographically diverse state.

Tribal consultation, collaboration and consent. The state must consult and collaborate meaningfully and in good faith with tribal governments to obtain informed consent in the development, implementation and monitoring of the education of Native students as required by state and federal laws. The **Tribal Remedy Framework** is an education platform developed by Pueblos, Tribes and Nations, tribal education experts, teachers and administrators, parents, students and community members. (*See <https://nabpi.unm.edu/assets/documents/2020-tea-tribal-remedy-framework.pdf>, subject to revisions for the 2021 legislative session*).

Transform Education NM coalition steering members: Albuquerque Interfaith, Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations at NMHU, CHI St. Josephs, Coalition for the Majority, College Horizons, Disability Rights NM, Dual Language Education of NM, Educators Rising NM, Future Focused Education, La Semilla Food Center, The Leadership Institute of Santa Fe Indian School, Learning Action Buffet (LAB), Learning Alliance NM, NACA Inspired School Network (NISN), National Education Association NM (NEA-NM), Native American Budget and Policy Institute, NGage NM, NM Association for Bilingual Education (NMABE), NM Center on Law and Poverty, NM Dream Team, NM Voices for Children, Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP).